



GROWTH GROUP

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Week of 8/23/2020

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Faith is a spiritual quality and accepts the gracious gift of eternal life from our Savior. But faith is not something we can achieve on our own. It is completely the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. With such a value attached to this gift, God provides means to strengthen that faith so that it will remain strong until the day of Christ Jesus. Lord, give us such a faith as this!

Getting Started

The disciples were very experienced boaters. Are you? Do you have much experience at sea? Do you know how to swim? The question allows not only for the group to get to know more about each other, but also allows for the group to begin to consider the situation in which the disciples found themselves.

Into the Word

Read **Matthew 14:22-33**.

What enabled Peter to walk on water? Peter's Spirit-brought faith trusting the invitation from Jesus to walk to him. Jesus told Peter to walk on the water. In telling him to do it, Jesus also gave him the promise that he could. Jesus has not told us to walk on water. This is not a promise from him that we get to trust. But he has given us many promises, which we are to trust. Trusting the promises we have received from Jesus also enables us to do great things.

What caused Peter to begin sinking? When Peter took his focus off Christ, the solid rock, he began to place his trust in earthly things. But Jesus lovingly forgives Peter's weakness, as he does so often with ours.

Can you imagine being the disciples as they saw Jesus coming towards them, thinking that he was a ghost, and then Peter gets out of the boat and walks on water too? Describe the scene and how you would feel experiencing it. **Answers will vary.**

Apply

When in your life has your faith "taken a hike," letting fear "take control"? **Answers will vary based on experience and willingness to share.**

When in the last six months have you found yourself taking your eyes off Jesus and his promises? What has been the result of that for you? **Answers will vary based on experience and willingness to share.**

Do you have favorite Bible passages that help you keep your eyes on Jesus amidst the storms of life? Or do you have people who help you keep your eyes on Jesus amidst the storms of life? **Answers will vary based on experience and willingness to share.**

The trials we face in this sinful world can make us terrified like the disciples. But God promises that in the midst of the storms of life, we can listen, and also hear his gentle whisper. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" When we hear his voice, the waves of doubt recede and faith finds its place again, making us surer of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week as well as your prayer requests for the group.

Pray

