

*Ask God to give you the faith to step out of the boat. Thank him for his love for you.*

#### **Thursday**

Please read Matthew 14:30-33. This is an interesting set of verses. We see Peter go from walking on water, to fear and sinking in the water, and back to faith again. How does Peter's journey of faith help you? What events or experiences have led you to trust in Jesus? Read Psalm 6:4 & Psalm 116:3-7. What do these verses say about calling to God for help and his rescue? How do these verses encourage you?

*Thank God that you can call to him for help. Thank him for his help and rescue through Jesus Christ. Ask him for faith to wait for his way out of the storm and a willingness to learn from him.*

#### **Friday**

Please read Matthew 14:31-33. How do you think this experience changed Peter? Write down two ways stepping out of faith has changed you.

- 1.
- 2.

Think about your life right now. In what area do you need strengthen your faith in God's hand and timing? How will you practically do that today?

*Thank God that he is the same yesterday, today and forever. Thank him for his faithfulness to you. Talk to him about the areas in which you are struggling to have faith. Ask him to strengthen you today and grow your faith in him.*

#### **Saturday**

Please read Psalm 51 to prepare for tomorrow's message and for sharing in the Lord's Supper.

*Ask God to prepare your heart so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth tomorrow. Pray that both worship services will point people to God and help them to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*



# **The Storms of Life**

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, September 27, 2015

*"I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until this violent storm is past." Psalm 57:1b (NLT)*

## **Fear**

Matthew 14: 22-33 (see also Mark 6:45-52 and John 6:16-21)

### **1. The \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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

*"Come," he said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:27-29*

### **Key: I must learn to \_\_\_\_\_**

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1*

### **2. The \_\_\_\_\_**

*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Matthew 14:30*

### **The high cost of living in fear:**

### **Loss of \_\_\_\_\_**

*For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need. Philippians 4:13 (NLT)*



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## Loss of \_\_\_\_\_

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:4-7

## Loss of \_\_\_\_\_

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.* Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

## Key: I must learn to \_\_\_\_\_

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.* 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

*We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world. Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. We love each other as a result of his loving us first.* 1 John 4:16-19 (NLT)

## 3. The \_\_\_\_\_

*Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."* Matthew 14:31-33

## Key: I must learn to \_\_\_\_\_

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* Hebrews 11:6

# Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day reading God's Word and meditating on Sunday's topic...

## This week's memory verse:

*"My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare."* Psalm 25:15

## Monday

Please read Matthew 14:22-33. Why do you think Jesus chose to walk on water to get to the boat? Which of the miracles in this story most impresses you? Why? Recall a time when you felt adrift in a storm. What emotions did you feel? Looking back, what miracles did you see in that storm?

*Thank God that you are never out of his care and sight. Thank him for the miracles you've seen in your life. Pray that your faith in him will grow this week.*

## Tuesday

Please read Matthew 14:26-27. How do the disciples respond when they first see Jesus walking on the water? When are you most susceptible to fear? Think about Jesus' words to the disciples in verse 27: *"Take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid."* In what area of your life do you need to hear that phrase? How could those words change your attitude towards that circumstance?

*Thank God today that he is with you. Thank him for his words of encouragement and his promises found in the Bible. Talk to him about the areas of your life where you are struggling with fear. Ask him to give you a hope and courage founded in him.*

## Wednesday

Please read Matthew 14:28-29. Why do you think Peter wanted to get out of the boat and walk with Jesus? What do his actions tell you about his personality? Put yourself in Peter's place. Imagine what it must have been like to take the first step out of the boat. When have you felt as though you were stepping out of the boat? What's the best part of stepping out of the boat? What's the scariest? How does it help you to know that when you step out of the boat you're walking toward Jesus?