



WEEK 4: NOT UNDER CONTROL

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

When life feels chaotic and out of control fear naturally rises. In **Matthew 14**, the disciples are caught in a violent storm and begin to panic, questioning whether Jesus cares. Their fear is not just about the waves, but about where their truth is placed. The disciples had already had a previous experience with Jesus coming to their rescue in **Matthew 8**, reminding them that with Him they have nothing to fear, even in chaos. Later in **Matthew 14**, Peter in the moment is so moved he walks on water towards Jesus, then sinks in fear. Jesus asks, *"Why are you afraid?"* then He calms the storm. He reveals that peace is not found in the absence of storms, but in trusting the One who rules over them. When life feels unstable, fear pushes us to doubt God's care, but faith [*pistis*—trust] learns to rest in His presence and power no matter how loudly our natural self tells us to be afraid.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

Isaiah 41:8-10 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

When Chaos Comes

When things feel out of control, fear can show up quickly and loudly.

- a. Where do you feel the most “out of control” in your life right now?
- b. How do you usually respond when things feel unstable or uncertain?

2

Stay in Remembrance

The disciples had already seen Jesus calm a storm, yet after walking on water, Peter still panicked because of the wind.

- a. Why do you think it’s so easy to forget the miracles God just did when new circumstances arrive?
- b. When you start to worry or stress out, what helps you calm down? How can you invite God into that to remind you He’s got you?

3

Fuller Trust in Him

When Peter sinks because of His fear, Jesus says, “*You of little faith, why did you doubt?*”

- a. What do you think Jesus intends to do by telling Peter this in **Matthew 14**, and His disciples in **Matthew 8**? What does this say about Jesus?
- b. Have you ever felt like you can relate to Peter based on your own scary circumstance?

4

Faith (*Pisitis*) Means Trust

Faith [*pisitis*—trust] is about relying on God’s character and power, even when it makes no sense.

- a. What feels most scary about this? What is comforting about this? Why or why not?
- b. What does a life of trust look like to you? Do you do this? How can you start living this out yourself?

Peace isn't a calm life—it's a calm trust in the middle of the chaos.

- a. Why do you think we often expect peace to mean that everything around us settles down?
- b. How would your perspective change if peace was more about who you're with than what you're going through?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Jesus asks a simple question that requires some reflection: *"Why are you afraid?"*

- What has taken a lot of space in your mind that causes fear?
- How have you dealt with this issue? How is God leading you *in* this?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Finding Peace in the Storm—This week:

- Think of the places you struggle to trust God with.
- Reflect on *"why?"*
- Talk to God how to come back to trust in Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight where you struggle to trust Him and to give you the strength to trust in Him consistently.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 41:9-10, *"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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