



Discussion Questions

Jesus' Cares: Week Six

How would you define faith? How would you describe a person who had mature faith?

Jesus has just offered a lesson for the larger crowd, but the next lesson is for his disciples, which is a pretty scary one. It seems that the closer you get to Jesus, the more intense the challenges become. Have you found or do you believe that to be true?

Read Matthew 14:22-25

Matthew tells this story in a way that indicates Jesus intended to send his disciples into this storm and that he not only waits & watches for hours but is praying as he does.

How does that strike you? Do you think God intentionally puts us into challenging situations in life? Have you ever experienced this? Have you ever felt like God was passively watching as you struggled?

Read Matthew 14:26-27

Matthew goes to great lengths to describe a situation that wasn't going well. The disciples are struggling and potentially in some danger.

Jesus' first words to them are, "Take courage, it is I, don't be afraid." I wonder if that is the message God wants to speak into your struggles, concerns, setbacks, disappointments, challenges, pain, uncertainty... Where in your life have you, or do you need to receive these words from Jesus?

Read Matthew 14:28-29

In this passage, Jesus is making a very clear demonstration & declaration of his divinity, and the message is that because God is with you and bigger than whatever you face, you do not need to be afraid. What situation in your life these days is causing fear, worry, and anxiety? Do you believe God is with you in it? Does this belief/perspective change your feelings about the situation? Why or why not?

We also notice that Jesus, in this moment, does not calm the storm but instead offers calm for their hearts through His presence. What is the lesson in that for you?

Read Matthew 14:28-29

I LOVE Peter. During a terrifying situation, he doubles down and asks Jesus to let him walk on water. It's like he's saying, "Give me faith to do more than just survive Jesus; I want to experience your victory & power to the full." Have you seen someone respond to struggle in this way? What might it look like to respond that way in a struggle you are facing?

Read Matthew 14:30

Sometimes trusting God in a moment is more challenging than trusting God for the journey. Is there a place of long struggle or difficulty where you have felt yourself sinking?

Read Matthew 14:31-32

What does the ending of this story teach us about faith in Jesus?

How can you apply this passage/message to your life in this season?