

Life Group Homework

For the week of March 18, 2018

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) How did praying for the (916) go this week?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 14:22-31(NLT)

²²Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

²⁷But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

²⁸Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

²⁹"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

³⁰But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

³²When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.

- 4) What are your first thoughts after reading this story?
- 5) The passage says the disciples were in trouble. One thing to remember is many of these men were seasoned fishermen accustomed to this body of water. They were experienced on the water as they had spent most of their lives on it. Second, storms are loud; this was not a quiet conversation Jesus had with Peter. They were shouting at each other. How bad was this storm for these men to think it was terrible? And what was it like to be Peter?
- 6) What was Jesus' response to Peter's request to do the impossible?
- 7) What do Peter's actions demonstrate about his faith in Jesus?
- 8) What caused Peter to start to sink?
- 9) Have you ever had an instance when your focus shifted from Jesus to the storm around you? If so, what did that do to your faith?

TAKING IT HOME

From Pastor Cheryl's message we learned three key concepts. First, trust is The Cornerstone of Faith. Without trust we never experience what Peter did in stepping out of the boat. Second, we need to surrender. This is laying down our will and letting God lead even when there doesn't seem to be a path out. Lastly, we need to change our perspective. The older and hopefully wiser I get, the more I recognize the importance of my perspective and its impact on my attitude. For me, learning to shift my perspective has helped me learn to trust and surrender on a deeper level. The next passage has an idea that can only be received when we have the right perspective.

Psalm 77:16-19(NLT)

¹⁶When the Red Sea saw you, O God,
its waters looked and trembled!
The sea quaked to its very depths.

¹⁷The clouds poured down rain;
the thunder rumbled in the sky.
Your arrows of lightning flashed.

¹⁸Your thunder roared from the whirlwind;
the lightning lit up the world!
The earth trembled and shook.

¹⁹Your road led through the sea,
your pathway through the mighty waters—
a pathway no one knew was there!

²⁰You led your people along that road like a flock of sheep,
with Moses and Aaron as their shepherds.

10) Psalm 77 is a Hebrew poem, from the heart of a person experiencing pain and then shifting their perspective to the greatness of God. What are your first impressions of this passage?

- 11) In Verse 19 the passage says, "a pathway no one knew was there," what is the significance of that?
- 12) Have you ever experienced a time when God used a pathway no one knew was there; if so what was it?
- 13) Looking back at the passage with Peter walking on water, was there a path that was unknown? What was the admonition from Jesus to Peter when he started to sink?
- 14) What do you think God requires from us when He asks us to use the path no one knows about?

In the case of the Israelites, God led them to the Red Sea to what appeared to be a dead end. The lesson for us is sometimes the dead end is God's doing, to show Himself as a miracle worker, other times the dead ends are from our own choices.

Psalms 32:8 (NLT)

⁸The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

- 15) On what kind of pathway does the Lord promise to lead us?
- 16) In view of the passages we have been studying how does that impact you?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Matthew 14:22-32 and Psalm 77

- 17) Where do you need to grow in your faith?
- 18) Is there a hidden path Jesus wants to show you?
- 19) Pray with confidence and trust in God's faithfulness this week.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read Matthew 14:22-31 and answer the following questions as a family:

- 20) What do you notice about the passage?
- 21) How would you feel if you were the disciples in the storm?
- 22) Why do you think Peter asked Jesus to tell him to come to Him?
- 23) What does that say about Peter's faith?
- 24) Share about a time when God asked you to step out in faith and do the impossible for Him. (Parents, this is a wonderful time for you to share parts of your story with your kids. Be sure to highlight how the experience deepened your faith in God and what a difference that deeper faith has made in your life and in the lives of others.) How did you feel? What were the results? What did God do?
- 25) Pray and ask God to increase your faith in Him and for Him to show you one area where He would like you to step out in faith and trust Him.

RED SEA ROAD

March 18, 2018 | PASTOR CHERYL BANGS

Psalm 77:19 (NLT)

Faith requires TRUST.

SURRENDER requires faith.

Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

Faith gives us a CHANGED PERSPECTIVE.