

August 23, 2020
Christ Chapel Of Bandera
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday August 23, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV Volume 8; Number 4; Summer 2020; Session 3; “Jesus walks on water”.

Opening Joke:

Why are butchers so hilarious? They always ham it up.

Opening Prayer:

In Class: Ask an attendee to open with a word of prayer.

On WEB site: Lord Father Almighty, help us to realize that our personal relationship with You is the most important thing in our lives. That the state of our relationship with You is more important than all other concerns combined. Please give us help in putting You first in our lives, forsaking all others, even ourselves. We thank you for the sacrifice of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and for the forgiveness of sins. It is through Your Son that we pray. Amen.

The Lesson:

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Matthew chapter 14.

Matthew chapter 14 talks about three different occurrences in the life of Jesus, which on the surface, lack a common thread.

Our Study Guide on page 117 the last paragraph the last two sentences say, “Though John (the Baptist) did not get to experience the miracles in the firsthand way that Jesus’ first disciples did, he nonetheless saw Jesus as worthy of his total allegiance. Those of us on this side of the cross and the empty tomb have no reason to hesitate in giving our all to Jesus in light of John’s faithfulness unto death”.

Questions for thought:

Today, in America, do we have the fear of standing before an earthly king admonishing him for conduct less than perfect?

What do you think would happen in America today if a Christian were to publicly tell someone they should not be in a love affair with another man’s wife?

What do you think would happen in America today if a Christian were to go to any college campus and publicly denounce homosexuality?

What do you think would happen in America today if a Christian were to go to any college campus and denounce abortion rights?

Is there a price to pay in America today for standing up for Christian values?

Please identify some Christian values. Are such values prevalent in America today?

Are Christian values prevalent in America voting booths today?

Continued questions for thought:

If the basic religious books of Christianity and Judaism condemn the taking of innocent blood, and the basic religious books of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam all condemn homosexuality, how can such acts be thought of as a “right” in America today?

What do you say to the Christian that doesn’t take the time to vote in America today?

Is there any truth to the idea that all it takes for evil to prevail is for good men, and women, to do nothing?

Does America need your prayers today?

Our Study Guide on page 118 the second paragraph the last two sentences say, “Though He was on a mission to save the world through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus still took time to find a quiet place and commune with the Father in isolation. It is thus impossible to overestimate the value of this practice in the Christian life”.

Questions for thought:

What does it mean, “commune with the Father”?

Today, when a Christian communes with the Father, does God actually verbally immediately talk back?

If not, what is the use of prayer? What positive results does prayer have on the Christian?

Are said results worth the time it takes to pray?

Is studying the Bible daily a form of prayer?

What are the positive results of Daily Bible study for the Christian?

Are said results worth the time of daily Bible study?

What are the positive results for living for Christ daily?

Is there a price to be paid for living for Christ daily?

Is obedience to Christ worth it?

Our Study Guide on page 118 the third paragraph the last two sentences says, “When it comes to our obedience to Jesus, “immediate” is a good and helpful word. Our obedience should not be delayed, and every moment calls for our obedience.”

Questions for thought:

Is obedience to God always easy?

What can make obedience to God hard?

When we are disobedient to God, what is it called?

Does disobedience to God separate Christians from God? If so, is that separation permanent?

Is there a price to be paid for Christians separating themselves from God? If so, how is that price paid?

How important is Jesus Christ for a Christian?

Our Study Guide on page 119 the first paragraph says, “After the disciples wrongly identified Jesus as a threatening ghost on the waves, He calmed them by saying: “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid”.” There is an important lesson for us to notice in this exhortation – the presence of Jesus is cause for courage, not fear.”

The New International Version of the Bible in Job 38:1-3 reads: “Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said, “Who is this that darkens My council with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man, I shall question you and you shall answer me.”

Questions for thought:

Will God say the same thing to individual Christians in due time?

As an individual Christian, do you think you would be afraid if God said to you, “I shall question you and you shall answer Me”?

What confidence can Christians take comfort in, which others lack?

The New American Standard Bible, in John 3:18 says, “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

There is a song that goes something like this:

*“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus name.
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand”.*

Questions for thought:

Again, a point that cannot be overemphasized, how important is Jesus Christ in Christianity?

Who is the central figure in Christianity?

Who should Christians trust? Halfway or totally?

Is there any other name or any other way for anyone to have a right relationship with God?

Our Study Guide on page 119 the beginning of the third complete paragraph says, “More often than not, the main point we should take away from a story within the Gospels occurs near the end of the passage. Such is the case with Jesus’ walking on water. After Jesus rebuked Peter for his lack of faith, the disciples in response to His power over creation worshiped Jesus and confessed Him to be the Son of God.”

Back to page 115 the paragraph following the Bible quote the second sentence says, “Their confession that Jesus truly is the Son of God is the same confession of the church yesterday, today, and forevermore”.

The New International Version of the Bible says in Hosea 6:6, (God speaking), “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings”.

Our Study Guide says on page 119 the last complete paragraph the last sentence, “Once we recognize Jesus for who He is, it only makes sense that we should want others to meet Him in hope that they might place their faith in Him and be healed”.

In Matthew chapter 14 the common thread is faith in Jesus. John the Baptist knew that admonishing a King would get him into trouble, but the Baptist had faith to acknowledge God’s laws.

5,000 men plus women and children had seen Jesus healing the sick and had faith that they would be taken care of if they followed Jesus. Peter, at least, had enough faith to ask, try, fail, and then ask for help.

Questions for thought:

Do you have enough faith to ask God for forgiveness of your sins through Jesus Christ?

Do you have enough faith to repent and turn from evil ways?

Do you have enough faith to actually try and live your life for Jesus?

Do you have enough faith to pray to God for *more faith*?

Do you have enough faith to tell others about Jesus?

We now have an opportunity to go next door and encourage each other in our individual walks with God. Let us do so rejoicing in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Huth