

In the Middle

The middle is a difficult place to be. Like the disciples, we may find ourselves straining at the oars, trying to keep afloat. But we can take courage - God works His greatest miracles in the middle.

Thinking Points:

1. We may feel overwhelmed by circumstances, but Jesus says "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Courage is an option. We have a choice to choose faith over fear.
2. We are never alone. Jesus gets into the boat with us.
3. What happens after He gets into the boat with the disciples? (see verse 51 below)
4. Charlotte Gambill says, "It's in the middle of the storm that we discover what is in the middle of us." What good might come from being in the middle?

Next Steps

⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

⁴⁶ After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

⁴⁷ Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land.

⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰ because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, ⁵² for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

MARK 6 : 45 - 52

The middle is a pivotal moment, a change factory. We have the option to choose our fears and believe the enemy, OR we can choose faith and trust in Jesus, who steps into the boat with us.

1. Identify the middle you are currently in - where might you feel like you're straining at the oars?
2. Commit to continue paddling - no matter how tough the middle gets; we will make it to the other side. We have a God alongside us, who isn't ever going to let us sink.
3. Pray for perspective in the middle - it can be easy to feel like we are alone in the middle. The disciples felt that way because of their hardened hearts. Ask God to soften your heart to allow Him in to work.

The disciples would never have seen Jesus walking on water if they were on the shore. It was only because they were in the middle of the lake that they saw this miracle.

The middle is the greatest place for God to reveal Himself to us, and it is also the greatest place for us to grow.