

### WARM-UP

- When was the last time you went on a trip? What were the things that made the journey difficult?
- Share about an instance when you asked someone for help. What led you to do this?
- Recall a time when you had to accomplish a difficult task. Tell us about it.

**WORD** <sup>16</sup>*When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.*

**JOHN 6:16-17**

(Read also **JOHN 6:18-21.**)

Jesus' disciples were on their way to Capernaum. At sea, the circumstances were not favorable to them. It was dark, there was a storm, and more importantly, Jesus was not physically with them. The disciples were caught in a difficult situation they could not overcome on their own. After rowing for a few miles, Jesus appeared—and He was walking on water! The disciples were frightened at first, but when they recognized that it was Jesus, they were assured of His presence. In this miracle, we see how Jesus alone trumps over all—including the elements, fear, and chaos.

## 1 | Jesus over the elements.

<sup>18</sup>*The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.*

<sup>19</sup>*When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened.* **JOHN 6:18-19**

The disciples were stuck in a storm that seemed to have no way out. But Jesus suddenly appeared walking on water. In their culture, large bodies of water and the abyss of the sea were considered chaotic and dangerous. Jesus walking on water shows that He is the only one with authority to walk over the water, an element that no one else, including the disciples, could overcome. It was not by the strength of the disciples to row, the weather, nor by any other thing that Jesus was able to do this. It was because of who He is. Why do you think we could take a familiar story like this for granted? Why is this a “blow your mind” kind of experience?

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## 2 | Jesus over the fear.

*But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”* **JOHN 6:20**

The disciples *were frightened* by what was happening (John 6:19). Their reaction to the situation was human; fear comes when there is a crisis. However, Jesus reacted differently to the storm. He was neither afraid nor intimidated by the disciples' fear and the storm. In fact, Jesus walked over the troubling sea, and then proceeded to calm their fears. When Jesus said, “*It is I, do not be afraid,*” the disciples immediately felt relieved. Jesus was greater than both the storm and their fear. If you were in the boat with the other disciples, how do you think you would have reacted to the situation? Why?

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### 3 | Jesus over chaos.

*<sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. . . .*

*<sup>21</sup>Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. JOHN 6:18, 21*

When Jesus came to their rescue, the disciples turned their attention to Him—no longer on the storm or their weakness in the situation. They looked to Jesus for who He is and what He can do. In the midst of chaos, Jesus brought the disciples away from the storm and eventually into safety. It is not clear how exactly Jesus brought the disciples to land, but what the Bible records is that He was able to do it, in a way that only He can. How does this truth comfort you?

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The fifth sign shows that God has authority over any and every situation in our lives—including the most difficult ones. He is not limited by our circumstances or fears. Just like how God brought order in the chaos of the seas by speaking (Genesis 1), this story points to Jesus as the one who has power over the chaos of the world.

#### APPLICATION

- Reflect on how God brought you through a difficult time. How did He show you that He is above these challenges?
- What challenges are you going through this season? Take some time this week to remember that Jesus is always with you and to declare God's authority over the storms you may be facing.
- Jesus alone brought relief and comfort to the disciples in the midst of a storm. Share this particular truth about Jesus with someone this week.

## PRAYER

- Thank God that Jesus is always with you and that He is able to overcome every difficult situation in your life. Ask God for faith to believe this truth starting today.
- Pray that you would fix your eyes on Jesus over any circumstance or fear. Pray that God builds your faith through the challenges you may be facing—that Jesus is the anchor and certainty of life amidst difficult storms.
- Ask God for courage and wisdom to share the truth about who Jesus is to those around you who are going through storms in their lives.

## NOTES

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