



EVERY STEP MATTERS

Week of August 29, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about a season of life when you set out to grow in a particular area (fitness, education, skill development). What steps did you take to grow? How did that experience make you feel?
2. If you were to chart your spiritual life on a scale from -10 to +10, with beginning to follow Jesus at 0; where would you be? How would you describe your spiritual life in the last year?
3. Read Matthew 14:25-27. Describe the emotions of the disciples in the boat. How do you think you would have responded at that moment?
4. Gavin said "If you want to be close to Jesus you must move closer to Jesus." What kept the other 11 disciples from stepping out? What keeps you from taking a step towards Jesus? Do you think you know what that step is?
5. In these verses, Jesus told them "Don't be afraid". What role does fear play in keeping us from taking steps toward Jesus? What can we learn about dealing with fear from Peter's response?

6. Everyone has a next step. What is your next step spiritually? Say it out loud. Be courageous and share what you think it is with the people in your group. What fear do you have in taking that step?

Moving Forward

We grow in the direction we go. And taking your next step is the way to move forward. Everyone matters to God, and you are one of the “everyone”. Your relationship matters to God. Jesus has moved in your direction, now what are you going to do to move in his?

Matthew 14:22-29

Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. ²³After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. ²⁴But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.