

The Power of “With” | John 6:16-21 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To help each other fix our eyes on Jesus in the midst of our storms.

Sermon Reminder: Keith continued in our “Jesus is More” sermon series by preaching about John 6:16-21 where the disciples find themselves caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. We learned that we do not need to be afraid because of who Jesus is and because of his promise to be with us.

Icebreaker: Describe a time you were caught in a bad storm (rain, ice, tornado, hurricane, etc.). What happened? How did you feel?

Discussion:

1. What kinds of fears and anxieties do you see people facing recently? How do you see fear affecting them?
2. Read John 6:16-21 out loud. This happened right after Jesus fed the 5,000 and told them, “I am the bread of life.”

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.”²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

3. The disciples were in the dark and in the midst of a terrible storm. They were afraid. What storm/fear have you been facing recently? How is that fear affecting you?
4. In answer to the disciples’ fears, Jesus said, “it is I; don’t be afraid.” This is only comforting to the degree that we know and remember who Jesus is. Read Job 9:7-10 and Psalm 107:23-30. The disciples would have known these Old Testament scriptures. In light of that, how was Jesus walking on water a sign that pointed his disciples (and us!) to who he was?

Job 9:7-10

- ⁷ He speaks to the sun and it does not shine;
he seals off the light of the stars.
- ⁸ He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea.
- ⁹ He is the Maker of the Bear¹ and Orion,
the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.
- ¹⁰ He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,
miracles that cannot be counted.

Psalm 107:23-30

- ²³ Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
- ²⁴ They saw the works of the Lord,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.
- ²⁵ For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.
- ²⁶ They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.
- ²⁷ They reeled and staggered like drunkards;
they were at their wits' end.
- ²⁸ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
- ²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
- ³⁰ They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.

5. What do we learn about Jesus and his power from these Old Testament passages?
6. Sometimes God quiets our storm; sometimes he just quiets our hearts in the midst of the storm by being with us in it. Share about a time when you experienced God's faithfulness to be with you in the midst of a storm.
7. Keith pointed us to some great promises in the Bible that help us with specific fears. Read these promises out loud. Which one of these speaks the most to your fears today? (If there's not one that seems to fit your situation, let's brainstorm some other promises as a group.)

[When you are afraid of the unknown...](#)

Psalm 31:15 - But I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, "You are my God!" ¹⁵ My future is in your hands.

¹ Or "of Leo"

When you are afraid of other people...

Psalm 118:6 - The Lord is with me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?

When you are afraid that you won't have enough...

Luke 12:6-7 - ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

When I'm afraid that my sin is overwhelming...

Romans 8:38 - And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

When I'm afraid my life isn't going to turn out and I'm going to miss out...

Psalm 34:10 - The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

When I'm afraid I'm going to make a bad decision...

Psalm 32:8 - The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

When I'm afraid of dying...

Romans 14:7-8 - For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

No matter what you're afraid of...

John 6:20 – Jesus said, "It is I; don't be afraid."

Sharing and Prayer:

Consider splitting up men and women or into 2 smaller groups for this time.

We've already shared about some of the fears and storms we are going through. What other things are you concerned or worried about that we can pray for?

Tonight's discussion is not only a great chance to share vulnerably about our fears but also to learn to pray God's powerful Word for each other. God's Word is a source of great encouragement to us as we pray it into our lives.

Have each person pray for the person on their left, specially praying the scripture that person chose in question #7 that best fits their situation.