

Ice Breaker:

Think of your best friend. What is word they use to describe you, that is different from the rest of the people in your life?

Groups Discussion Questions:

Luke 9:18-20

18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

19 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

How would you describe your favorite celebrity in three sentences?

How would you describe your best friend in three sentences?

How does the world describe Jesus?

Why can't we trust the world's opinion of who Jesus is?

How do your parents/children describe Jesus?

Do you agree or disagree?

How would you describe Jesus in three sentences?

Can we know Jesus through another person? Why or why not?

Have someone read Matthew 14:22-36 to the group

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. **23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a

mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, **24** and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him **36** and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Go through the story as a group and put a heading on each verse.

Example:

Verse 22 - sent

Verse 23 - prayer

Verse 24 - storm

Once you have labeled each verse, think of a time in your life when you identified with

One of the verses between 26 and 33.

What was happening in your life?

How did that impact your relationship with Jesus?

In the teaching, Eric said, *We grow to know Jesus personally by trying to follow Him, failing, and experiencing Him pull us back up.* Do you agree or disagree with this, why or why not?

What are some of the reasons we might be afraid to trust Jesus?

How could you step out of the boat in your life?

Prayer Requests

Digging Deeper:

Mathew 16:13-21

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Predicts His Death

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

What changed in Jesus' relationship with His disciples after Peter correctly identified Him?

Why do you think that is?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

The Church and Its Leaders

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

How is a person who lives by the Spirit, different from a mere infant in Christ?

A baby is fed, but as it grows up he or she learns to feed themselves. How does that relate to our relationship with Jesus.

What are some signs of being still worldly (or infants) according to verse 3.

How do we see this change in the lives of the disciples?

How has this changed (or not changed) in your life?