

God in the Midst of Play

Matthew 14:22–33

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- When you were young, what kinds of activities had you so immersed in playing that you lost track of time?
- Why do you think adults can have a harder time playing than children do? What prevents you from playing more?
- Can you picture Jesus playing? For example, do you think Jesus ever skipped? Why or why not?
- *Read Matthew 14:22–33.* What does this episode reveal about Jesus? About Peter? About the rest of the disciples?
- Given that he had other options, why does Jesus choose to walk across the water to the disciples in their unmoving boat? Could Jesus be playing? Why or why not?
- How does Jesus assure his disciples that they are safe? What does Peter risk in what he says and does? How does Jesus still provide safety for his disciples today?
- How is safety required for us to play? In what ways does play also require some level of risk? How do you see these principles playing out in your own life?
- Given what you know of Jesus, when Jesus responds to Peter as Peter sinks, what do you imagine to be Jesus' tone and attitude toward Peter?
- Even if you are in a storm, how might Jesus say to you, "Come and play"? How can you find God in the midst of play?
- What is a life-giving way you can play this week? How can your small group or others support and pray for you as you do so?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.