

# UNSTUCK Spirituality

## **Setting The Scene:**

Matthew 14:22-32

## **When Fear And Faith Collide:**

- ▶ Faith can be impacted by **our boat** and the **storm**.
- ▶ Faith isn't being **crazy**; it's being **called**.
- ▶ Faith isn't the absence of **fear**;  
it's obedience **despite the fear**.

## **Taking It Home:**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 18, 2015

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Have you ever seen someone, including yourself, take a wild risk of blind faith that they thought was from God, only to find out that it was a bad decision?
2. At some point in our lives most of us will probably ask, "How will I know if I am supposed to take this step or not?" or "How will I know if this is from God?" Imagine that you are asking these questions today. Where and how would you look for answers?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard that getting "Unstuck" spiritually is not necessarily a call to do something randomly crazy for God. It's more about taking the risk to step out of the boat and follow God's clear call. As you read Colossians 3:12-17, jot down a list of the faith steps that God asks all of his followers to take and then answer the questions below.

### Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Looking at your list above, what could be risky or difficult about putting these daily steps of faith into action?

What might be some potential excuses we give for not stepping out in faith in these areas?

Is there one that is more risky than the others for you?

2. Through the example of Peter walking on water, we heard this weekend that God “provides and guides” even in the midst of the storm and our doubt. Yet as many of us have found, God’s timing and what he delivers is oftentimes different than what we expect. What do the following verses have to say about God’s “just in time” delivery system?

### **Joshua 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” [NIV]

### **Isaiah 59:1**

*Sin, Confession and Redemption*

<sup>1</sup> Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. [NIV]

### **John 14:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. [NIV]

### **Hebrews 10:25**

<sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [NIV]

Have any of these been more helpful for you than the others when it comes to surviving the storm or being willing to step out of the boat? If so, explain.

3. It’s comforting to know that “God always meets us where we are,” but he also doesn’t want us to stay there. What help do the following verses give us to enjoy God’s acceptance and patience without becoming complacent?

### **Hebrews 6:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup> We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. <sup>12</sup> We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. [NIV]

### **Romans 5:1-5**

*Peace and Hope*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. [NIV]

Which of these verses are most motivating to you to deal with any complacency that may occur?

## TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and homework, what's most important for you to remember?

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Prayer Requests:



### **Growth Group Community Service Project at Interfaith**

Groups are needed to assemble a "Family Toiletry Bag" with 2-3 days worth of living essentials. This project date is flexible and can be done in the comfort of your own home. Completed kits are distributed through *Interfaith Services*, our partner who works with homeless families or individuals who need help from time to time. More information and a list of items needed can be found at:

<http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/events/interfaith-toiletry-bags-oceanside-2/>