**Peter: Week 1**
October 6, 2024

**Message Summary**

The life of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve apostles, provides a powerful example of faith in action. From his bold confession of Jesus as the Messiah to his failure in denying Jesus three times, Peter’s journey is filled with moments of bold faith, moments of doubt, and ultimate restoration. His story in Matthew 14:22-36, where he walks on water, shows the balance between boldness and vulnerability in faith. Peter’s willingness to step out of the boat despite the storm serves as a metaphor for our own faith journeys. Like Peter, we are called to take risks for God, trusting Him to hold us up even when doubt or fear creeps in.

**Icebreaker Ideas**

### **1. Favorite Season and Why**Ask everyone to share their favorite season (spring, summer, fall, or winter) and why they love it. This often leads to fun conversations about holidays, weather, and activities they enjoy during that time of year.

### **2. Go-to Comfort Food**Have each person share their favorite comfort food—the meal or snack they turn to when they want to feel cozy or nostalgic. This can spark fun food-related discussions and even some recipe exchanges!

**Key Scripture**

**Matthew 14:22-36** - 22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. 23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. 25 About three o’clock in the morning[b] Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!” 27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!” 28 Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” 29 “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?” 32 When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed. After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. 35 When the people recognized Jesus, the news of his arrival spread quickly throughout the whole area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed. 36 They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

**Talk About It**

1. What stood out to you the most about Peter’s decision to step out of the boat?
2. How do you think the other disciples felt watching Peter take that risk?
3. Peter stepped out because of his desire to be with Jesus. Have you ever felt called to take a step of faith, even though it seemed risky? What was it?
4. What fears or distractions tend to keep you from taking risks in your faith?
5. How does fear or doubt affect your ability to trust God? What does Peter’s experience teach us about overcoming fear?
6. In what areas of your life do you feel God is calling you to step out of the boat? It could be in your personal life, ministry, or relationships.

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Peter and how his story teaches us about faith, failure, and restoration. Help us to be bold like Peter, willing to step out of the boat even when the storms of life seem overwhelming. Give us the courage to trust You, knowing that You are always there to catch us when we begin to sink. Increase our faith, Lord, and help us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Where You are calling us to step out in faith, give us the desire, the belief, and the action we need to follow You. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.