

## SESSION TWO

# JESUS WALKS ON WATER

### John 6:16-21

<sup>16</sup> When it was evening, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> embarked in a boat, and went across the sea to Capernaum. It had already grown dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, “It is I. Do not be afraid.” <sup>21</sup> They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat immediately arrived at the shore to which they were heading.

## Small details to consider prior to prayer

- The disciples are not forgetting Jesus when they embark without him. We learn from the other Gospel accounts of this story that Jesus commands them to go without him (Mt 14:22; Mk 6:45).
- The disciples begin their journey across the sea in the dark, and it is the middle of the night by the time they encounter Jesus walking on the sea.
- When Jesus says “It is I” (verse 20), he is recorded as using the divine name, “I Am Who Am”, in the original language of the Gospel.
- The boat, although far offshore when the disciples encounter Jesus initially, miraculously and immediately arrives at shore after he finishes speaking to them.

## Preparing to dialogue with Jesus...

- I will take a moment in silence to acknowledge that I am in God’s presence. He looks on me with love. He has planned for this time of prayer since before I was born and has prepared a special grace for me.
- I take a moment to become aware of what thoughts, feelings, desires, or questions arose in my heart as I read the selected scripture passage.
- I invoke the help of the Holy Spirit as I now enter into conversation with Jesus using the following questions as a starting point...

## Questions to ask Jesus ...

- *Jesus, why did you have your disciples go before you to the other side of the sea? Did they voice any objections to your instructions? How did you answer them?*
- *Jesus, why did you wait until the middle of the night to join them?*
- *Jesus, what was the reaction of your disciples after you told them “Do not be afraid” (v. 20)?*
- *Jesus, why did you miraculously move the boat to the other shore? What was your intention in causing that additional miracle?*
- *What other questions arose in my heart or mind for Jesus after reading this section.....?*

## Questions to imagine Jesus asking me...

- *My daughter/son, my disciples were willing to follow my instructions to go before me to the other side of the sea, even though that instruction may have appeared illogical, or inconvenient to them. Are you willing to follow my instructions when they may appear illogical or inconvenient to you?*
- *My daughter/son, in this moment, my disciples were initially afraid when I began to come near to them. Are there areas of your life, places in your heart, or memories that you may be afraid of me coming close to?*

- *The fear of my disciples was based on their misconception, they mistook me for a ghost (Mt 14:26). Is it possible that your fear of me coming closer is also based off a misconception of who I am?*
- *My daughter/son, where are you experiencing fear in your life right now? Where do you need to hear me say “Do not be afraid” (v 20)?*
- *My daughter/son, are you willing to invite me into your “boat”?*
- *What other question(s) can I imagine Jesus asking me in the context of this section?*

### **Concluding reflection questions to help capture the fruit of my prayer.**

- What stood out to me from the scripture selection (word, phrase, verse, etc)?
- What question(s) moved me most in prayer? What thoughts, feelings, or desires arose in my heart as a result of that question(s)?
- What do I feel Jesus was saying to me in this prayer time?
- What do I feel Jesus is inviting me to do to act upon our conversation or the grace I received? *If I find this question difficult to answer, I will calmly put the question to Jesus and ask him to help me know how to proceed...*