Water-Walking Faith

Water-Walkers Do

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing.

MAIN IDEA: Water-walkers live proactive, obedient lives.

Head Change: To know that revelation and conviction are powerful, but without action they're pointless.

Heart Change: To feel grateful that God empowers us to act on the word He gives us.Life Change: To live as people who don't just hear the word but live it out.

OPEN

Where are you most comfortable physically (for example, in your bed or on the beach)? What's your most comfortable outfit? Where (or with whom) are you most comfortable emotionally? Why?

Describe an uncomfortable experience you've had. What happened? Who was with you? How did it resolve?

We all have comfort zones, and that's ok. But to live a life of water-walking faith, we need to get comfortable with the idea that God is calling us *beyond* comfort. It's scary. It's also totally worth it. Because if we're to be all God has called us to be and do all He has called us to do, we'll need to be brave enough to act on His promises and promptings and step out of the boat.

18/01/2024, 19:59

Reader

VIEW

As you watch, write down how Jason answers these questions.

What does Jesus imply when He says, 'If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear' (Mark 4:23).

According to Jason, why do we sometimes fail to see the promises of God fulfilled in our lives?

According to James 2:26, what is the relationship between faith and deeds?

Show SESSION #3: Water-Walkers Do (11 minutes)

REVIEW

Jason opens the session by recapping Peter's waterwalking story recorded in Matthew 14, and he points out that Peter had a significant decision to make: get out of the boat or not? **Share about a time when you had a big decision to make. Were you scared? Were there risks? How would the decision change your life, either way? What decision did you make in the end? Any regrets?**

As Peter steps out of the boat, his weight shifts from the safety of the boat onto the unknown of the waves. Surely, he can't believe what's happening! You may not have physically walked on water, but have you experienced something miraculous when you decided to act on a word God had given you? What's the boat you need to step out of in this season of your life? What makes up the comfort zone tempting you to stay where you are?

Jason says, 'Water-walkers do... They don't just cross their fingers hoping for the best. They don't just sit around waiting for something to happen... They do something about the word that God has spoken to them.' Would those who know you best describe you as someone who makes things happen or lets things happen? Do you tend to live more proactively or reactively? Is God challenging you in this area?

In Mark 4 we read Jesus' parable about the seeds sown in four different kinds of soil. He's making the point that our hearts (the soil) need to be receptive to His word to us (the seed). At the end of the story, Jesus says, 'If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear' (Mark 4:23). How would Jesus' friends and followers have understood the word *hear*? What was the last inspiring book you read, sermon you heard, or Instagram post you saved? What did you do with that inspiration?

Jason reminds us that conviction is great, but without action it's empty. Revelation is powerful, but without action it's pointless. **Do you agree? Why, or why not? If God has revealed something to you, what are the possible results of doing something about it? What might it require of you, or cost you?**

The reason we don't always step out in faith is that we're comfortable or afraid. We like how things are. We rigon't like being stretched. If you have kids, how would you explain to them the danger of living a safe life and



18/01/2024, 19:59

the power and promise of living a stretched life? What personal testimonies can you share with them about how God grew you when you courageously stepped away from comfort and into uncertainty? Was your God-given dream in the boat or on the waves?

Jason's amusing story of his family's disastrous boat ride offers an amazing analogy: we need to let go of the boat to realise we're actually able to stand. **Who has been an inspiring example to you of what it looks like to let go of the boat – even if, like Peter, that person was exceptionally comfortable in boats?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Matthew 5:16. What is the end result of stepping out in faith to do what God has called you to do?

Paul writes, 'For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:13). **How could you use this truth to encourage someone who isn't feeling brave enough to step out of the boat?**

Hebrews 11:8 says, 'It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.' Abraham trusted God, acting on the word God had given him even though he had no idea where he was going or how the future would pan out. **How would history have been radically different if Abraham had been too cautious or too comfortable to obey?**

If time allows, read the first two chapters of the book of James. We know we're saved by grace and not by our good works (Ephesians 2), so what is James talking about in these chapters? How have you been a *doer* of the word this week?

LAST WORD

May God fill you with faith to be an excited, expectant, proactive doer of His word to you and not just a comfortable hearer. May He give you the grace and strength you need to step out onto the waves with water-walking faith and the assurance that you stand on His promises.

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read Matthew 1:19–24. What was Joseph's boat? What course of action would have been most comfortable for him? How was God challenging Joseph to step out of the boat? How did Joseph live with waterwalking faith?

Write: Write *water-walkers do* in the middle of a page of your journal. Create a mind map of ideas God is giving you for ways you might step out of your comfort zone and into action, trusting Him with the unknowns.

Pray: Set a repeat reminder on your phone. Each time it goes off, every day this week, stop and pray for the courage to walk on water, whatever that may mean in your circumstances right now.