

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week #4 - "When God Nudges"



GETTING STARTED

Spend some time checking in with each other. Any highs and lows since the last time you met?

Pastor Hans talked about the experience of being “nudged” to try a zip line. Share stories of times you were nudged to try something. Are you more often the one doing the nudging or the one being nudged?

How do you react when you're called to do something outside of your comfort zone? What emotions come up, and how do you deal with them?

THIS WEEK'S THEME

Have you ever felt God nudging you to take a step of faith? If you're comfortable, share that experience with the group.

When you feel the tension between God's nudge and your own fears or doubts, how do you typically respond? How do you work through that tension?

How do you see God using small acts of faith in your life to grow your belief and trust in God? What barriers prevent us from putting our faith into action?

How does the idea of “doing what only you can do and trusting God to do what only God can do” encourage you to step out and serve others, even if you feel underprepared or uncertain?

In what ways can our group encourage each other to step out in faith and serve others? How can we hold each other accountable for acting on God's nudges?

Reflecting on the experiences shared today, what are some practical steps we can take as a community to put our faith in action? What does it look like for us to pray, “Lord, invite me out of my boat!”

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 14:13-29

From Enter the Bible, further explanation of Matthew 14:22-33:

This second story of the disciples at sea (see 8:23-27) is not so much a miracle as it is a story of faith. ... The “immediately” of its opening verse pointedly joins it to the preceding story of the feeding of the five thousand, and in Matthew’s telling it becomes essentially a parable of faith. The disciples are at risk on the sea without their master who is alone in prayer. Finally, near morning, Jesus comes to them walking on the water, but in their fear they fail to recognize him. ... Twice Peter has addressed Jesus with words of faith, calling him “Lord.” Trusting in Jesus’ command to “Come!” he has walked on the water. When in peril he cries out to Jesus as “Savior,” and even in the midst of his doubting he is rescued. Though Jesus chides Peter for his “little faith” (a description that is essentially unique to Matthew’s gospel narrative), still, at the Lord’s touch, the wind ceases and the boat with the disciples is safe. All those in the boat respond in the only way appropriate for disciples: they worship Jesus as “Truly...the Son of God.” The combined motifs of doubt and worship mirror the reaction of the disciples when they meet the resurrected Lord on the mountain (28:17). This combination and the fact that the word translated “doubt” occurs only in these two places in Matthew emphasize the importance of this story as a parable and model of faith for Matthew’s community.

In the story of the Feeding of the 5000, the disciples felt inadequate when asked to feed the crowd. Have you ever felt inadequate in a situation where God was calling you to act? How did God use that moment to stretch your faith?

Jesus tells the disciples to bring what they have, no matter how little. What is something you feel you lack, but that God is asking you to offer anyway?

When Peter steps out of the boat to walk on water, he’s responding to Jesus’ invitation. How does this story inspire you to take action when God invites you to step out in faith?

PRAY

Ask how you can pray for each other this week. What prayer requests do you have?

Wonderful God, you didn’t make faith to be still. Guide us to ask questions, to put our faith into action, and to grow together. Amen.

TAKING IT HOME

Is there a specific area in your life where you feel God nudging you to take action? What would that action look like?