

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Miracle Man” (pt. 6) – 6/22/2014

Scripture: John 6:16-21

Bottom Line: Jesus is stronger than my fears.

INTRODUCTION: What is your greatest fear? No one likes to think about it long. If we do, it distracts us from reality and can even ruin our day. In the Bible, the disciples were full of fear. Yet, it is a beautiful thing to see their fear because Jesus is always there to bring healing and comfort.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 6:16-21

The Disciples set out across a lake that at its shortest distance was 5-6 miles. The storm comes out of nowhere and is raging. In the midst of the storm, the disciples see a man walking on water. At first, they think it is a ghost but realize that it's Jesus. Jesus looks at the disciples and says, “Do not be afraid, I AM” (English Bibles say “It is I”, but the Greek literally says “I AM”).

What is the significance of the words “I AM” when used by Jesus?

- Jesus is calling himself God. He is attributing massive power and sovereignty to himself. This statement fits with his miraculous life.

How was this important for the disciples?

- Jesus is revealing himself to his disciples. They are learning that they can trust him. They were right to fear someone with the power to walk on water, but when they learn that it is Jesus, they know that in addition to being really powerful he is also kind and merciful. So they were glad to see him.

Why does God tell us in Scripture to not be afraid?

- The most obvious answer is that he is with us. His presence makes all the difference for absolutely everything.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

What is the problem with fear? Why does Jesus want to free us from it?

- Fear consumes and controls us.
- Fear “baits” us to make poor choices. (Prov. 29:25)
- Fear causes us to hide and conceal. (Gen 3:10)
- Fear is physically hard on our bodies.
- Fear destroys relationships with others because you are not yourself.

Jesus says, “Do not be afraid; I AM”. How does this bring you comfort?

- It is not comforting to know that Jesus is powerful, but it is comforting to know that Jesus is both powerful and kind. His heart is full of grace and he longs for people to be restored to him. This drives him to reveal himself so that the fear of this life would not take hold of us and steal our focus away from him.

Notice that Jesus never calms the storm in the story. The storm is not the point. It is merely circumstantial. Jesus’ real point was to display his power so that when he told them not to be afraid they would have good reason to take his advice. Jesus may not calm the storm in your life, but he will certainly reveal himself as powerful, gracious, and trustworthy. We can certainly trust that if he doesn’t calm the storm, then he has good reason for letting it rage.

How has God displayed his power and kindness to you lately?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Practically, how does God dispel fear?

- He helps us to identify surface level and deep fears (there may be an idol present deep down).
 - What just made me feel fear?
 - Why did that cause me fear? What’s underneath that in my heart?
- Recognize that Jesus has sovereign authority, ability, presence, and love.
- Believe that Jesus has sovereign power that your idol does not have.
- Invite Jesus to be present in your life to take the place of that idol.