

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Get Real - Part 1

Heather Packett

Introduction

The early disciples had the privilege of walking and living with Jesus but they did not necessarily have big faith from day one of following Him. In Matthew 8, they were terrified by the storm even though the Prince of Peace, Jesus himself was in the boat with them. They needed to learn, understand and experience what it means to follow Jesus and live out authentic peace on a daily basis, regardless of the circumstances. We too may find ourselves in turmoil and difficult situations, experiencing various storms in our lives. God has promised that as we trust in Him, He will lead us to authentic peace.

Read

Matthew 8:23-27, Matthew 14:22-33

Discuss

1. As we experience the storm of the Delta strain of COVID-19, how has it been for you? What are some thoughts and situations you have had during the past week?
2. Jesus was sleeping when a ferocious storm suddenly arose and waves swept over the boat. How would you have felt if you were in the boat with Jesus then? What would you say to Him? Fast forward to the present; how do you usually communicate with Jesus when you are in a perceived storm?
3. Pastor Heather mentioned that we need to learn and experience authentic peace. Jesus promises that real peace can be found in Him, the Prince of Peace (John 14:27). Share with the group some areas of your lives where you have experienced fear and have no peace. What are some barriers you may be facing in reaching out to Jesus and trusting Him?

(continued on next page)

4. Read Psalm 46:1-5. This psalm was written after King David's victory over the enemies of ancient Israel. Discuss with the group how the psalm could help you learn and understand that real peace can be found by trusting in God. Share some uplifting experiences that you have had.
5. Pastor Heather explained that authentic peace is built on four principles: Purpose, Promise, Presence and Power. Discuss some of the practical ways these principles could be applied when we are faced with fear in our lives. What are some challenges in applying these principles?
6. In Matthew 14:22-33, we see that Peter's faith has grown as he tries walking towards Jesus on the water. Our faith in Jesus needs time and multiple experiences to grow, and this will lead us to experience real inner peace. Share with the group the growth progression of your faith. What are some things that you could do to help you draw closer to God?

Respond

Has there been a time when you felt fear but trusting in Jesus gave you a real inner peace? This week, pray that God will lead you to share this experience with someone. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you one thing you could do to create a space to draw closer to God. Commit to doing it.