



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

19 MAY

INSPIRING HOPE: WALKING WITH SUPERNATURAL HOPE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: Mark 6:45-51

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

47 Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. 48 He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, 50 because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 51 Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed...

MAIN TEXT 2: Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

COMING UP

19 May – Newcomers Lunch

26 May – Equip Academy starts

16 Jun – Guest Speaker: Carl Beech

26 Jun – Regional Prayer Meetings

14 Jul – Street Party

24 July – Prayer Meeting at Chapel

22-26 Aug – Westpoint

OPENING UP

In what ways do you think we live in a culture of entitlement? How can it squeeze you into its mould?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Mark 6:45. Does God give difficult assignments (without being the author of evil)? Is there hope in hardship? How can knowing God is sovereignly at work in hardship change your perspective about it? What Bible characters can you think of who grew through 'grievy' circumstances (e.g. Joseph)? How did hardship help them?

2. Read Mark 6:48. What difference does being seen by God make? Read Genesis 16:13-14, why should we be comforted by God seeing Hagar? What does this teach us about his seeing of us?

3. Read Mark 6:48 again. What does God do in response to what He sees?

4. What is the significance of this in light of Exodus 33:18 and 34:6 (and a probable reference to Job 9:4-11)? How do we see his glory here? Why is seeing God's glory more important than getting your immediate needs met?

5. Jesus says "Take courage, it is I [literally: I AM] do not be afraid. What is the significance of this, particularly in light of Exodus 3:13-15?

6. Jesus invites Peter to "come". How is he inviting you to get out of the boat? What boat are you stuck in? Fear? Comfort? Safety? Anxiety? Doubt? Uncertainty?

7. Read Matthew 14:28-31. Why does Peter sink? What does Jesus do? Hint: immediately! and his question may not be with the strong rebuke we often think, Peter was the only one with faith to get out of the boat. Is there hope for our mistakes and sins? How does God want you to learn from them so you can fail forward?

NEXT STEPS AND PRAYER

How can you personally walk with supernatural hope? What does it look like in your life? What boat(s) is God calling you out of? How can you learn to walk with him? How can you find hope and dignify your trial?

Pray for each other for a vision of the glory of God, for faith and hope to arise to help you walk with supernatural hope in all the places God has sovereignly put you.