

MATTHEW 14:22-33

1. Begin your reading time with a short prayer (an example):
 - a. Dear Jesus, please help us to hear your Word and know you better. Guide our conversation and help us to grow to love and know you better. Amen.
2. Read the Passage together (aloud) once. And then take time to look at it a second time.
3. What stands out to you? Is there a word, phrase... etc. Discuss the words that stand out for both of you.
This is a great place to wonder and contemplate what Jesus is saying or doing.
4. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples ahead of Him in the boat?
5. Take a moment and glance back at the rest of the chapter (14). What else happened prior to this event?
(It should not take too long - look at the headings)
6. Why do you think Jesus wanted to go off to pray?
7. What time of night does this event take place? Take a moment and look up what time of night the fourth watch is in Biblical times. How would you describe what this time of night is like?
8. What is happening to the boat?
9. What does Jesus say to the disciples? Why do you think He says this to them?
10. What does Peter do? What do you think was going on in Peter's head?
11. What could the boat symbolize?
12. When does Peter begin to sink?
13. How might Jesus be asking you to get out of your boat this year?
14. Is there anything that keeps you from getting out of the boat? What are they?
15. Take a moment to learn a couple of things about the following two saints (just a couple - it does not need to be complete research study here):
 - a. St. Katharine Drexel
 - b. St. Francis of Assisi (please do not focus on his love of nature - look at his decision to follow Jesus)
16. What do the lives of these saints show us about following Jesus and getting out of the boat with Him?
17. Imagine you were on the boat when Peter got back into it. What do you think the conversation might have been like?
18. How can you take a step out this coming week with Jesus (be specific)?
19. Take time to close in prayer....

