

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Among many challenges due to COVID-19 lockdowns in Bangladesh, Deb Barnum has found success in connecting with local children and adults through the William Carey Academy, English as a Second Language classes, and a Kid's Reading Club. Please pray for a decrease in COVID-19 cases so that Deb can fully utilize her connections in schools and other local classes to reach more people for Christ in Bangladesh.



Handout: 08/28/22
Study Date: 09/04/22

Faithful In Obedience

When the boat was far from shore, they were battered by the waves, because the wind was against them (Matthew 14:24). And where was Jesus? He’d gone up the mountain by himself to pray (14:23). Though Jesus was absent from them, he wasn’t unmindful of their needs. Paul told the Romans that Jesus intercedes for believers (Rom 8:34). His fulltime job is serving as the intercessor between you and God. And he’s the perfect one to do it because he’s fully God and fully human. He understands God, and he understands you.

In the midst of the disciples’ distress, Jesus came toward them walking on the sea (11:25). The battering waves were their problem, and that’s exactly what Jesus walked on. He came to them in an unexpected way so they could understand and experience him as never before. As he’d done previously (8:23–27), Jesus demonstrated his divine authority over the world that he himself created (see John 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2). When the disciples panicked, thinking him a ghost, he comforted them with his word before he addressed their circumstances (14:26–27).

That’s when Peter did what no one else would. He asked Jesus to permit him to join him (11:28). Peter didn’t want to merely be protected from trouble; he wanted to experience something with Jesus that he’d never dreamed possible. So Jesus invited Peter forward, and this bold disciple started walking on the water (11:29). When he lost focus on Jesus and gave attention to the strength of the wind, however, he became afraid, started to sink, and cried to Jesus to save him (14:30).

Matthew wants readers to know that this miracle was made possible by Jesus’s power, not Peter’s. Before you look down your nose at Peter, though, keep in mind that he was the only one who got out of the boat to attempt the impossible. The other disciples just stared as Peter stepped out in faith. Remember, Jesus rebuked him for having little faith—not for having no faith (14:31). Moreover, when Peter began to sink, he knew where to turn. In response to Peter’s cry, Jesus caught hold of him, took him into the boat, and the wind ceased (14:31–32). This passage shows that Jesus gives supernatural enablement to those who actively and continuously trust in him for it.

Why would Jesus intentionally let his followers go through such a fearful situation? Look what happened when he saved them. The disciples worshiped him and declared, Truly you are the Son of God! You may be wondering, Didn’t they know this already? Yes, they did. But with each new encounter, Jesus increased their understanding and deepened their experience of him. By God’s grace, they had been given an opportunity, through fearful circumstances, to come to know Jesus at a deeper level and worship him.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 14:29 (NKJV)

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 14:22-33; I Peter 4:19; Colossians 1:16

Obedience Rests In God's Will

1. The disciples found themselves in the midst of a literal storm. How does scripture show it was God's will that the disciples would go through that?
2. Describe a time when you went through a difficult figurative "storm" in your life. What did you learn about God from that time in your life?

Tuesday: Matthew 14:25-27, Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 23:4

Obedience Realizes God's Presence

3. How did the disciples experience God's presence in the storm? How have you experienced God's presence in your life during a trial?
4. When you go through a trial are you more likely to blame him for letting you go through trouble or to thank Him for going with you through the trial?

Wednesday: Matthew 14:28-29; Romans 10:17; Isaiah 6:8

Obedience Receives God's Word

5. How did Peter demonstrate his obedience in our reading today?
6. When you are going through a trial is it easier or more difficult for you to obey God's Word? Describe an example from your life.

Thursday: Matthew 14:29; I John 5:4; Romans 8:35-37

Obedience Releases God's Power

7. How did Jesus display His power to Peter?
8. Describe a time in your life when you were obedient to God and you witnessed His power in your life.
9. How do you think the other disciples felt watching Peter's obedience?

Friday: Matthew 14:30-33; Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 4:8

Obedience Relies On God's Help

10. According to today's readings, why did Peter sink? How does his example apply to your life?
11. What did Peter do when he started to sink? Why is prayer important?
12. What did the disciples do when Jesus and Peter got into the boat and the wind ceased? Describe a time when a trial in your life led you to worship God.