

## Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 14:22-36

Do Not Fear Jesus Is Here

Welcome back to another season of GLC's! Between now and Easter, we will be working through Matthew chapters 13-15. This section is full of parables, miracles, and more. It should be a great time for our groups.

Here's a short summary of the purpose of the book of Matthew, according to the ESV Study Bible:

*Matthew crafted his account to demonstrate Jesus' messianic identity, his inheritance of the Davidic kingship over Israel, and his fulfillment of the promise made to his ancestor Abraham (Matt. 1:1) to be a blessing to all the nations (Gen. 12:1-3). Thus in large part Matthew's Gospel is an evangelistic tool aimed at his fellow Jews, persuading them to recognize Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah. At the same time, the Gospel reveals clearly to Gentiles that salvation through Jesus the Messiah is available to all nations. For Jewish Christians, Matthew's Gospel provides encouragement to stand steadfast amid opposition from their own countrymen, as well as Gentile pagans, secure in the knowledge of their citizenship in God's kingdom.*

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and end with prayer.

### exploring

we will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

### digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

### growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

### going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



## exploring

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

34 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick 36 and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Matthew 14:22–36

## digging

1. Who are all the different people mentioned in this text?
2. Sometimes it's helpful to look at narratives through a plot line. If you were to lay out this passage on a plot line (setting, rising actions, climax, falling action, ending), what would it look like? Where would the climax be?

## digging

3. What event immediately preceded this passage?



4. Read John's parallel passage, John 6:1-29. What is the reason that Jesus gives for these events? Does the purpose in John's account match the purpose in Matthew's?
5. What evidence does Jesus give to the disciples to show that he is the Son of God? Do you think Jesus could have given better evidence to his divinity? Why or why not?

### growing

6. In the sermon, Paul mentioned the story of Rachel Barkey, the young mother of two who died of cancer in 2009. Here's the quote that was shared: *"The next few weeks and months will not be pretty. Bone cancer is intensely painful. Liver cancer causes extreme nausea. Last Saturday I woke up and ran to the bathroom and threw up. I didn't stop all day. I haven't felt hungry for over two months...my body and my cancer will fight over the calories I do consume and eventually the cancer will win and I will starve to death. That is the most likely scenario. I have lived a seemingly perfect life from the outside looking in, and I truly have been very blessed, but in my life the Lord has allowed many very difficult things...In His providence, God has used the tough things in my life to draw me closer to Him. To show me His great love and to teach me many things...I have learned that being a Christian is not just hope for the future, although it is definitely that, but that it is the joy of knowing and trusting that God is loving and faithful no matter what the circumstances...I know I have a faith that saves, because my faith is in Jesus alone."* Does her testimony help you see that Jesus's presence with us is just as real now as it was with the disciples in the storm? Discuss.
7. Do you ever feel like Peter, 'sinking' due to lack of faith in Jesus even though you know He is Savior and Lord? Discuss.

### going

8. Many people in our culture lead chaotic lives and turn to things other than Jesus for peace and satisfaction. How is the gospel good news to people who's lives are chaotic?



**Pray “Kingdom Prayers”**

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory. For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying “God, please heal Betty's knee”, you would pray something like “God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand.” See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel

