

**Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**Looking Backwards & Forwards**  
**Matthew 14:22-33**

August 14, 2023

**EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

**KEY VERSES**

*<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*

*<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind,<sup>[b]</sup> he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

**REFLECTION**

As we enter back in to fall rhythms, it's important to look back and be grateful as we begin to make plans for the fall. **Reading the passage, what stands out to you initially for yourself and your family in the weeks and months ahead? For what are you grateful as you enter into the fall?**

We will find greater life when we can move beyond our fears, and swing our legs out of the boat as Peter did. Fear can also present itself during seasons of blessings, when we want to play it safe and not risk loss or change. Peter's actions should be seen as faithful, however, not reckless. He simply wanted to be where Jesus was. **Where might Jesus be on the move in your life, and how is he inviting you to join him? What do you need to do to make the move of swinging your legs over the side?**

How, specifically, can you implement key practices within the three rhythms necessary for following Jesus?

**Solitude** - to be able to detect where Jesus is and discern where he's calling us, we must seek ways to practice feeling spiritually alive in him daily. **What practices do you already do, and what can you implement?**

**Community** - we need people praying and discerning over our lives rather than making decisions on our own. **What kind of community do you currently have, and what do you want to seek?**

**Service** - we draw closer to Jesus and take on his traits when we live for something greater than ourselves. Rather than simply a busy, distracted existence, Jesus calls us to more intentional ways of serving others. **Where is Jesus calling you to serve alongside him this fall?**