

FIRM FOUNDATION

Discussion Notes

GOING UNDER

This past week has been a pressure cooker of emotions; anger, hope, grief and pain. With the significance of the Black Lives Matter march in Bristol, you may want to give some space to allow people to pray into the situation. Do be aware that people can be easily misunderstood over video calls so you may want to make sure any thoughts are shared sensitively and step in if you need to.

In our new series 'Firm Foundation' we are looking at faith. In a word how would you describe your faith at the moment?

Read Matthew 14:22-32. This story can be split into three parts that teach us about faith in the storm - darkness, dialogue and dynamic faith.

Darkness

We see over and over again in the Bible that storms are part of faith. Philip explained that the disciples had just come from the feeding of then 5000 and now are in this storm and it's the middle of the night - they are in darkness. Even if we know that darkness is part of following Jesus, for many of us the storms of life can really shake our faith.

- How has your faith been affected by storms in the past? Has it been shaken or maybe even grown?
- The disciples didn't recognise Jesus when he walked towards them, they thought he was a ghost. How can we look to find Jesus in the storm and what stops us from seeing him clearly?

Dialogue

Philip explained that when Jesus says, "It is I" to the disciples it is an act of intimacy - you would only say that to a friend. Jesus wants to start a conversation with the disciples in the middle of the storm.

- What does that teach us about Jesus' approach to the storms of life?
- Have you had an experience where you could share dialogue with God in the storm of life?
- Do you find it easy to go to God and talk to him in tough times? If not, why?

Dynamic Faith

Jesus says to Peter, "come". He calls Peter on to the water with him and asks him to step forward. Philip explained that this is a sign of what God calls us all to do in tough times, step forward and be active.

- Philip said "If you only have faith in God in the good times then you don't have faith in God, you have faith in Good Times." Do you agree?
- What does dynamic, active faith look like for you right now? What is the next step you can take to make your faith more dynamic?
- What practically can you change in your day-to-day life to make your faith more dynamic?
- What can we do as a Hub to encourage each other to have a more dynamic faith?

Peter prays the most effective prayer we can pray when he is out on the water, "Lord, save me!" He calls out to Jesus for help. Take some time to share what that prayer is for you right now, where are you looking for Jesus' help?