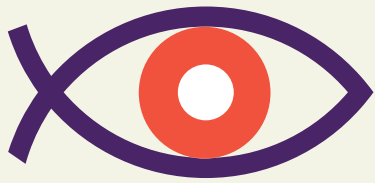


**SEEING  
THROUGH  
THE EYES OF  
JESUS**

**ADULT  
CURRICULUM  
SESSION 5**

***[www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus](http://www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus)***



# SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

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

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## SESSION 5: A COMMUNITY TO CHECK OUR VISION

In this session, participants will consider the role of the church community in helping us discern the way 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 your group dynamic. Will you have someone willing to volunteer in the moment or do you need to prepare a participant ahead of time?

### *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.

Find a small object, like a key or a coin, to use in today's starter.

Have participants bring a journal or provide one for them.

### **STARTER:**

*(5-10 minutes)*

Choose one participant to temporarily leave the room. Before he or she exits, explain the game and display the object which you will be hiding.

Hide the object so that it's at least partly visible. Make sure everyone knows GENERALLY where it is, but do your best to hide it with your back to the group so that no one sees exactly where you place it.

Bring the participant back into the room. Instruct him or her to begin looking for the object. Encourage the rest of the group to shout “hot” when the participant gets close to the object and “cold” when he or she is far from it, and to use

words like “warmer” and “cooler” to help point the seeker in the right direction.

Once the object is found, send a different participant out of the room and play again. Repeat as time allows.



## 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:** Consider a time in your life when you were uncertain about the way forward, whether it was related to school or work, a relationship, or something else. Remember the people who helped you find your path or stood by you in a difficult time. Who acted as your community in that moment or season?

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 look again to Matthew 14:22-33 and ask a new question: How do we keep our eyes on Jesus?

We'll read it alongside Mark 8:22-26 and consider how the story of the blind man who sees in part and then in full can deepen our understanding of both texts.

Begin by summarizing Matthew 14:22-28 and then reading verses 29-33 aloud.

Ask:

- What do you think it is that makes Peter call out to Jesus and ask for an invitation to walk on the water?
- What does Jesus convey by doing as Peter asks and inviting him to come to him? Is Jesus upset with Peter for wanting to try this? Pleased? Ambivalent?

- The story doesn't tell us what the other disciples were doing while Peter was on the water with Jesus. Perhaps they were busy trying to steer the boat. Maybe they were watching with their mouths hanging open or arguing over who would have to jump in and rescue him if things went awry. We don't know. But what do you imagine? How would you have felt if you were one of the other disciples?
- We don't know what the disciples were doing, but there's no indication that they did anything to encourage Peter or help him along. What do you imagine could have happened if someone in the boat had called out to him to keep looking at Jesus or even taken his hand and accompanied him across the water?

Transition now to Mark 8:22-26.

### **SAY OR SUMMARIZE:**

The other disciples didn't walk across the water with Peter, but they were in his boat. It was because of their shared journey—their common efforts to follow Jesus—that Peter was even on the water that morning. As we read this text from Mark, listen for the echo of that aspect of the story.

Read the passage as a group.

- Who in this story played the role of the disciples or the community?
- Is there anything in the blind man's experience of being partly and then fully healed that resonates with Peter's walk-sink-walk routine on the water?

- Jesus appears very focused on both Peter and on the blind man. Both of them see Jesus and are seen BY Jesus. What reassurance might this offer us as we strive to fix our eyes on Jesus?
- What is the role of the community in this story? What is our role as a community in helping one another abide in Christ?
- Consider the game we played at the beginning of the session. Neither the disciples nor the blind man's friends could have predicted exactly how Jesus would lead; but, in both cases, they still helped Peter and the blind man find their way to that moment of clarity. In what ways was this similar or different from our experience with the hot-cold game? When we don't fully know where Jesus is leading us, can our shared sense of "hot or cold" help us find the way together?



### **CLOSING:**

*(3-5 minutes)*

Close in prayer. Read 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 prior to or as part of your prayer. Ask God to shepherd your church community toward a common vision, even if you can't see it fully yet.

As you dismiss the group, invite participants to look again at your whiteboard/butcher paper project. As they go, challenge them to look for evidence of these signs of Jesus' presence in the life of your church between now and the next session.