

Walking on water

Scripture: Matthew 8:21-27 and Matthew 14:22-33

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-17 (optional reflection)

IDEA/TARGET: Getting in contact with your fears and courage to MOVE OUT of the boat. Every man is invited to experience how it feels having water under his feet while walking toward Jesus and not sinking...

Protocol:

- 1) Read scripture passage and invite men to reflect on following topics
 - Define FAITH: Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” What does this mean to YOU?
 - Now, compare first and second experience with Jesus on stormy sea (Matthew 8:21-27 and Matthew 14:22-33 – different reaction of disciples [“What kind of man is this? vs. “Truly you are the Son of God!”])
 - Boat = seeming security (honestly we know that it will not stand the storm); text says “it [the boat] was tossed”
 - Jesus is not just walking on water but treads (majestically)
 - THE topic is fear and courage through Christ!
 - Once Jesus entered the boat, the wind ceased and it becomes a place of worship -> invite Jesus into your “boat full of fear”
- 2) Invite all men to create a boat of all available material (chairs, tables, etc.) and let them gather inside the boat – see photo
- 3) Deliver 5 x 3 index cards and invite all men to write down all the “boats” (=seeming securities) in their lives knowing that these boats will fail when a storm arises; play music (Braveheart style)
- 4) While all men are writing, fill boxes with water and create a path from the boat toward Jesus (symbolized by a cross/bible etc.)
- 5) On the back side of the index cards, invite all men to write down all fears they are aware; emphasize that this might be the first time to write down the greatest fear in their lives; tell them that they will be invited to deliver these fears to Jesus; continue playing music. (When finished, every man should take off his shoes)
- 6) Now, invite every man to name the “boat” that he is stepping out of –or- state his greatest fear that he wants to surrender to Jesus. Define it. What does he want from Jesus? After that encourage him to step out of the boat and let him walk toward Jesus (symbolized by cross or Bible that is placed in front of him).

- 7) While the man is walking, ask the Holy Spirit for questions you should ask the man (e.g. „How does it feel having water under the feet without sinking?“, “Are you clear about your fears?“, “Where do you look? Look at Jesus or somewhere else?“, etc.)
- 8) Having come to Jesus (symbolized by cross, bible, etc.) everyone is invited to make an individual gesture in front of Jesus (tell them “Feel Jesus’ hand in yours!”)
(Option: burn the index cards in front of Jesus)
- 9) “Next man!” – repeat steps 6 thru 8
- 10) Once all men have stepped out and reached Jesus, tell them that they are in a transformed boat where Jesus is with them. They can look back to the (first) “boat of seeming security”. Play the song “**No Longer Slaves**” – worship!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

Material:

- Supplemental Reflection (see below) -- **Fear or Faith?**
- SUPPLIES: index cards, pens, boxes, cross, Bible, cross (optional bowl and lighters)

PHOTO:

Room set-up with men in the boat and water to walk on



Fear or Faith?

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Read | Ephesians 5:15-17

Many believers will go through life missing divine opportunities because they are afraid to live as God intends. Fear can paralyze us into inaction—then our life fills with lost chances to serve, minister, or see the Lord's work up close. **Consider the 11 disciples who stayed in the boat when Peter got out and walked to Jesus.** How many times must each man have regretted choosing safety over the intense joy of stepping on water next to the Son of God? But Andrew, John, and the others missed their opportunity. Unfortunately, many Christians stay in the boat all their lives. At the end, these same folks probably wonder why their lives seemed empty.

We easily succumb to fear's potency when we attempt to endure trouble in our own strength. We weren't created to live in such a way. God designed us to function best when we allow Jesus Christ's divine power to supplant our weakness. As he stood on the surface of the Sea of Galilee, Peter looked around at the fierce wind and remembered that no human can walk on water. His own strength was inadequate to keep him afloat, and he quickly sank. **Jesus' greater power was sufficient to lift Peter from the sea and carry them both safely to the boat.**

Apprehension can paralyze the believer and consequently freeze the Lord's plan. But responding with faith to God's directions unleashes divine power and sets His work in motion. **The moment that we step out of the boat and move away from the familiar boundaries of our limited strength, we walk by faith.**