

**Trinity 1, 11/06/2017 11:15 Mapledurham**

**Week 1 Discipleship series: Story of Jesus and Peter walking on water**

**challenge yourself: to step out of the boat and do what Jesus does**

Explain that we are going to **sit after the hymn** because we are going to read the Gospel after the sermon.

Hymn and invite everyone to sit

Explain that we are **collectively going to retell** the story of Peter walking on water, they are not to worry if they have never heard the story or if they can't remember it.

- The point of doing this is it helps us to remember the story and carry it around with us to think about in the week ahead.
- In addition the things we recall, or miss recall or can't remember can offer us insights into our own journey of faith.
- Finally telling the story collectively like this will help us to have the confidence to retell the story to others.

**In 2s or 3s I want you to discuss** what of this story you can recall without reading what is on your sheet- this can be random snippets or nothing at all. Then if you can recall more than one thing try to put them in order.

- If there is anyone who is not regularly at church and may never have heard the story ask them to discuss what they would think and feel if someone asked them to walk on water.
- If there are any children present make sure they are included in the groups (invite them to choose a group if they know people well) -children are often the best at recalling the stories and give adults confidence)

**Starting with a confident group** ask them to begin by telling you **ONE** thing that they remember of the story, if possible near what they think is the start of the story.

- Check out with the others if this sounds plausible – if you KNOW there is something in this that is mistaken don't rush to correct it, raise a question about it or see what others think for example 'Jesus walked across the Dead Sea to the disciples in the boat' try to recall what seas people know of in Israel and what they know about them – which might it be or reflect

back 'Jesus walked across a sea, which may or may not be the Dead Sea to the disciples in the boat' as the story gets told someone might recall where the incident took place, otherwise you can tell them before you read the gospel

**Move on to another group** and ask for another piece of the story. In this way go around as many groups as possible.

**Use who?, where?, when?, what?, why?**

During the retelling explore as many of the following as possible:

**What do we learn about Jesus?** The story connects with the exodus story, Jesus' divinity is revealed, God alone can control the seas and rescue us. Jesus' words to the disciples reflect the 'I am' language of God to Moses at the burning bush.

**What distracted Peter:-** God is always present at times of crisis – the problem is not the wind and the rain (Peter is already walking on water before he begins to sink! Why would he worry about wind and rain?) God calls us, we must stay fixed on him. When we fail – as we will at some point, we need to call out to be rescued

**What revealed Jesus' divinity** – walking on water or the rescue? much of this story is about us turning to God in all circumstances

What would it **mean to be a disciple in Jesus's day** what does it mean for us today? Being with Jesus and learning to do what he does – inc:

- What does Jesus do - spends time with God, reads the scripture, prays. Tells others about God, cares about people, heals people- how many here have healed people today or this week? I would be very surprised if there was anyone here who hadn't healed someone in some way (by their simile, their encouragement their support) but Jesus spends time with God so that he might do more, and he says if live by his spirit we will not only do what he does but even more.
- Just like Jesus we need to abide in God's word. John 8:31 – if you abide in my word (hold fast to my teachings- and live according to them ) you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. Use the opportunities of preaching, teaching, books, tapes seminars private study reflection and prayer abide in these – know them and live them

- Just like Jesus we need to use God's word to speak into peoples' lives word- offer to others the bible passages that help you in times of need.
- Making time each day to be with God, to read a short passage from the bible and to pray for God's help and guidance during your day and for others. There are many things that prevent us from doing this – having young really upset my ability to keep this routine going, sleepless nights with one couple with early wake from the other left me barely able to do all that I had to do and when I got to bed at night I was often asleep before I had finished reading the passage. So don't beat yourself up when you don't manage it but do take seriously the challenge to give this time in your life. Not just my experience but that of many others including some of the world leading chief executives and world leaders say this habit transforms their day.
- Also talk to other people about your faith both the things you find easy and the things you find difficult
- Remember the Jesus' disciples did things together. When possible spend time with other disciples. Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs -do things together– we are made to be in relationship.

Now **read the Gospel with pauses** to allow people to reflect

Ask the questions:

- 1 Will you do what Jesus did? how will you fit in time with God into your day?
- 2 What does 'evening' mean to you (does evening mean 'your' time to rest and relax and do what you want, or is it about the life stage you are at or a dark time of worry. What are the storms that make you afraid?
- 3 Will you listen as Jesus says 'don't be afraid'?
- 4 Will you get out of the boat? will you call on God when you fall?
- 5 Will you notice when God has made all things well and give praise with others?

## Gospel reading

# Jesus Walks on the Water

<sup>22</sup>Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray (1).

When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,<sup>[a]</sup> for the wind was against them(2).

<sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake.<sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' (3)

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' <sup>29</sup>He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind,<sup>[b]</sup> he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' (4)

<sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.' (5)