

Faith Journey – When The Waves Hit by Tom Tennefoss

FAITH STORY:

Matthew 14:22-33

FAITH STORY SUMMARY:

This story comes right after the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee, and went up the mountain to pray. While the disciples were still crossing the lake, Jesus appeared, walking on the water. Peter asked to join Jesus, and Jesus told him to “come”. After several steps Peter became frightened, and began to sink. He cried for help and Jesus pulled him out of the water. The whole group then continued on their journey.

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Bandanas for each person—new ones that they will be able to take home
- Newsprint and markers
- Waterproof fine point markers to write on bandanas
- Bibles

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS:

Ask for three or four volunteers. Have those youth blindfolded, and spun around several times. The object is for them to find the youth leader. After several minutes, have them take off their blindfolds and see how close they were. Ask for three or four more volunteers, and repeat the process, only this time, allow the other youth to give them directions. (The youth leader should move someplace else.)

CONNECT:

What was different between the first and second time?

(The idea to convey is that the first time, the youth were just stumbling around in the dark. The second time they had help, but there were still uncertain moments.)

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Read Matthew 14:22-33. After reading the scripture, have each youth do one of three things: 1) write a poem or monologue of what is going on in Peter's mind from the moment he asks to meet Jesus, through the sinking, to the rescue; 2) draw cartoons of each of the separate scenes; 3) create a modern-day skit that tells the same story.

Ask youth to share what they created.

APPLY:

Discuss:

- How are Peter's waves and the blindfolds similar?

(At times in our lives it is easy to focus and follow Jesus, but there are other times when we feel the roll of the waves of life. It is easy to stumble around and lose our focus.)

- What are some of the waves that come up in life?
- What are some of the ways we can deal with these waves?

RESPOND:

Hand out bandanas to youth. Ask them to write on one side of the bandana some of the "waves" that affect their life. (Assure them that this is for them to see and will not be shared with others.) Then ask them to write words of assurance from God/Jesus on the other side of the bandana. Here are some possible scripture references they may want to look up and use—of course there are many others.

- Psalm 16:11
- Jeremiah 29:11
- John 14:27
- I Peter 1:6-7

Encourage youth to keep their bandana someplace where it is a visible reminder of God's faithfulness in their lives.