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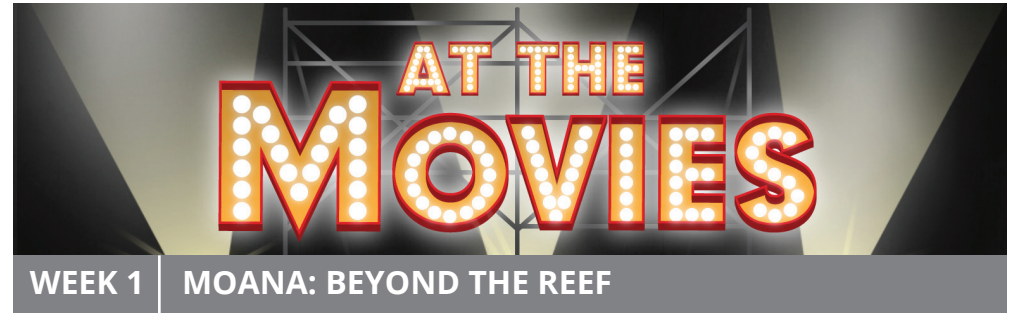
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WARM UP

Can you describe a time when you were afraid to try something for the first time, but after trying it, you were glad you did? Why or why not?

WORD

Read **Matthew 14:22-33**

After Jesus feeds a crowd of thousands from five loaves of bread and two fish, he goes to be in a place of solitude to meet with the Father and sends the disciples away on a boat, which later in the evening is rocked by a storm. During that storm, the disciples see a familiar figure walking towards them on the water.

NOTES

1 Take Heart

²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Matthew 14:26 - 27 (ESV)

Jesus is spotted walking on the water, but the disciples in their fear of the unknown assume they are seeing a ghost. Jesus reassured them immediately then, as he is reassuring us now, that in the mystery of the unknown, we can also take heart and not be afraid.

- Has there been or is there an area of your life where you are facing unknown or unprecedented factors that tempt you towards fear?

2 Come

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:28 - 33 (ESV)

Peter boldly asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and upon the call from Jesus, he begins to walk out. However, upon seeing the circumstances of the wind, fear strikes his heart and he cries out for help. Again Jesus immediately responds by reaching his hand out. As we face fear, much like Peter, we should learn to cry out to him, and expect him to come as the great Rescuer of our circumstances.

- In the midst of the deepest circumstances of hardships, are you ready to trust God for His miraculous power to flow into your situation? Why or why not?

PRAYER

- Pray that as God calls us to himself, we would learn to focus on him and not be overwhelmed in our circumstances.
- Pray that God, in his presence, would grant you grace to overcome fear with his perfect love for us.