



GROWTH GUIDE

Boat-Hugger or Water Walker?

Pastor Ron Zappia, Matthew 14:22–33

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help group discussion with any text of Scripture. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word.

ICE BREAKER:

Share a high point and a low point from the week.

Or, select a fun question/topic for opening discussion.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT: Scripture interprets Scripture.

Read the text. Observe how the details contribute to the whole of the passage.

Look for repeated words or themes, for people and places, for key connections (therefore, so that, etc.).

What is this text about? Is there a common thread that connects the details to the bigger picture of this passage? How does the immediate context around this text help us?

What insights does the text describe about God? People? The human condition? Discuss with the group.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL: The written Word (Bible) points us to the Resurrected Word (Jesus)

From this text, is there a connection to Jesus' life and teaching, death and resurrection, reign and future return, divinity and worthiness of worship?

How does Jesus (and our identity in Him) help us know, love, and obey the One True, Majestic, Triune God?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH: Live a life of love, for God and neighbor, with all we are, wherever we are.

Is there a truth to believe or a lie to reject?

Is there an emotion to embrace or one to renounce?

Is there an action to do or one to stop doing?

How can I "repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:14), knowing all that God has for me in Christ?

What encouragement or engagement does this text have for me in various arenas for God's Kingdom: my family, my church, my neighbors, my vocation, my world, my recreation, my own soul? Select one or two and be specific. Pray!

PARENTING MOMENT:

Having heard the sermon and worked through the Growth Guide, select a key Scripture and corresponding word of wisdom that will encourage your child(ren) in the Lord.

FURTHER STUDY:

Helpful websites: Desiring God Ministries (desiringgod.org), Got Questions (gotquestions.org), and Crossway (crossway.org). Also, search Crossway for a helpful overview of "6 Habits for Successful Bible Study."