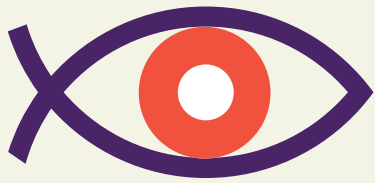


**SEEING
THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JESUS**

**ADULT
CURRICULUM
SESSION 3**

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SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Calling us back to
the central focus of
our Christian faith:
The Risen and
Living Jesus!

SESSION AUTHOR:

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SESSION 3: REALLY SEEING

In this session, participants will be invited to consider the miracles they see in Scripture as well as the miracles they have witnessed in their own experiences and to wonder about how those encounters with Christ might propel us forward.

Prepare:

Read through the session and familiarize yourself with both Scripture stories. Preview the video and set up the equipment needed to show it in your space.

Pay special attention to the starter segment of this session and consider inviting one or more people to speak briefly.

Look ahead to the Scripture and Reflection part of the session and think through how you want to divide up your group for the activity there.

Gather:

Make sure you have access to the marker board or butcher paper and markers you used during the previous sessions.

You'll also need enough pens or pencils and paper for your group.

If participants don't usually bring Bibles to your sessions, consider whether you'll need to provide some or perhaps plan for most of your group to access Matthew 4-14 via their phones or other devices.

Have participants bring a journal or provide one for them.

STARTER:

(5-10 minutes)

Begin today's session by listening for the miracles in your church's story.

Invite a longtime member or perhaps one of your church's staff to briefly share about a time in your church's history when the church rallied around a project or a cause that made a positive difference in your community or in the world.



JOURNAL:

(5-7 minutes for journaling; 3 minutes for sharing)

Each session in this series has a journaling segment. Participants may draw, write, doodle or simply sit quietly with their thoughts during this time. Prepare your own answer ahead of time and share it with the group to help set the tone and get ideas flowing.

PROMPT: What miracle have you experienced? It doesn't have to be of "biblical proportions." Rather, reflect on a time when you've witnessed or been part of a group of people coming together for good, either inside or outside the church. What was it like? What response did it produce in you and in the people around you?

At the end of the journaling segment, invite the group to briefly share their responses in pairs or trios.



SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION:

(15-20 minutes)

In this session, we'll revisit Matthew 14:22-33—the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water. Begin by inviting participants to quickly recap the passage in pairs or small groups as a refresher.

Then read or summarize the following:

In this session, we're going to put ourselves in the disciples' sandals and consider their experience of Jesus by this point in their journey.

Divide the group into several smaller ones. Ask each group to very quickly skim Matthew, beginning with the calling of the disciples in Matthew 4:18 and stopping in Matthew 14:21, just before the walking on water story begins. As they scan, each group should develop a list of all of the miracles that any or all of the disciples witnessed or participated in. There's no need to be more specific about what a miracle entails—just let each group operate with its own definition.

After 5-7 minutes, call the group back together and let groups rotate sharing their answers one at a time. Select a scribe to add all of the answers the group gives to the "What does it look like when Jesus is present?" butcher paper/ marker board list from the introductory session.

As a whole group or in small groups, discuss the following:

- What do you imagine it felt like to be a disciple following Jesus at this time? Exhilarating? Precarious? Fascinating? Compelling? How do you think you would have felt as you witnessed one miracle, then another, then another?
- How do you think the disciples' expectations shifted as they continued to follow Jesus?
- Think back to the instance you journaled about earlier in the session. How did that experience affect your expectations about what might be possible? How did it impact your desire and ability to continue to see or to come close to Jesus? How does it affect you now?

Shift the group's attention to John 15:1-11. You'll spend additional time with this text during the next session, so keep this part of the discussion brief for now. Begin by saying: John 15 offers us a bit of insight into what it may have felt like to be a disciple in those days—and into what it might be like to truly fix our eyes on Jesus now.

Read the passage aloud, then ask:

- How might John 15:1-11 "speak" to Matthew 14:22-33? Do you see any common threads or anything you can connect between these two Scripture passages?
- How might the miracles we've experienced and the certainty that we've encountered Christ become a part of the story that propels us forward, urging us to fix our eyes on Jesus and step out of the boat?



CLOSING:

(3-5 minutes)

Close in prayer. Read Galatians 2:19-20 before you pray or as part of your prayer.

As you dismiss the group, invite participants to prayerfully reread John 15:1-11 at least once between now and your next session.