

SHORT-TERM SMALL GROUPS (FALL 2015)

JESUS SERIES- week three

Background: This week's sermon focuses on Jesus as "Creator." There are several key passages in the sermon this weekend, as well as several key words in Pete's video.

Facilitator: As you open your small group discussion, **ask for feedback from Pete's sermon on Jesus as "Creator."**

Ask for a volunteer to read the creation account (Genesis 1: 1-2,26), and its parallel passage (John 1:1-3). Look for any words or phrases that stand out to the group as the passages are read.

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters... 26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."
Genesis 1:1-2,26

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
John 1:1-3

Facilitator: *Take feedback from their observations* (key words or phrases) from the two passages.

VIDEO

Facilitator: Watch the Video **Note:** You may want to replay the portions where Peter is sharing background and giving context to various key words and phrases. Ask your group to pay special attention to the words "Bara" and "Logos," and the deeper meaning behind these key words that Peter focuses on in the video.

Facilitator: In the video Pete paints a vivid picture of the account of Jesus walking on the water. Have someone from your group read the passages from Matthew 14:22-33 and Mark 6:45-56.

Jesus walks on water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." **Matthew 14:22-33**

Jesus walks on water

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. **46** After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. **47** Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. **48** He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. **He was about to pass by them,** **49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost.** They cried out, **50** because they all saw him and were terrified.

Mark 6:45-56

Facilitator:

Pete gives us a glimpse into the Jewish mind and how the disciples would be processing the event that they were going through when they were out on the lake. **Several key observations that could emerge from your group members in your discussion:**

- It was the middle of the night
- When it is dark, it is dangerous to be out at sea, especially in a storm
- The sea is the seed bed of evil
- The dark (night) is the time when evil happens
- Until they cried out to Jesus, he was going to move past them
- When they cried out, Jesus moves toward them

Questions:

1. What do you think about the fact that until they cried out to Jesus, he was going to

- walk past them?
2. For a moment, imagine yourself in that boat. How do you think you would have felt, when in your distress Jesus hears your cries and he begins to move toward you?
 3. Are there any parallels or transferrable principles that we can apply to the storms of life that we face?
 4. Would anyone like to share with the group a current or past storm that you are going through/have gone through that you would like prayer for from the group?

Facilitator: Take any closing thoughts on your small group discussion and transition to a closing prayer time. Tip: Be sure to jot down prayer requests. It may be a good idea to have someone keep record, and email them to your small group leaders so the group can follow up.