

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Miracles: The Problem of Focus, Part 2

John 6:16-21 | Oct 25, 2026

FIRST BAPTIST METUCHEN

John 6:16-21 - **16** When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. **20** But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21** Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

OBSERVATION | *What does the text say?*

1. What three details does John emphasize about the disciples' circumstances as they crossed the Sea of Galilee (John 6:16–18)?

Why were the disciples crossing the sea (cross-reference Matthew 14:22–23 and Mark 6:45–48)?

What was Jesus doing while they struggled against the wind (cross-reference Matthew 14:22–23 and Mark 6:45–48)?

2. How far had the disciples traveled when they saw Jesus approaching (John 6:19)?

What was unusual about Jesus' approach (John 6:19)?

How did the disciples respond (John 6:19)?

3. What did Jesus say to the frightened disciples (John 6:20)?

How did His words address their fear (John 6:20)?

4. How did the disciples respond to Jesus (John 6:21)?

And what happened immediately afterward (John 6:21)?

INTERPRETATION | *What does the text mean?*

1. The disciples encountered a storm while obeying Jesus. What does this teach us about the relationship between obedience, suffering, and God's will?

2. The disciples had just witnessed Jesus feed thousands with five loaves and two fish. Why do you think they struggled to trust Him when they encountered the storm? Consider Mark 6:52.

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3. Mark 6:48 adds to the account in John 6:16-21 and tells us Jesus saw the disciples struggling, even though they could not see Him. What does this reveal about Christ's knowledge, care, and authority over our circumstances?

4. Jesus declared, "*It is I; do not be afraid*" in John 6:20. How does this statement, together with His walking on the water, reveal His divine identity and authority?

APPLICATION | *How should this change us?*

1. What storm are you currently facing— financial, relational, physical, spiritual, or emotional? How has it affected your focus on Christ?

2. Sunday's message described our tendency to treat God like a "spiritual emergency room." How can you move from seeking God only in emergencies to cultivating daily dependence on Him?

3. When circumstances seem overwhelming, what practical steps can help you shift your attention from the size of your problems to the sovereignty and promises of Christ?

4. Sunday's message emphasized, "*True peace is not the absence of a storm; it is the presence of the divine Savior*." How does this truth challenge the common assumption that peace depends on favorable circumstances?

5. Sunday's message challenged us to welcome Jesus into the boat of our lives rather than merely asking Him to remove the storm. What would that look like in your decisions, relationships, priorities, and prayers this week?

6. How would your response to your present difficulties change if you truly believed that Jesus sees you, knows your circumstances, and remains sovereign over your future?

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS