

Weekly Study

May 29, 2022 | Bring on the Waves | Doug Wekenman

START

To start off, go around the circle and share with the group...

- The best new hang out spot or restaurant that you've found lately

Challenge: encourage your group to try out one of these places together!

Welcome back! This weekend we started a new series of messages called "Grit". Doug gave a message to all of our Red Rocks Church locations that strengthened our faith and helped cast vision as we learn to identify the presence of God in the midst of life's storms. We are all constantly moving into the unknown, attempting to navigate challenging and trying times. We have a choice to make as we do so: are we going to hunker down and play it safe, or are we going to leap into the unknown with gritty, determined faith, knowing that the God of the universe is always present with us and has gone before us? There is a gritty person of faith that you already are in Christ, and now we get to learn how to live like we know that it's true.

GROW

Read Matthew 14:22-29.

We learned on Sunday that grit is the guts to get outside of your comfort zone. It is tempting to believe that by following Jesus we will be blessed with a storm-less life, but Jesus does not promise this to his disciples. In fact, just the opposite is promised: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). It takes grit to take heart — it is not something that comes naturally to humans, but it is a lifestyle that can be adopted by all people. We learned on Sunday that grit is the guts to get outside of your comfort zone. In this passage it shows that Jesus sent his disciples on to the lake, knowing full well that a storm was coming. Even though we

can be assured that storms will come in this life, Jesus promises that there is an anchor available to us in those storms. After the unpredictability of the last two years, it makes sense that we would deeply desire stability and comfort. We think of Jesus as comfort and the devil as being the disruptor, but sometimes Jesus comes to disrupt and invite us to step outside of our comfort zones.

Nobody grows in their comfort zone. If you are following Jesus and feeling uncomfortable right now, it's very likely that you are right where God wants you! The Holy Spirit is called the comforter, and he does his best work when you are outside of your comfort zone. God's got you, so you've got this.

*When was the last time that God disrupted your life or disagreed with you?
Share about that experience. What did you learn from it?*

What is stretching your faith at this time?

M O V E

Read Matthew 14:30-33.

On the surface, it looks like Peter has failed because of a lack of faith, but when you look more deeply you see that Peter was actually demonstrating a radical amount of faith by stepping out of the boat and walking toward Jesus in the middle of a storm. As soon as Peter starts to sink, he surrenders to the fact that he cannot save himself and reaches for his Savior.

To realize that we cannot save ourselves and are in need a Savior is to confront the reality of sin in our lives. Once that happens, it becomes easier and more desirable to live in deep dependence on the Holy Spirit and be filled with faith in His ability to redeem. God wants to bless who we really are — not who we pretend to be. Over time, we obtain the tenacity to get up again. Jesus' power to save will always be far more powerful than our ability to lose sight of Him in the midst of our life circumstances. When Peter gets back in the boat, all of their affection is on the One who was with them in the middle of the storm and calmed it more than on Peter sinking.

No one likes the idea of failing, but this week helped us understand more deeply that it is possible to fail and still be in closer proximity to Jesus than if you never made an

attempt at all. Heaven rejoices over the smallest steps that are taken and the progress that is made as we learn to walk with Jesus.

What boat do you need to get out of, knowing with confidence that the presence of God is with you? How can your group support you in taking that next step?

P R A Y E R

Pray for each other. If you're in a co-ed group, it may be easier to break up into groups to more freely share about the following:

- *Identify a moment of 'failure' in your life. In light of what you learned in the message and what you've read about Peter's story with Jesus, pray for each other to experience a renewed perspective — what truth does God want to speak into that situation instead? How can you begin to see His hand working that moment for His glory and your good? (Romans 8:28)*