

Discussion Questions

1. The storm in this passage was a real storm, but it is also an image of the personal "storms" we face in life. How did the apostles respond during this storm? Do you respond in a similar way to the "storms" in your life? Why or why not?
2. Dr. Sri pointed out that by calming the storm Jesus wasn't simply performing a miracle, He was revealing himself as the Lord (see Psalm 107:23-32). Do you believe that Jesus is the Lord of your life also? That He has the power to calm the storms you face? Why or why not? What might make you doubt God's ability to calm the storms in your life?
3. Sometimes it can seem like God isn't present during the storms, like He is "asleep on the cushion." Like the apostles, we can think, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" How should we respond when God seems absent? Or when we are frustrated with God for not changing something in our lives?
4. Jesus says to the storm, "Peace! Be still!" How can turning to Christ give us true peace, even when difficulties are still present in our lives? What does turning to Christ "at the center" really look like?

Challenge of the Week

Read Matthew 14: 22-33 every day this week and thank God for the gift of His Word.



Meeting the Messiah

ENCOUNTER HIM THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

Session 2 Walking on Water

Small Group Discussion Guide

How to lead a transformative Bible study

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus allows the disciples to experience the chaos of the waters. At the same time, He has power over the chaos. What does it look like to trust in Christ, even when things are chaotic?
2. At first, the apostles are scared of Jesus, thinking He is a ghost. Then, upon seeing Jesus, Peter calls out to Him and asks to come to Him on the water. We often experience the same fear and desire in our relationship with God. In what ways are you being drawn toward Christ? And in what ways are you afraid to approach Him?
3. Christ calls Peter to take action, to step out of the boat. How do you think Jesus is inviting you to step out of the boat and take action with regard to your faith?
4. Peter begins to sink when he doubts, and Jesus rebukes him for his lack of faith. In what ways do you doubt Christ? How can you increase your faith?

Challenge of the Week

Read John 2:1-5 every day and share something you learn or find striking with someone else.

Discussion Questions

1. John subtly enumerates the days of a “new creation.” What is the significance of this new creation? And how does this background help us better understand the role of Mary at the Wedding Feast of Cana?
2. Dr. Sri and Alexandra discussed how several different Biblical passages converged to give us a picture of Mary in the Scriptures (John 2, the Wedding at Cana, John 19, the Crucifixion, and Revelation 12, the Woman Clothed with the Sun). How did these passages help you understand the person of Mary? What was still unclear to you?
3. You don't have to be a scholar to understand the Scriptures. If you had to describe your current level of comfort in studying the Bible, how would you describe it? How did this session inspire or challenge you to study the Word of God more faithfully?
4. Who is Mary in your life? Do you have a devotion to her? How can you grow in your devotion to Mary?

Challenge of the Week

Make a list of people who need to hear the message of Christ and pray for those people.

Meeting the Messiah

ENCOUNTER HIM THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

Session 4 The Hemorrhaging Woman

Small Group Discussion Guide

How to lead a transformative Bible study

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever prayed by imagining yourself entering a scene in the Gospels? How can this type of prayer help us deepen our relationship with Jesus?
2. How have you experienced isolation? How have you seen others experience it? How does Jesus meet us in our isolation? What can we do to build Christ-centered friendships?
3. Is there a difficulty in your life that seems like it will never change? How can you bring this problem to Jesus? How can you “reach out” beyond what is comfortable to find healing?
4. Dr. Sri and Carrie shared about how Jesus’ healing is not only physical healing but relational healing—healing of our understanding of ourselves, healing in our relationships with others, and healing in our relationship with God. What relationships in your life need healing and how can Jesus’ touch bring healing in that area of your life?

Challenge of the Week

Spend time living incarnationally with another and/or having a meaningful spiritual conversation. Ask the kind of questions that will engage conversation.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus invites Peter into more leadership than he might be ready for. How has God already invited you into leadership, and how might He be calling you to more?
2. Peter states that Jesus is the “Christ, the Son of the Living God.” This declaration of Jesus’ Lordship is powerful. Is Jesus the Lord of all aspects of your life? What areas are not yet fully surrendered to His Lordship?
3. God gave us leaders in the Church to serve as our spiritual fathers. How do you view the authority of the Church in your life? Are you receptive to it? Resistant? What does proper receptivity to the Church’s authority look like?
4. How can you confront any fears you might have about sharing Jesus’ Lordship with others? Who could you invite to a Bible study? To whom could you ask the question, “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

Challenge of the Week

Create a list of people that you can invite to join you in a Bible study and pray for them by name.

Meeting the Messiah

ENCOUNTER HIM THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

Session 6 The Eucharist & The Cross

Small Group Discussion Guide

How to lead a transformative Bible study

Discussion Questions

1. How did this session help you understand the idea of sacrifice? How is sacrifice connected to forgiveness? To God's covenant with His people? To the Mass?
2. How does thinking of the Mass as more than mere remembering of Christ's sacrifice but as a memorial, a re-presentation, or a reliving, of that sacrifice change the way we should approach the Mass?
3. Could you explain to someone else the connection between the cross, the Last Supper, and the Mass? Take a moment and try to share those connections with one another.
4. We are all called to live as missionary disciples. Are you prepared to lead your own Bible study? Consider leading your own group through the upcoming Lenten Bible Study. What might you need to prepare to take on such responsibility?

Challenge of the Week

Brainstorm the following:

3 ideas to practice hospitality with your group

1.

2.

3.

3 questions you could ask in Bible study:

1.

2.

3.