

(1) Try to envision yourself as one of the disciples in the middle of the Sea of Galilee with the wind blowing and threatening to capsize the boat. You had just witnessed Jesus feed up to 20,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. But he's nowhere to be found. What would you think? Would your faith in his goodness or his power be threatened? Have you been in similar situations to this one where you wondered if Jesus would ever show up and deliver you? Explain.

(2) What is your honest reaction when you read about Jesus walking on the water. Do you ever find yourself saying quietly in your soul, "Ah, I'm not sure this really happened; it must be metaphor or deliberately exaggerated language"? If so, why? What is it that has the power to make you skeptical of the supernatural?

(3) After answering the previous question, consider Genesis 1:1 and the simple reality that God called everything into existence out of nothing. Knowing that to be true, is there ever again a reason why you should question the miraculous deeds of Jesus?

(4) Talk among yourselves about the implications of Jesus' expressed intention "to pass by them." Do you see the connection to Exodus and the experience Moses had with YHWH on the mountain? How does it strike you to hear Jesus identify himself as the "I am" of Exodus 3?

(5) Put yourself in the place of Peter. Would you have stepped out on the water? If so, why? If not, why not? As Peter began to sink, Jesus said: "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" What is it that Jesus expected Peter to believe or to have faith in? And what did Peter doubt? Although you have never walked on water (!), describe an incident in your own life when you had to step out on uncertain ground and trust God to do something for you? Were you filled with faith or doubt, and why?