

# PETER

## 2. From Fear to Faith

(Leader's Notes)



### Introduction

Jesus had called Peter to be his disciple. The word disciple means 'taught or trained one'. Now Jesus begins that teaching and training process to mold Peter into a true disciple. Peter learns as he watches Jesus, as he witnesses miracles, as he hears Jesus teach, and through the problems and difficulties he faces. In this study we are going to see how Jesus allows a storm in Peter's life to teach him to walk in faith.

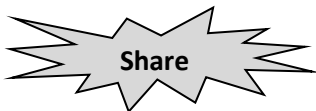
**Bible Reading:** Matthew 14:22-33

### 1. From fear v22-27

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus sends the disciples and the crowd away at this point?  
(He wanted to be alone with his Father at the end of a busy day, and he was also facing the temptation to become King in man's way rather than God's way. John 6:14-16)
- ❖ What difficulty does Peter and the other disciples encounter? V24  
(A storm – the wind and the waves were very strong.)

Peter and the disciples had obeyed Jesus, yet they encounter a storm! We may have similar experiences in our lives, where we are following the Lord, and yet we go through difficulties.

- ❖ Why do these things come into our lives, and what is the Lord wanting to do in us? James 1:2-4  
(God allows them so that we learn to trust him in all situations, and so our faith will become strong.)



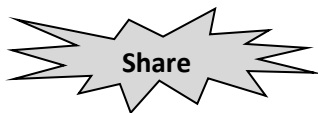
The disciples had just experienced the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. Sometimes after a time of spiritual blessing there is a time of testing. Has this ever happened in your life? Share.

- ❖ How did Jesus respond to the situation the disciples were facing? V25-26  
(Jesus came to them walking on the water. The 4<sup>th</sup> watch of the night was about 3am, so they had been struggling on the lake for many hours.)
- ❖ In what ways does Jesus come to us in the midst of a storm? Discuss.  
(He can come to us through a brother or sister in Christ, or speak to us through his Word, or through the quiet inner voice of the Holy Spirit.)
- ❖ The disciples did not recognize Jesus! Perhaps we are like this too when we face storms. What prevented the disciples from realizing this was Jesus? V26  
(Fear filled their hearts and it hindered them from recognizing this was Jesus.)

Jesus tells the disciples not to be afraid. Many times in the Word of God these words are repeated. God knows our tendency to fear. Look at the following verses where Jesus tells Peter and the disciples not to be afraid: Luke 5:10, 12:7, 32, John 14:27. He is speaking these words to us as well.

## **2. To Faith v28-33**

- ❖ Why do you think Peter wanted to join Jesus on the water?  
*(He wanted to be with Jesus immediately! See John 21:7)*
- ❖ What characteristics does this reveal about Peter do you think?  
*(He was impetuous, daring and often did things without thinking.)*
- ❖ Peter began walking on the water! This was a miracle! But then he began to sink. Why did that happen and what can we learn from his experience? V30-31  
*(He looked at the wind and took his eyes off Jesus. As soon as he did, doubt filled his heart. When we face difficulties in our lives we need to fix our eyes on Jesus, and not on the problems.)*
- ❖ Why did Jesus rebuke him, even though he had demonstrated faith by stepping out of the boat? V31  
See James 1:6  
*(Jesus rebuked him because he doubted.)*



Jesus was teaching Peter to walk by faith. What have you learnt about faith from this story? What have you learnt about Jesus?  
*(Faith must be based on a personal word from God. Peter heard Jesus say, "Come". Faith involves taking a step of faith. This story illustrates to us that Jesus draws near to us in times of need and that he is Lord of every situation. He wants us to learn from our mistakes and although he may rebuke us, he does not condemn us. Even though we doubt, he will lift us up when we cry out to him.)*

## **Conclusion**

Perhaps you have been out at sea in a storm and can imagine what it was like for Peter. However many of us never have, but we may have gone through storms in our life. Sometimes it is a financial crisis, or a relationship problem, or an issue with our health. Jesus knows and comes to us to lift us up in the midst of that storm. We need to learn how to recognize his presence and hear his voice. And remember he also says to us, "Do not be afraid." He is wanting us to learn to trust him.