

NOTES



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for reaching beyond Yourself to rescue us. You left heaven to step into our world, and even when we falter, You reach out with love and grace. Teach us to do the same—to see those around us who are struggling, to reach beyond our comfort, and to reflect Your kindness in our everyday lives. May our worship not just be in words but in action, as we love others the way You have loved us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What's the greatest act of undeserved kindness you've ever received? Maybe a stranger paid for your meal, someone covered for your mistake, or you got let off the hook for something you totally should've been caught for!



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WORD

*“Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.

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

And Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”*

- **Matthew 14:22-33 (ESV)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Peter felt when he started sinking? Can you relate to that feeling in any way?
2. Jesus immediately reached out and caught Peter when he was struggling. Can you share a time when you felt Jesus use someone to reach out to you in a tough moment? Or is there a moment you felt him reach for you personally?
3. In what ways do you feel God calling you to “step out of the boat” and trust Him more?
4. Who in your life might be “sinking” right now? How can you reach out to them—whether through giving, praying, or going?
5. How do you feel God may be using you to reach out to others on a consistent basis?

REFLECTION

In this passage, Jesus does more than perform a miracle—He reveals His heart. He comes to His disciples when they are in distress, walking on the water in the middle of a storm. Despite their fear and doubt, He reassures them with His presence. When Peter steps out in faith but begins to sink, Jesus doesn’t hesitate—He reaches out immediately. This is the nature of Christ-centred outreach: Jesus moves towards us in our struggles, calls us into deeper faith, and catches us when we fall.

If we look at the surrounding passages in Matthew 14, we see Jesus demonstrating compassion repeatedly—feeding the 5,000 just before this event and healing the sick at Gennesaret immediately after. If Jesus reached out to us in our greatest need, then true worship means extending that same love to others. Yet we don’t just do this out of obligation or feeling the need to pay Jesus back as there is nothing that we can do to repay the price that Christ has paid for us at the cross when he took our punishment upon himself. As theologian John Stott said, “The Gospel is good news of mercy to the undeserving. The symbol of the religion of Jesus is the cross, not the scales.”

As followers of Jesus, our response to His love is threefold: GIVE, PRAY, GO. We give generously to bless His church, those in need, and to help people and organisations that are doing the work of God, we pray earnestly for how God might use us and pray for others, and we go wherever God sends us to bring His love in practical ways. Whether it’s reaching out to someone struggling in their faith, serving those in need, or simply being present for a friend going through a tough time, Christ calls us to step out of our comfort zone and extend His grace to those around us - this is Christ centred living.

Closing Prayer

“Jesus, we worship You—not just with our voices, but in giving you our lives. Thank You for reaching out to us, for never leaving us when we are struggling. Help us to trust You more, to step out in faith even when we feel unsteady. Stir our hearts to worship You by reaching out to those around us, just as You have reached out to us. If there’s anyone here tonight who hasn’t yet fully placed their trust in You, may they take that step today. And for those of us who know You, help us to be bold in giving, praying, and going where You lead us. In Your mighty name, Amen.”