

Small Group Material

Transforming Miracles 5 - Safety in the Chaos John 6.16-24

Welcome (10 mins) What was one of your greatest fears as a child? (Darkness, insects, high places, water?)

Worship (10 mins)

Suggest people imagine they are in the boat with waves crashing over them. (What in our lives or friends we know, are like waves crashing around us?) And then, 'they saw Jesus walking on the water....' v19. This is a rather old song but I love the words, 'He'll lift you up and he'll help you to stand.' Each verse goes up in key which creates a sense of Jesus coming nearer and nearer to us...

Listen to, 'Here comes Jesus walking on the water'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjmxIF0CkVs&app=desktop>

Turn your thoughts into prayers of thanks and praise - and if anyone has an experience of Jesus coming to them to rescue them, do share.

Word (30-40 mins) Read John 6.16 - 24

*Two of the other gospel writers tell us that Jesus **made** his disciples get into the boat (Mt 14.22, Mk 6.45). The word means literally, he 'compelled them'. This begs the question that if he knew that the people would try to make him king by force (6.15), why didn't he know about the storm? The answer is that he did!*

Discovery questions (move through these quickly!)

Why, then, do you think he made them get into the boat?

Why were the disciples so terrified when they saw Jesus, v19?

What is remarkable about what he says to them in v20? (*Leaders' note: Jesus' words of comfort also confirm his divine status. They were an emphatic pledge of God's presence and refer to the I AM of the Old Testament, Ex 3.14. In today's speech, it could be translated as, 'It's me. I AM.'*)

How would you have reacted if you'd seen Jesus - on the water?

When he'd climbed on board?

What had the disciples failed to see in the feeding of the 5,000 that could have helped them here?

Can you make a connection between the Exodus and these two miracles? What is John trying to tell his readers about Jesus?

(*Leaders: see Deut 18.15, the crowds have just declared that Jesus is the prophet, like Moses - who led the people through the desert where they were fed 'manna from heaven' and through the Red Sea to freedom in the Promised Land.*)

Reflection and application

How can this miracle transform your view of Jesus? What would help? Has Jesus ever frightened you?

When we lose sight of Jesus we need to remember that he has not lost sight of us. Discuss.

Where in your life do you need to hear Jesus say, 'It is I. Don't be afraid!'

Witness (15 mins) Take this miracle and apply it as you pray...

Is there someone you know who is in 'deep water'? Perhaps someone you feel called to be a 'Secret Pastor'*** to? Share & pray together.

Pray for others in deep water. Eg CAP, Kintsugi Hope, those in abusive relationships, young people, old people, anyone suffering from Covid?

Is anyone in the group in 'deep water'? Listen to God as well!

Is anyone in your group joining the 'Developing new Leaders for our Small Groups' course? Pray for them & the other participants.

Remind everyone that it's First Priority Prayer next Wed, 2nd Dec.

***Laurence Singlehurst has the concept of the '**Secret Pastor**' - those who you are particularly concerned for, and pastor without them being aware!! They can be a neighbour, work colleague, friend...