**Small Group Sermon Questions**

 **Sunday, January 20, 2019**

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***Part 3: Facing our Fears***

***Opening question***

1. Share a time when you felt really fearful. How did you manage that fear?
2. Take a moment to reflect on moments of stress you faced this week. How was God present? How did you respond to Him?

***Going Deeper Questions***

1. Recall times in scripture where God says… ‘Fear not.’ Why does God tell us not to fear so often in scripture?
2. Read Matthew 14:22-33. Who do you most identify with in this story? Why?
3. Why does Jesus compel the disciples to go out into the storm?

1. Read Psalm 69:1-3 and Isaiah 43:1-5. The waters (the deep) represented something threatening and fearful; something that overwhelms us. What is the ‘deep’ for you? How does God use the deep to deepen us?
2. Read Exodus 3:14, Job 9:8, Psalm 89:9. In the sermon Sid said that when Jesus says ‘It is I. Don’t be afraid,’ He was saying, ‘it is **I am**, don’t be afraid.’ How does this change our understanding of the passage in Matthew?
3. How do our attempts to build ‘safe and secure’ lives work against us in terms of stepping out?
4. Are we meant to walk on water? Just what would that mean for you?
5. What do you think went through Peter’s mind as he took those first steps on the water? How about as he sank? When Jesus took hold of him?
6. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. We should all keep our eyes more focused Jesus. Peter doesn’t in our story. How are you doing with your focus? How does Peter respond when he loses focus? How does Jesus respond? How does this help us understand the message of the gospel?
7. Henry Blackaby writes, “I have come to a place in my life that, if the assignment I sense God is giving me is something I can handle, I know its probably not from God. The kind of assignments God gives in the Bible are always God-sized. They are always beyond what people can do because He wants to demonstrate His nature, His strength, His provision, and His kindness to His people and to a watching world. This is the only way the world will come to know Him.” What do you think of this quote? What would it mean to your life?