## prayer requests

## study notes

eastview
christian church

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# Sermon Study

**Sinking in Fear**
**Matthew 14:22-33**

## vision

Eastview Christian Church is a fearless church of Christ followers whose ridiculous love and dangerous witness are irresistible.

**AUTHOR'S NOTE** (summary of key points for this study)

*The story of Peter walking on water is inspiring because of his faith to step out of the boat -- and sobering because we can all relate to his fear. The key is to focus on Jesus even in the middle of a storm. Just like Peter, we are at our best when we answer Jesus' call to come, even occasionally walking on water. On the other hand, we tend to sink when fear becomes bigger than our faith.*

## Gather (your group getting to know each other)

Have you ever been caught outside in a really bad storm?

-What did you feel?

-What did you do?

-What/who got you through it?

## Go
(your group on mission)

Consider committing to one activity for the group outside your comfort zone between now and April1. Get out of the boat!!

## Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

**Discussion**

1. Pray for God to reveal Himself through His Word.

2. Read Matthew 14:22-33 out loud.

3. Just prior to this story, Jesus had fed 5,000 men (plus women and children) with five loaves of bread and two fish. It was (or should have been) clear that this man was more than a good man and a great teacher.

He sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee ahead of Him. They must have been overwhelmed with what had just happened – a mountain top moment – an amazing adventure they were on with Jesus.

Then, the wind came against their boat in the night.

-Discuss other times in Scripture, and in your lives, when you've had an incredibly positive faith-building moment that is followed by "the wind coming against you in the dark."

-Jesus is with us on the "dark and windy" seas. Note what He says: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Our circumstance can take us from faith to fear in an instant.

-How might we navigate those times with courage?

-In what ways does Jesus provide the courage we need?

4. Peter is bold, as usual, and asks for clarification: "Lord, if it's you…tell me to come to you on the water."

-It is good to confirm the voice you are hearing is Jesus'

-How does that work in your life?

Jesus tells Peter to "Come" and he steps onto the water

-It is good to obey the voice of Jesus

-When have you heard His command and followed?

-What happened?

Peter then "sees the wind" and sinks

-We are all prone to taking our eyes off Jesus and re-focusing on our problems

-What happens when we do that?

-Why do we doubt that the supernatural is possible in us if Jesus is in control?

-What are some strategies to train our eyes on Jesus?

Peter knows he's in trouble and immediately calls for help

-It is good to recognize your need for rescue and call upon Jesus

-What is the gap-time between the onset of trouble in your life and when you call out to Jesus?

-Why is there any delay?

5. The full scope of this text shows that miraculous moments with Jesus happen sitting on a hillside in perfect safety and in the middle of the night in deep water.

-How do we continue to trust more and more in His abilities to work in our lives no matter what the circumstances?

-Where is Jesus asking you to "Come…" that you might be resisting?

## Give
(your group serving each other)

Spend time in discussion and prayer focused on group members or their loved ones who are in a storm of fear and need to understand the power of obedience to Jesus' command to "Come."