

Oceans: Week 2

High School Small Group Questions

Bottom Line: Jesus understands our failure

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Immediately after this, Jesus made his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake while he sent the people home. Afterward he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him, they screamed in terror, thinking he was a ghost. But Jesus spoke to them at once. "It's all right," he said. "I am here! Don't be afraid." Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you by walking on water." "All right, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and grabbed him. "You don't have much faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" And when they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed. (Matthew 14:22-33 NLT)

Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

1. Define the word failure.
2. Have you ever failed at something? What was it? How did you feel?
3. Do you have a comfort zone?
4. Why is it so hard leaving our comfort zones?
5. Peter left the comforts of the boat to walk on the water. Have you ever stepped out in faith to do something you felt God wanted you to do? Share your thoughts.
6. Jesus is not in the boat. He's not in the "safe" place. He's in the storm, the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable place, all the places that require us to put ALL of our faith and trust in Jesus. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
7. Are you afraid to fail?
8. When was the last time you got out of the boat? If you haven't, are you willing to give it a shot? If you have before, are you willing to do it again?

NEXT STEP: Leaders, be honest in some of your failures and also times when you stepped out of the boat in faith to do something Jesus was calling you to do. Encourage your students to talk to someone if they have questions.