



Step Out of the Boat

A Five-Day Devotional

August 10 - August 14, 2026

There are moments when faith feels like stepping into a storm. We know Jesus is calling us, but the wind is strong, the waves are high, and the safety of the boat looks very appealing. Matthew 14 gives us one of the clearest pictures of what it means to follow Jesus when faith requires us to leave what is comfortable and trust what we cannot control.

This week, we will walk with Peter through the storm—from the first step onto the water to the moment he begins to sink, cries out for rescue, and finally worships Jesus. Along the way, we'll discover that faithful discipleship isn't about never being afraid or never failing. It is about knowing where to look, where to turn, and who holds us when we cannot hold ourselves.

Monday, August 10

One Brave Step

Matthew 14:29

“He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.” — Matthew 14:29, ESV

Some days, faith looks like one brave step. Peter didn’t begin with a flawless plan or complete understanding. He simply heard Jesus say, “Come,” and trusted the One who spoke. The miracle wasn’t only that Peter walked on water; it was that he believed Jesus was worth leaving the safety of the boat.

In your life, the boat can represent comfort, predictability, control, approval, or fear of failure. Pastor Chris reminded us that there may be people we love watching from that boat—spouses, children, friends, coworkers, or family members—wondering whether our faith is real. Your first step doesn’t need to be dramatic. It simply needs to be directed toward Jesus.

Sunday’s opening song at Blended Worship, “King of My Heart” by Bethel Music, captured this beautifully. Christ is the One we run to, the One who sustains us, and the One who remains faithful when the waves rise. Stepping out of the boat becomes less frightening when we remember who is calling us.

Faith doesn’t require us to know exactly what happens next. It requires us to trust the One who does. Perhaps Jesus is asking you to take one small step today: have the conversation, begin the prayer habit, forgive someone, confess something you’ve hidden, serve where you have been reluctant, or surrender something you have been trying to control.

Reflection Question

What is one step Jesus may be asking you to take right now, even though you don’t know exactly what happens next?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me courage to step beyond what is comfortable and trust Your call. Help me keep my eyes on You rather than my fears. Be my refuge and my faithful King. Amen.

Tuesday, August 11

When the Wind Gets Loud

Matthew 14:30

“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out.” — Matthew 14:30, ESV

Peter’s trouble didn’t begin when the storm started—the storm was already there. His trouble began when his attention shifted. He looked away from Jesus and toward the wind, and suddenly the thing that had been around him all along became what controlled his attention.

We know that feeling. The “wind” may be stress, temptation, exhaustion, criticism, loneliness, uncertainty, or suffering. These things can grow louder in our minds until they begin to tell us what to believe about ourselves, our future, and even God. When we stare at the storm long enough, fear can become a louder narrator than faith.

Pastor Chris challenged us to recognize the winds that are loudest in our lives. Naming them honestly isn’t weakness. It is the beginning of bringing them into the presence of Jesus. We don’t have to pretend the storm isn’t real. We simply need to remember that the storm is not Lord.

Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is stop and redirect our attention. Open Scripture. Pray. Turn off the noise. Take a walk. Worship. Call someone who reminds you of God’s faithfulness. The goal isn’t to deny the wind but to remember who is greater than it.

Reflection Question

What “wind” is loudest in your life right now, and what can you do today to turn your attention back toward Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, when the storms around me become loud, keep me from losing sight of You. Quiet my fear, strengthen my faith, and remind me that no storm is greater than Your presence. Amen.

Wednesday, August 12

Held When We Sink

Matthew 14:31

“Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him.” — Matthew 14:31, ESV

The tender truth of Peter’s story is that his sinking was not the end of his story. Jesus did not stand at a distance and wait for Peter to recover his balance. He reached out immediately and took hold of him.

Sometimes we believe we must keep walking perfectly so that the people watching us won’t be disappointed. We think our faith has to look strong all the time. But that pressure can turn discipleship into performance. Jesus never asked Peter to impress the disciples in the boat. He asked him to trust Him.

Pastor Chris reminded us that it is okay to let go. Peter’s lowest moment became an opportunity for Jesus’ saving grip to be seen clearly. In the same way, our moments of weakness don’t have to become evidence that faith has failed. They can become opportunities to discover that Christ is still holding us.

That message connects beautifully with Sunday’s Blended Worship anthem, “Revival” by The Red Clay Strays. The song’s invitation to those who are hurting, searching, fearful, or at the end of their strength points us toward the same gracious Savior we see in Matthew 14: the One who meets people where they are and calls them toward new life. Revival begins not with pretending we’re strong, but with recognizing our need for the One who can make us strong.

Reflection Question

Where are you tempted to hide your weakness or pretend you’re stronger than you are, and what would it look like to let Jesus hold you there?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for reaching for me when I begin to sink. Free me from the need to appear strong and teach me to depend upon You. Renew what is weary in me and help me trust Your saving grip. Amen.

Thursday, August 13

The Prayer That Finds Jesus

Matthew 14:30

“Lord, save me.” — Matthew 14:30, ESV

Peter’s prayer was short, urgent, and honest: “Lord, save me.” There was no polished speech and no attempt to explain why he was sinking. Peter simply knew where to turn. Sometimes this may be the most honest kind of faith—not faith that never wavers, but faith that knows where to go when it does.

Simple prayers in real storms are not signs that we are failing. They may be some of our clearest expressions of trust. When temptation rises, when shame returns, when exhaustion overwhelms us, or when anxiety begins to take over, we can turn toward Jesus with the same simple dependence: Lord, save me.

Pastor Chris reminded us that the people in the boat may not need to see our strength as much as they need to see our dependence. Our families, friends, and children don’t need a perfect example of faith. They need to see what it looks like to turn toward Jesus when life becomes difficult.

Renewal doesn’t always begin with a dramatic experience. Sometimes it begins with a simple return—a heart that says, “Father, I need You.” God meets us there. He restores, renews, and gives us the strength to take the next step.

Reflection Question

When you feel overwhelmed, what would change if your first response became a simple prayer of dependence on Jesus?

Prayer

Father, when I am overwhelmed, teach me to turn toward You first. Give me faith to ask for Your help without shame or hesitation. Renew my heart and lead me back to You again and again. Amen.

Friday, August 14

From Storm to Worship

Matthew 14:33

“And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” — Matthew 14:33, ESV

The story ends with worship. After the fear, the stepping out, the sinking, and the rescue, the disciples recognize something more important than the miracle itself: they are in the presence of the Son of God.

That matters because the goal of faith isn’t merely surviving storms or accomplishing impossible things. It is knowing Jesus and responding to Him with worship, trust, love, humility, compassion, and service. The storm becomes a place where the disciples see Christ more clearly.

There is also quiet hope for “those in the boat.” They may not have stepped out onto the water as Peter did, but they witnessed Jesus’ authority and mercy. Your life can be that kind of witness. The people around you may not yet understand your faith or be ready to take their own step, but they can see what Jesus is doing in you.

That brings us back to “King of My Heart.” The song’s central message is not that the wind will never blow. It is that Jesus remains good and faithful through it all. He is the One we run to, the One who anchors us, and the One who will not abandon His children.

And perhaps that is the rhythm God wants to establish in us: step, cry, worship. Step when Jesus calls. Cry out when you begin to sink. Worship when you discover again that He has never stopped holding you. This is not a faith of perfection. It is a faith of perseverance—a life continually turning toward Jesus.

Reflection Question

Looking back over your own storms, where have you seen Jesus’ faithfulness, and how can you turn that memory into worship today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being faithful through every storm. Help me keep stepping when You call, crying out when I need You, and worshiping when You rescue me. Let my life point others toward You. Amen.

Thank you for spending your week with us. Sunday’s Coming!