



## How (Not) to Save the World, Week 5: Wait for Perfect

The Lie: We have to wait for the \_\_\_\_\_ or perfect situation to say \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus or take a step of faith.

The Truth: There is \_\_\_\_\_ perfect time, so take a step of faith \_\_\_\_\_ and discover who Jesus is.

*Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.*

*Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"*

*But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"*

*Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."*

*"Yes, come," Jesus said.*

*So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.*

*Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"*

*When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.*

Matthew 14:22-33 (NLT)

### Lessons of faith from Peter walking on water:

• Jesus is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ from our present struggles.

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*  
Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

• Miracles happen when we are willing to step \_\_\_\_\_.

*For we live by believing not by seeing.*  
2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

• Faith requires \_\_\_\_\_.

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

Colossians 3:1-2 (ESV)

• Our faith has the potential to open \_\_\_\_\_ to the power and person of Jesus.

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever waited for the perfect timing on something and ended up missing a great opportunity because the timing was not quite as perfect as you had hoped? What resulted in waiting for the "perfect timing?"
2. What has prevented you from stepping "out of the boat" and "into the water" this season with regards to growing in faith and obedience to Jesus?
3. What habits or practices can you revisit or begin that would help increase your ability to walk by faith in Jesus and not by fear of failure?

### Recommended Resources

- *How (Not) to Save the World*, by Hosanna Wong
- *Fearless*, by Max Lucado
- *If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, by John Ortberg



## Session 4 | Wait for Perfect (Embrace Change)



**Connect:** In your small group, take 5 to 7 mins to connect. Below are a few questions to guide your discussion.

- What is something you have had high standards for, or wanted to be perfect? Perhaps your wedding, a graduation, or a project?
- On a more personal note, what is a fear you have had before starting something new, going somewhere new, or taking a step of faith?

**Read:** In your small group, read and reflect on the following passages. See reflection questions below.

Philippians 1:6

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:28

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

**Reflect:**

- How do these verses free us from the constant pursuit of perfection?
- What is the truth that we learn about God in these verses?
- How can these verses encourage us in the situations we are in, even if our story is not finished yet?

**Pray:** Pray that God would help us to rest in the work He did on the cross, knowing that our stories don't have to be perfect before we begin to share our faith. Also pray for opportunities to share our faith with those in our circles of influence. Pray for a new boldness to step into the places God is calling us to.