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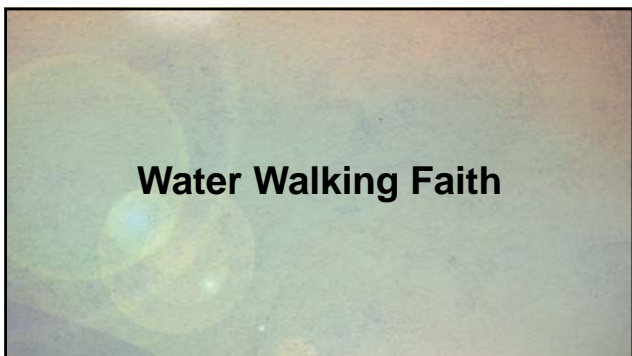
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**Peter Walking on Water**

**Matthew 14:25-32, NIV**

*During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 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. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 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.*

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### **Peter Walking on Water**

#### **1. Water Walkers Recognize God's Presence**

*Matthew 14:25-27, NIV*

*During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

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### **Peter Walking on Water**

#### **2. Water Walkers Get Out of the Boat**

*Matthew 14:28-29, NIV*

*"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.*

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***"If you want to walk on water,  
you've got to get out of the boat!"***

*(John Ortberg)*

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*"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately...and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."  
(Henry David Thoreau)*

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*"Every man dies. Not every man really lives."  
(William Wallace)*

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***What is your boat?***

- Your boat is whatever represents safety and security to you apart from God.
- Your boat is whatever you are tempted to put your trust in, especially when life gets a little stormy.

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**Anders Family**



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***Peter Walking on Water***

***3. Water Walkers Expect Problems***

*Matthew 14:30, NIV*

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

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***"The greatest sin plaguing the men of our society is passivity. God has created men to be humble, servant leaders who take action to further God's Kingdom in every aspect of life."***

***(Matt Chandler in "Mingling of Souls")***

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Both choices, **risk or comfort**, tend to become a pattern.

What will you do when you hear Jesus calling to you from the water to join him on an unexpected and extravagant adventure?

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### **Peter Walking on Water**

#### **4. Water Walkers Learn to Wait on the Lord**

*Matthew 14:32, NIV*

*...and when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.*

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Waiting on the Lord is the hardest part about trusting. It is putting yourself with utter vulnerability in his hands.

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**Abraham Lincoln's 8 Lost Elections:**

1. 1832-Illinois State Legislature
  2. 1838-Illinois State Speaker of the House
  3. 1843-US Congress
  4. 1848-US Congress
  5. 1849-Governor of Oregon Territory
  6. 1854-US Senate
  7. 1856-Nomination for US Vice-President
  8. 1858-US Senate
- \*\*\* 1860-Elected US President

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**Peter Walking on Water**

**5. Water Walkers Deepen their Connection with God**

*Matthew 14:33, NIV*  
Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the son of God."

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**Why risk it?**

1. It's the only way to real growth
2. It's the way true faith is born in our hearts
3. It's the alternative to boredom and stagnation that causes people to wither up and die
4. It's part of discovering and obeying your calling

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**Mertens Family**



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**Reflection Questions:**

1. What adventure is Jesus calling you into today?
2. Will you take the risk to walk on water or will you comfortably sit in the boat?
3. Can you trust the One piloting this thing?

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**Opportunity for Action:**

**New Groups Leader Training**  
Sunday, July 31 (10:45 AM-12:00 PM)  
OR  
Tuesday, August 9 (6:30-8:00 PM)

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