

Small Group Questions for the Week of March 8, 2015

The following questions are taken from the book entitled John: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups by N.T. Wright. Please do not feel compelled to ask every question that is listed below. You know your group better than the person writing the questions. Ask the questions that are best for your group, and questions that you yourself are comfortable answering.

1. Read John 6:16-25. How do the disciples react when they first see Jesus walking toward them in the midst of the storm (v. 19)?
2. What happens as soon as Jesus gets into the boat (v. 21)?
3. How is this event similar to Exodus 14 (especially vv. 10-18) when Moses leads Israel out of Egypt through the Red Sea?
4. There are many times when suddenly it seems the wind gets up and the sea becomes rough. As we struggle to make our way through, sometimes we are aware of a presence with us, which may initially be more disturbing than comforting. But if we listen, through the roar of the waves and the wind, we may hear the voice that says, "It's me – don't be afraid!"

How might we prepare now to take Jesus on board the next time the winds pick up and the sea becomes rough for us?

The following questions are not from N.T. Wright.

5. In Exodus 3, God is talking to Moses out of a burning bush. God speaks and sends Moses to rescue His people who are enslaved in Egypt. Moses then asks God for His name. Please read Exodus 3:13-14 for God's response.

How does God identify/name Himself?

6. In John 6:20 Jesus identifies himself as "I am." It would be awkward English to translate Jesus' words as "I am. Do not be afraid." However, this is the literal translation and it would have made a powerful connection in the minds of the disciples when they heard it. Jesus is identifying himself as the same God who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. Jesus is saying that he is God and so we don't have to be afraid if he is present.

How do you think the disciples might have felt when they heard this?

7. How did the reality that Jesus is God impact your day today (or yesterday)?
8. How does the reality that Jesus is God impact your plans for your future?