

**Growth Group Discussion Questions**  
**For Our Growth Group- On Line Meetings**  
**Series: Building His Church-Part 3**  
**“Getting Out Of The Boat”**  
**Week of November 8, 2020**

**Summary-** To rebuild our church right now and as the COVID experience subsides, Jesus is meeting us right where our encouragement level may need an injection of hope and inspiration! The disciples were gripped with fear as circumstances snowballed on them as they were out in a boat out of their comfort zones for sure. And Jesus just showed up, walking on the water... impervious to the storm and bringing courage and hope with Him. The one who got out of the boat was Peter! What sunk Peter’s initiative to keep walking on the water was he took His eyes off of Jesus & placed them on the storm around Him! Fear won for a moment! But, Jesus was there, to pick Peter up, and to point the finger at a lack of faith on Peter’s part! What we need to see is that to get out of our comfort zones, to get out of our boats, as we rebuild this church is engaging with real people! Starting conversations, having coffee with neighbors, stirring up spiritual conversations and responding to divine appointments is all part of it. Jesus’ presence inspires it all. So, let’s see how inspired we can be!!

1. What did you like most about the message we heard on Sunday about “Getting Out Of The Boat”?

**Discovery Questions**

2. Jesus talked to a group of people who wanted to be His followers and representatives in Luke 9:58-62. Read the passage and discuss the questions that follow.

*Luke 9:58 As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” 59 He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.” 60 But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” 61 Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” 62 But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”*

**(Commentary thought: The burial request was really to go home and wait for dad to pass, so this man's inheritance rights would not be missed out on- the saying goodbye to family was a trap that could have stopped the man from returning if a family member objected to his following Jesus!)**

Q: Discuss how your housing situation or concerns could become a reason why you would not be available to serve Jesus and others?

Q: Discuss how inheritance and money issues could get in the way of focusing on the people and ministry that Jesus has for you to do?

Q: Discuss how the attitudes of your family members might impact your decision to become more of a public follower of Jesus?

Q: Discuss Verse 62- what was Jesus saying to Jesus Followers about the risk of looking back too much to your old way of living?

### **Going Deeper**

2. Jesus' answer to the fear of taking action or being in uncomfortable circumstances is not to fix the circumstance or make the action any easier; it is to remind us of His presence that comes loaded with courage for YOU. Discuss the following activities that could build up our church here in Lomita and how you might respond to them with Jesus' encouragement:

1. Inviting a friend, or neighbor to church... can you think of any?
2. Set up a coffee date with a neighbor or friend
3. Strike up a conversation at a kids sports event
4. Start a small discussion group to examine the claims of Jesus.
5. Lead a growth group
6. Respond to a "divine appointment" that might interrupt your schedule
7. Become a generous giver of your time, talents or resources.
8. Pray for Jesus to open your eyes to the opportunities around you

3. Walking on the water with Jesus present seemed right for Peter to do... so he did! At least until he started looking at the wind & the waves! What circumstances make you fearful of living out your faith in a more purpose driven way?

Q: Discuss ways to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus through all you do or face.