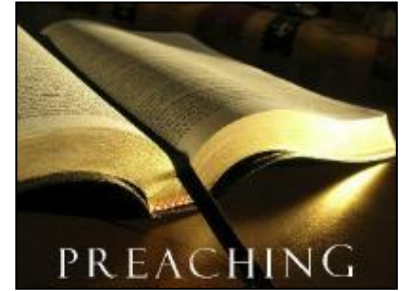


# Sermon-Based Discussion Guide for Home Groups

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## Take the Next Step

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### SCRIPTURE

#### Matthew 14:22-29

**22** Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. **23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, **24** and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

**25** Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

**27** But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

**28** "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

**29** "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

### ENGAGE

What are some of the next steps you want to take in life? Are there any spiritual next steps that are interesting to you?

### DISCUSS

1. It's easy for us to say we believe God and trust in Him. Sometimes it gets difficult when we are called to act on our faith. Have you had any of those challenging times?
2. Sometimes it takes a storm to motivate us to take the next step. What storms in life have moved you to the next step spiritually?
3. Often, our next step with God comes after time alone with the Father. Read Psalm 46:10. How can we use our prayer times with God to determine our next steps? (Practice listening to God. Evaluate our lives during this time.)

4. When Jesus makes our next step evident, it is often at a very inopportune time. Why do you think God does it in this way? Can you share an example of this in your life?
5. Following Christ often comes at a cost. What do we learn from paying a price for our walk with God?
6. It can be a scary thing to think about what God may want to do in my life. What times in your life have you been scared of the next step? How did it come out? Did you grow?
7. God will never command you to do something without giving you the courage to see it through. How can we claim the courage that God has for us? What things do we do that hinder our faith?

## YOUR NEXT STEP

The title of this section is always “Your Next Step”. What do you understand the next step to be on your spiritual journey.

## CHILDREN’S TIME

1. Summarize the scripture for today.
2. Ask the children if Peter was a success or a failure. Discuss his boldness to step out of the boat.
3. Explain that following God is a journey. Along the way we’ll be asked to do difficult things that will grow our faith in God. Ask the kids if they have done anything bold for God.
4. Talk with kids about some possible next steps for them. (Trusting Christ as Lord and Savior, being baptized, telling others about Him, being obedient when others make fun of us, giving our money to God.)

## OTHER PASSAGES

Spiritual Paths      Ps. 25:4  
                                 Ps. 119:35  
                                 Prov. 3:5

Phil. 4: 13-15

Psalm 46:10