



### **Notices:**

Hey wonderful small group leaders, here are a few notices to share with your group!

**Easter //** We're so looking forward to celebrating Easter together! We have services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Check out [bvc.so/easter](http://bvc.so/easter) for more details

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## **The Clash of Kingdoms – The King Overpowers the Strongman**

**Date:** Sunday 19th March 2023

**Speaker:** Andrew & Rosie McNeil

**Key Verses:** Matthew 14:22-36

### **Talk Summary:**

Jesus has just fed the 5000. After this miracle it says they wanted to make Jesus king by force (John 6) so he withdrew to pray.

### **What discipleship is like v22-24**

It's being formed by Jesus, learning how to follow him. He sends them away to go to the other side of the lake. The word actually means Jesus 'compelled' them to go. We can get confused when we try to do the very things Jesus said, and then we find ourselves in a storm.

The reality of storms doesn't say anything about whether we're being obedient or not. Jesus clearly taught us that we'd have trials. Both the wise and the foolish builders went through storms.

Testing times can be painful and prolonged. We all face times like this. It doesn't mean you're a bad Christian or that you're out of the will of God. Our experience can be like the biblical writers. Paul said he was "Hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down, but not crushed; not in despair; not abandoned; not destroyed.

They're in the middle of the lake, Jesus is on the mountain and he's praying. We see different kinds of ways Jesus works in our lives. Overcoming faith and enduring faith. Whether you are set free or sustained - it's all God's work and it's all part of forming us into disciples.

### **What Jesus is like. V25-27**

As Jesus meets his followers in their storm, they have a revelation of who he is. Jesus says Take courage. I am. Don't be afraid.

In the bible so many revelations of God came in the midst of a trial. We can get to understand another aspect of the character of God in a deeper way. Head knowledge can become heart knowledge.

Here are some other revelations of God that only came through trials. "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:14). "The Lord Our Banner" (Exodus 17:15). "The Lord Our Peace" (Judges 6:24) "The Lord Our Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1). "The God who sees me" (Genesis 16:13)

### **What faith is like v28-32**

Something in Peter wanted to be where Jesus was, even if it was outside the boat. Faith listens for Jesus's words. So how is he speaking in this season of my life?

Faith is spelt RISK. Faith often takes us beyond what's comfortable, beyond what's predictable, beyond what's known. To walk on the water you have to step out of the boat.

Genuine faith can also be mixed with doubt. Peter was afraid and, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Even after the resurrection it says "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted (Matt 28)

Faith calls out and Jesus kindly reached out and took hold of Peter. Ultimately faith is all about bringing glory to God and this story established worship in their hearts as they knew they were in the presence of God.

"And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." 32-33.

### **Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)**

- Revelations of the character of God sometimes come through trials. Have you seen that in your experience?
- Are you being called to trust God in a new way? To step out in faith?
- Overcoming faith and enduring faith.
- How does this passage speak you you about discipleship, Jesus and faith?

### **Worship**

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship)