

REFLECTING ON THE PAST, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

MATTHEW 14

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Two words stand out in the 50-year history at Harvest: faithfulness and faith. Our story as a church has been about the faithfulness of God and our response of faith to His calling.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When did you start coming to Harvest? How did you get connected?

How has God used Harvest to help you know God and make Him known?

At this special service, Harvest celebrated 50 years as a church! As Pastor Greg shared, every step of ministry has been one of faith. We reflected on the past and gave thanks to God for His faithfulness. And we are looking ahead with anticipation to all that God will do in the future as we continue to walk by faith and live our mission: "Knowing God and Making Him Known."

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 11:1-3 & ROMANS 10:17

According to Hebrews 11:1, what is faith? How does this definition compare to other views of faith in our culture?

Pastor Greg explained, "Faith is not just intellectual ascent; it is also action. Faith is a living, restless thing; it cannot be inoperative. What saves is faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone." Why must faith include action? How do these go together?

According to Romans 10:17, how does faith come? How have you learned to walk by faith and take God at His Word?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 14:22-33

Faith can make the difference between something happening and not happening—faith sees what could be. Although we know that God is in control, why does God choose to work through people who live by faith?

Faith is the refusal to panic, and it has no back door. What gave Peter confidence to take the first step and walk on water?

Like Peter, what should you do when you have a lapse of faith (v.30)? How will Jesus respond to you?

Pastor Greg said, “We should never believe our doubts and doubt our beliefs. We should believe our beliefs and doubt our doubts.” How can you focus on what is true (Phil. 4:8)? Why should you not be afraid to take risks and “get your feet wet” (v.33)?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Harvest Church was built on the principles of Acts 2:42-47. Why is it important to be part of a W.E.L.L. church—one that worships, evangelizes, learns, and loves? How do these principles help us grow in faith together as a small group and church?

How are you walking by faith and keeping your eyes on Jesus? In what ways are you thankful for God’s past faithfulness, and how would you like to grow in the future?

PRAYER

Reflect on the past and give thanks to God for His faithfulness. Prepare for the future by asking for strength to walk by faith and to keep your eyes on Jesus. Pray for our church as we teach God’s Word, invite people to come to Christ, and preach the gospel to our culture.