

Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 8:25** *The disciples are afraid*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did the disciples, some of whom were professional fishermen, call to Jesus to save them?*
2. *Have you ever felt your prayers weren't important enough for Jesus to wake up and answer you?*

Prayer Focus: Holy God, remind me that asking you for help is my first step in faith. Increase my faith to where I have the courage to face my fears and move ahead to where you want me to go.

Thursday

Read: **Matthew 8:26** *Jesus calms the sea*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Jesus believe they did not have faith?*
2. *Is it acceptable to pray for God to change the course of nature to meet our needs?*

Prayer Focus: Creator God, thank you for the knowledge that the disciples made it to the other side of the lake—that there was more to be done in their journey with Jesus. Thank you for steering me across, knowing that there is more to come in my relationship with you.

Friday

Read: **Matthew 8:27** *The disciples are astonished*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why were the disciples surprised to see that Jesus has power over nature?*
2. *How would you answer if someone asked you what sort of man Jesus is?*

Prayer Focus: Beloved Jesus, help me to have the faith to bring any and every concern before you, even at times when I don't see a clear answer from you. I ask for the guidance of your Holy Spirit to bring wholeness and holiness not just to me, but to everyone in need. Bring us all safely to the other side, with you.

With Jesus in the Boat

Matthew 8:23-37

In the UMC, we feel as though we are journeying on stormy waters. We are, however, comforted by our faith in Jesus. We are in the boat of our life as UMs with Jesus. Because we trust in Jesus and are of one mind that we are called to serve Christ Jesus without ceasing and with faithfulness, we continue in our ministry.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What was your biggest fear when you were growing up?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read **Matthew 8:23-37**. Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

June 30, 2019
With Jesus in the Boat

Monday

Read: Matthew 8:23 *Jesus sets out*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Jesus got into the boat first?*
2. *What do you think the disciples were expecting as they joined him?*

Prayer Focus:

God of All, let me be willing to take that first step, to follow you into the boat. Thank you for giving me the faith to know I want to be with you, even when I don't know exactly where you're headed.

Tuesday

Read: Matthew 8:24 *The storm begins*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt your "boat was being swamped" by problems?*
2. *What would you think if you knew Jesus was asleep when you were in trouble? Would it be difficult for you to fully believe in him?*

Prayer Focus:

Gracious One, it is hard sometimes for me to see beyond my problems, especially when it seems no clear answer is coming, or that no one is there to calm my storms. Let me know that you are with me, at work in this world, even if I cannot see what you are doing. Let it be enough to know you are in the boat with us all.