



OCT 21, 2025
STRANGER THINGS
PART ONE

THE GHOST ON THE LAKE Matthew 14:25-31

FEAR _____ US TO GOD'S WORK

Let your fear **show** you where Jesus is **working** in your life.

FAITH _____ BEFORE IT MAKES SENSE

Faith says **yes**, when fear says **no**.

WHEN YOU _____, JESUS STILL _____

My faith may **fail**, but Jesus **never** will.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is one strange or confusing thing about faith that you struggle to understand?
2. Why do you think Jesus let the disciples think he was a ghost?
3. What boat do you think God might be asking you to step out of?
4. How does this story change the way you see faith and fear?

Challenge for the week: This week, when something feels scary, instead of pulling back, lean in. Ask, is this a place Jesus is asking me to trust him? Step out in faith even if it feels strange.



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SC STUDENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS - TUESDAY 10/21/25

*HALLOWEEN PARTY – TUE. OCT 28th – The Sloane's House
Come dressed in your best costume. Best costume wins a big
prize. Pizza, fire pit, smores, games, lots of fun! 7 to 8:30*

*GUYS & GIRLS WEEKEND – FRI - SAT. NOV. 14th - 15th
Guys do guy stuff (shooting, smashing, camp firing), girls do
girls stuff (nails, spas, girl talk), and its awesome!
Mount Hermon Baptist Church - \$30*

Find all annoucements, series, and more at...
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Application

STRANGER THINGS 4: THE GHOST ON THE LAKE

FEAR BLINDS US TO GOD'S WORK

*LEADER: Look at **Matt 14:26**. The disciples first response was fear. When do you get afraid?*

Illustration: Tell a story of a time you were scared but later realized there was nothing to be afraid of (a thunderstorm, an exam, trying to get a job?)

LEADER: Fear isn't fake, it's real. The disciples were genuinely afraid and sometimes we are too... but often times we realize that though our fear is real, the thing we are afraid of isn't. What's real though, is the presence of Jesus. He is always with us. Don't let fear keep you from seeing what God is trying to show you.

Let your fear **show** you where Jesus is **working** in your life.

FAITH STEPS BEFORE IT MAKES SENSE

*LEADER: Look at **Matt 14:28-29**. We must not make our decisions on fear. We must make our decisions based on faith.*

Illustration – Do you know that a heard of Buffalo will always run towards a storm? Do you know why? It's not because they aren't afraid. They are very afraid. But they know that if they run away from the storm they will only be in the storm longer. If they run towards it they will get through it faster.

LEADER: Peter was afraid, but instead of chickening out...he met his fear face on by trusting in the words of Christ. Stepping out in faith will always be scary. But that's where growth happens. That's where the unimaginable happens. Faith means doing what doesn't make sense when Jesus simply says, "come."

Faith says **yes**, when fear says **no**.

WHEN YOU SINK, JESUS STILL SAVES

*LEADER: Look at **Matt 14:30-31**. Faith isn't always doing it right... sometimes faith is as simple as saying... Jesus, I need your help.*

Illustration – Have you ever been rescued? Has anyone ever shown up like Jesus and been a superhero to you? Tell a story of when you were rescued and how it made you feel? You needed help. You were dependent.

LEADER: Peter's faith wavered... he got scared. But Jesus didn't let him drown. When Peter started sinking, Jesus didn't lecture him, he rescued him. Jesus doesn't wait for you to have perfect faith. He just waits for you to call out to him for help.

My faith may **fail**, but Jesus **never** will.

Stranger Things: The Ghost On The Lake - Intro

Illustration – have you ever been freaked out by something in the dark that turned out to be something totally normal? You thought you heard footsteps but it was really the cat. Or you heard scratches on the wall and it was a tree outside being blown by the wind. Or you saw a hoodie hung up on a lamp and you could've sworn it was an intruder or a monster. You throw something at it and turn on the lights and it's just your hoodie... and you feel like a moron. But... sometimes in the Bible.. those things we thought weren't real... were actually really strange things happening in real time.

We're kicking off a brand new series called **Stranger Things** — not about Demogorgons or the Upside Down — but about the moments in Scripture when people saw something so bizarre, so unexpected, that they didn't know what to do with it. The Bible is full of strange things — talking donkeys, skeletons coming to life, and even a ghost on the lake. And here's the truth: **when God shows up, it's often stranger than we expect — but better than we imagined.**"

Isaiah 55:8–9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God doesn't always do things the way we expect but every "strange thing" in scripture reveals something true about who He is and how He works.

Illustration – remember when we talked about seeing things that aren't real. The disciples did that. On the lake they thought they were seeing a ghost.

Matthew 14:25-27 - "Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them; 'take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"

Now that's strange, right? It had to be a ghost cause people can't walk on water... and yet Jesus did! The very thing they were afraid of was the very thing that was there to save them! **Faith often feels strange, but that's where Jesus is.** Maybe if we put our faith in Christ we too can walk on water!

[Video Illustration: Dash discovers he can run on water](#)