

# SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

## 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2

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- Summer Friendship Gathering events lasts three evenings and each evening is divided into three parts: fellowship meal, worship time with a large group lesson, and small group discussion. On the last evening there is a closing worship service, which replaces the Large Group Bible Lesson and Small Group Discussion time.
- As you start preparing your lesson a good place to start is to pray asking the Holy Spirit to give you insight and direction.
- You will find an illustrated sample video on the Day 2 Bible lesson Called to Step Out along with the other Summer Friendship Gathering training videos. You are encouraged to watch this video as you plan your lesson.
- Our theme verse for these three lessons is found in John 12:26 (NIRV)  
***“Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”***



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# 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2 CONTINUED

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- We learned on Day 1 how Peter hears God's Word taught from Jesus' own mouth, from his boat. Jesus asked Peter to do something that didn't make sense. When he obeyed Jesus, Peter witnessed a miracle that landed him a boat load of fish. He left everything to follow Jesus' call to become a fisher of men.
- In the lesson for Day 2 we will see how Peter grew in his faith when Jesus called him to step out of his boat and walk on the water in the middle of a big storm.
- Our Bible verse for today's lesson comes **Matthew 14:28-29**. **"Lord is it You?" Peter asked. "If it is, tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus said.**
- Jesus doesn't always call us to do things that are easy. Many times, he calls us to trust Him with the hard things in our lives.
- We will see how Peter trusted Jesus with his very life and then worshiped him as the Son of God when He calmed the waves.
- Jesus wants to build our faith so we will come to Him in any circumstance that He calls us to.
- ***Ask the group, "Do you remember our buzz word from yesterday? Yes, I am Called!" Take a few moments to practice with the group.***

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# 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2 CONTINUED

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- Our story today begins in Matthew 14:22-32, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat after a couple long days of teaching and healing many people. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. He needed to be alone with His Father.
- ***Be sure to make the point of how it was important for Jesus to go off by himself and pray to his Father. Prayer was important to Jesus. You may ask, why is prayer important to us?***
- Prayer is a way for us to talk to God. It is important to follow Jesus' example and to find time when we can be alone with God without other distractions. We can talk to God about anything and ask Him to help us with our day.
- By the time Jesus came down from the mountainside the disciple's boat was already a long way from land. A great storm arose, and the disciples were being pounded by the waves.
- "Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the water. They saw him and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear."
- ***You may want to note that Jesus did not come immediately to His disciples. He waited until shortly before dawn to come out. Do you think He wanted the disciples to know in their hearts how much they needed Him?***

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# 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2 CONTINUED

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- “Right away Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.””  
““Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, call me to come to you on the water.””  
““Come,” Jesus said. So, Peter stepped out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus.
- ***A good question to ask here is, did Jesus call Peter to come to Him on a warm sunny day or in the middle of a storm? Of course, it was in the middle of a big storm.***
- ***We can also ask, has God ever called you to step out of your comfort zone and do something that was hard?***
- God may call us to forgive someone who has hurt us or ask someone to forgive us when we have hurt them. He calls us to help our friends or housemates when they need help. He may call us to do chores that are someone else’s responsibility. He calls us to love people who are hard to love. Or ask someone to come with us to Friendship Group.
- Our story continues when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!””  
“Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?””
- Peter saw Jesus walking on water and he was only able to step out of the boat because he trusted Jesus. He was putting his life in Jesus’ Hands. Peter only began to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves around him.

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## **2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING**

### **LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2 CONTINUED**

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- ***It's important to ask our friends, what helps us keep our eyes on Jesus?***
- We can read what He tells us in his Word, the Bible. We can pray to him when we feel worried or fearful and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be brave. We can go to church and listen to what He says through our preachers and teachers.
- ***Also ask, what happens when we keep our eyes on Jesus?***
- When we keep our eyes on Jesus and trust Him, we can do anything Jesus calls us to do, even love someone who made us angry. We can even do what seems impossible.
- ***You may want to interject the question, who do you cry out to when you need help? Is it Jesus or someone or something else?***
- It is important that we remember that Jesus is always able and willing to save us when we are in troubled waters. But we must call out to him. Jesus was Peter's life preserver. He pulled Peter out of the water. Jesus is also our life preserver. We can feel safe doing the hard things Jesus calls us to, because He will always be with us.
- ***What do you think happens when our eyes are off Jesus and on ourselves or our troubles?***
- We may not sink in the water, but our troubles sink us. We can become depressed, or angry, not loving others like Jesus calls us to love them. We can stop praying, stop going to church, or even stop following Jesus.

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# 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2 CONTINUED

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- “When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You really are the Son of God!”
- ***You may want to ask how did the disciples respond when Jesus got in the boat and the wind and waves stopped?***
- They worshipped Jesus and proclaimed He was the Son of God. They recognized that only God has command over all of creation including the wind and waves.
- God is present in all our troubles, always with us and guiding us. And if we should sink He is our life preserver and will help us through any storm. Like the disciples, our response should always be to worship God.
- There are four main points to be made in this lesson. It will be important that each of these points are covered in your lesson because they will be part of the small group discussion questions.

### **1. The first point is, Jesus wants to build our faith so we will come to Him in any circumstance we face when he calls us.**

Jesus is inviting us to step out of our comfort zone and be willing to do the things He wants us to do. He calls us to trust Him even in hard things we may go through.

### **2. The second point is, Peter wanted to be like Jesus, even when it seemed impossible like walking on water. Are we willing to do the hard things Jesus calls us to do?**

Jesus doesn't always call us to step out when life is going well. To love another person when everything is smooth and easy. Sometimes it's in the middle of turmoil or trouble. Jesus wants us to love others, even when they are hard to love or when we are angry.

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## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 2 CONTINUED

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3. The third point to make is, Jesus was Peter's life preserver, pulling him out of the water when he failed to keep his eyes on Jesus. Jesus promised to never leave us and He will be our life preserver too.
4. The last point to remember is, we worship Jesus who is the source of everything that is good.

The disciples worshipped Jesus and proclaimed He was the Son of God. They recognized that only God has command over all of creation including the wind and waves.

- As you plan out the flow of your lesson, you can choose to use, or not use the optional skit or object lesson. These resources can be used before your first telling of the story or afterwards. This is up to you.
- It is important to find more than one way to tell the story. Visuals and illustrations will help with learning. Most people learn best if the lesson combines different techniques, or modes of learning. Remember, you have access to the PowerPoint slides of the story provided on the flash drive with the curriculum and on our website.
- You should also review the Discussion Leader's Guide for the detailed questions and sub-questions that will be asked on Day 2.
- Before you finalize your lesson, be sure to incorporate these Day 2 Discussion Questions into the Large Group Bible Lesson.
- It is best to reinforce the main points with our adult friends. This helps them with a smoother transition into the small group discussion time which follows the large group lesson.

