

**INTRO**

- Have you ever walked on water (e.g. water-ski, jet-ski, surfing, sailing)?

This series focuses on the 7 miraculous signs of Jesus John records, so that we may KNOW Jesus more fully, TRUST him more deeply, and experience LIFE through him (Jn 20:30-31).

**READ**

John 6:16-21

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

This 5th miraculous sign takes place right after the feeding of the 5000. The crowd is eager to make Jesus their king, but Jesus will have none of it. Probably knowing his disciples are having similar ideas to the crowd, Jesus makes them get into a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee, whilst he goes up the mountain to pray by himself. Throughout the night, a terrible storm besets the disciples until Jesus shows up in their storm. Clearly, John recounts this miraculous sign to demonstrate Jesus wasn't just Israel's Messiah, but the very Lord over creation. On a personal level, we learn much about the storms of life and how Jesus meets us in them.

**Storms are inevitable**

Life is filled with storms: financial, physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, personal, global etc. Some are avoidable, others unavoidable; some are manageable, others beyond our capacity. Sometimes, like the disciples in the storm, we may wonder, "where is Jesus?"

*Qu: if you are currently weathering a storm or recall a storm in your life, what questions does/ did it provoke of your faith?*

**Jesus is Lord over the storm**

What the disciples didn't know and what Mark's gospel tell us is that Jesus saw them struggling

in the storm. And then he comes to them clearly demonstrating that he is Lord over the storm. Yet, when Jesus shows up they are afraid and don't recognize him. Storms and fear blind us and limit our perspective to the greatness and goodness of God.

*Qu: consider Jesus' words to his storm-weary disciples: "take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." How does that encourage/challenge you as you face your own storms of life?*

**Jesus transforms us through the storm**

In hindsight, the storm was necessary and a pivotal turning point in the disciples belief and trust in Jesus. They are fundamentally changed by the encounter as we see later in the chapter (Jn 6:66-69).

Jesus never fails to show up in our storm, and when he does, he reveals himself to us in ways that we could have never imagined if we'd stayed safely on the shore. Jesus is Lord over the storm, able to bring us through the storm, while transforming us in the storm.

*Qu: reflecting on the disciples experience in this encounter, how can we go about storm-proofing our lives?*

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Pray for those currently weathering a storm.
- Pray for a greater sense of Jesus' presence in your life, and to more clearly hear his words, "do not be afraid."