



Get Out of the Boat | March 9, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

We all have a comfort zone that keeps us safe. Unfortunately, this comfort zone also keeps us limited. Many of us find ourselves asking, “Is this it?” If you stay in the box where the expectations are safe, then the answer is typically, “yes.”

Key Verse

Matthew 14:29-31 (NLT)

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

Discussion

If you have found yourself asking, “Is this all there is to life?”, then this is a perfect discussion for you. Interestingly enough, the story about the storm and Peter walking on water happens just after the collective group feeds 5000. However, it is still clear that Peter and the rest of the disciples have yet to understand the implications for their personal spiritual lives.

1. Can you give an example of instances where faith is much more a result of the collective group than it is a personal spiritual relationship with Jesus?
2. How has this idea of a collective faith verse a personal spiritual relationship played out in your life?

The box of comfort and safety keeps us in a place where we know the expectations. While it feels nice to know what to expect, it can leave us a little unimpressed with the “same ole, same ole.”

3. What types of things, expectations, life experiences would you say fill up your box? What things keep you in the box?
4. Are there examples of expectations for safety and comfort in regard specifically to your faith?

The story progresses to Peter stepping out of the boat, out of his comfort zone, because in that moment he believed he might experience something very significant only if he left his comfort zone for the unknown. Incredibly, Peter experiences something that no one else ever has.

5. If you were to step out into the unknown in regards to your faith, what might that look like? What kind of experiences do you think God has in store for you outside of the boat?

What's Next?

Remember that when Peter does finally begin to sink, Jesus reaches out and instead of “rebuking” him, Jesus wonders what it is about Peter that caused him to fear what is outside of the comfort zone. This week take a step toward the unknown and trust that Jesus will meet you there. If and when you get uncomfortable and retreat, know that God asking about your doubt is an encouragement to experience more rather than chastising you for not being good enough. Get out of the boat—it’s worth it!