

## Mark 6:45-56 – Jesus Walks On Water

# Leader's Guide

April 14, 2019

### 1. Read Mark 6:45-56 to familiarize yourself with the passage.

#### Jesus Walks on the Water

<sup>45</sup> Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup> And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup> And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, <sup>50</sup> for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, **“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”** <sup>51</sup> And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup> for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

#### Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. <sup>54</sup> And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him <sup>55</sup> and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

## **2. What is the significance of Mark mentioning that Jesus saw the apostles struggling? What do these verses teach us about feeling forgotten by God? 2 Kings 20:5, Psalm 56:8, Psalm 66:19.**

The significance is Jesus has never taken his eyes off them even though they were 6 miles away on a dark night. Jesus never takes his eyes off of us. He knows what we are facing and he knows when to ride to our rescue.

*“Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord, 2 Kings 20:5 (ESV)*

- God heard the kings prayers and saw his tears. God does listen to all our prayers and know about all our tears.

*You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? Psalm 56:8 (ESV)*

- God loves us so much he keeps a record of every tear. None of the pain we face escapes his notice.

*But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Psalm 66:19 (ESV)*

- God listens to our prayers.

## **3. What is the significance of Jesus walking on water with the intention to pass by the apostles?**

- This is an echo of the Old Testament theophanies where God revealed his glory to Moses and to Elijah. On this dark night, Jesus came to the apostle’s rescue revealing his glory, maybe even glowing.

**4. What was the significance of what Jesus said to the apostles in verse 50? Was he simply reassuring the disciples that he was not a ghost or was he saying much more?**

- When Jesus said, "It is I", he was using the Old Testament name of God, Yahweh. When God revealed himself to Moses, not only did he reveal his glory, but he revealed his name. Jesus is doing the same thing in this passage.

**5. Jesus told the disciples they didn't need to have fear. What do these verses teach us about our fears and how to face them? Revelation 2:10, Hebrews 13:6, 1 Timothy 1:6-7, 1 John 4:18, Isaiah 41:13.**

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

- God sometimes allows us to face times of suffering to test us. That suffering is always temporary. There is a reward for suffering well. When we face suffering, we do not need to fear because there is a great reward for suffering well when we see Jesus.

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6 (ESV)

- We do not need to fear other people. They can not do anything to us other than what God allows to happen to us. When others are making us suffer, the situation is not out of control. They can do no more than God allows and that he has a good plan to use.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 1 Timothy 1:6-7 (ESV)

- God didn't give us a spirit of fear. God holds the future so we do not need to fear the future.

love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4:18 (ESV)

- We do not need to fear God because we know we are perfectly loved by God. He loved us so much, he sent his son to pay for our sins.

*For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." Isaiah 41:13 (ESV)*

- We do not need to fear because God comes to our rescue, like he did for the apostles. Even if we face death, because of Jesus, we do not need to fear that great enemy.