

**Sermon Series: TRANSFORMATION**

**Sermon Title: Faith in...**

**Text: Matthew 14:22-33**

**Discussion Questions:**

- Describe the worst storm you have ever experienced? (Literal storm - not metaphoric)
- What kind of things do you tend to trust in when life gets stormy that makes you feel comfortable and secure rather than fearful? Why?
- How much does fear tend to impact our lives? Why is it easy for it to impact our lives?
- How different would life be if people had no fear? Take some time in your groups and share what this life would be like.

**Examination Questions:**

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

- You probably have heard this story before but what is your initial response as you read this passage today? What sticks out to you and why?

Read **Matthew 14:22**.

- Jesus “made” his disciples get in the boat. What does it say about Jesus that led them into the storm?
- Think back on your life: has God ever led you into a storm?
- How do you feel knowing God leads you into storms?
- What are things that God has taught you during storms that he couldn’t teach you any other way?

Read **Matthew 14:24-30**.

- If you were one of the disciples, what would you be thinking or feeling through all this?
- What are some weaknesses or flaws you can identify in the disciples in these verses?
- What are some strengths you see in the disciples?
- Why do storms have a unique way of revealing our weaknesses? Why is that important for our faith journey?
- What weaknesses or flaws has God revealed to you through trials and difficulties?

Read **Matthew 14:28-31**.

- If you were Peter, how would you act or react to Jesus’ requests to “come” out on the water?
- It is easy to focus on Peter sinking, but before that, he got out of the boat. What can we learn from Peter?

- Why do we often take our eyes off of Jesus in moments of fear or struggle? What does that teach you about faith?
- Describe a time when you had to exercise your faith in the middle of a trial. How did that change you?
- Is there a specific area in your life where you need to exercise your faith right now?

Read **Matthew 14:33**.

- How did this experience lead the disciples to a deeper level of worship?
- What specific experiences in your life have led you to a deeper level of worship?

### **Application:**

In the Bible, we find numerous commands from God not to be afraid. These are not empty, wishful-thinking commands; they are backed by the power, character, and love of God. This week, take some time and meditate on the following verses:

- Psalm 23:4
- Psalm 21:1
- Isaiah 43:1-4
- Hebrews 13:5-6

Ask God to allow these verses to permeate your mind to help you trust in the God who loves you and cares for you rather than focusing on the challenges that you face. Remember that your ability to walk through the storms of life is completely predicated on what (or who) you have your faith in.