

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 6:16-21

Read also the parallel passages of Matthew 14:22-33 and Mark 6:45-52

DISCUSSION 1: SEASONS

1. **Ice-breaker:** Do you have any quirky, irrational, or unusual fears?
2. In John 6:1-15, Jesus performs the miraculous feeding to strengthen the disciples' faith. What lessons should they have carried over from this event when they became fearful in 6:16-21?
3. Can you recall any time where there was a season of spiritual growth followed by a season of your faith being tested? How do we maximize the seasons of increasing faith to sustain us during trials or tests?
4. In John 6:15 and Matthew 14:23 we're told that after the feeding of the 5,000—and before walking on water—Jesus gets alone on a mountain to pray. Why might this extended time of prayer between these two sections of Scripture (6:1-15 and 6:16-71) be significant? What can we learn about the need for such solitude and prayer for refreshment and faith?

DISCUSSION 2: FEAR

1. In Matthew 14:23-25 and John 6:19 we see fear striking the disciples. What are some of the things you think, feel, and experience when fear or worry takes over?
2. What things might the disciples have recalled (scan John 1:1-6:15) from Jesus's life and ministry that could have helped them respond in faith rather than fear? How do you remember God's faithfulness and power in your past when confronted with fear about what's in front of you?
3. Would you say fear, worry, or anxiety are regular or ongoing temptations in your life? Why or why not?
4. Are there any things in your life right now causing fear, worry, or anxiety? Spend a minute sharing the situation and then what in your heart might be causing the fear. What do you need to remember about God in these moments? How might the presence of Jesus help give peace in this storm?

DISCUSSION 3: FAITH

1. In this passage, John sets up a contrast between (1) the darkness, separation from Jesus, storms, and fear, and (2) Jesus' presence, the calmed storm, trust, and faith. What do you think he's conveying through this contrast?
2. How does feeling like God is present versus absent in trials (or storms) make all the difference? What do we need to remember about God's promises, presence, and care for us when we feel like He is absent?
3. Take time to share and pray together by going through the "Group Application" suggested in the Application section below.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What things cause fear or worry for you?
2. How do we turn to and trust in God when we're fearful?
3. What does this passage tell us about who Jesus is and what he's capable of?

APPLICATION

- **Group:** Spend time as a group sharing discussing some of the fears, worries, anxieties, and trials in your life right now. Pray over one another and share gospel promises and biblical truths with one another for encouragement.
- **Individual:** Take some to read or sing through some good Christian songs to help you remember God's faithfulness in your fear. Some example might be "It Is Well," "He Will Hold Me Fast," "How Firm a Foundation," "Do Not Worry," "No Longer Slaves," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."
- **Individual:** Register for our upcoming Wednesday night Equipping class where common struggles like fear and anxiety (among others) will be discussed. The class [*Fighting for Joy: Battling Life's Everyday Struggles*](#) begins on March 13 and goes for six weeks. Learn more online at the events page.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Parallel Passages:** Mt. 14:22-33; Mk. 6:45-52; Ex. 14 (esp.14:13); Is. 11.
- **Fear:** Mt. 14:17; 17:7; Jn. 16:33; Dt. 31:6; Is. 41:13-14; 43:1-2; Lk. 12:22-26; Ps. 27:1; 118:6-7.
- "[Read the Bible to Your Anxiety](#)" by John Piper at desiringgod.org
- **Read** *Fear and Faith* by Trillia Newbell.
- "[How to Parent Fearful Kids](#)" by William Smith at thegospelcoalition.org