

# FOLLOW ME

*The Gospel of Matthew*

## SERIES OVERVIEW

This is the second part of our multi-part deep-dive into the gospel of Matthew. As with Part I, we will explore key passages in Matthew which help us understand not just the ministry of Jesus, but the realities faced by Matthew's first readers in the late first century. As a reminder, there are three key distinctives of Matthew which we will continue to build on through this series:

- **Kingdom Manifesto** – Matthew's gospel is a declaration of just how "upside-down" and unexpected the kingdom of God really is. The last are first, the poor are blessed, etc.
- **Discipleship Manual** – Matthew is writing intentionally to help his readers learn how to follow Jesus in their own lives.
- **Story of Fulfillment** – Over and over we see how Jesus fulfills the laws and promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.

## WEEK 1 - JESUS WALKS ON WATER (PETER I) OVERVIEW

In Part I of "Follow Me" we did a three-part miniseries about the Sermon on the Mount. This allowed us to dig even deeper to one specific section of the gospel. In Part II, we will also do a three-part miniseries; this time about the Apostle Peter. In these three messages we will explore some of the highs and lows of one of Jesus' closest disciples as he tries (and often fails) to understand the heart of his rabbi. In the first of these three messages, we will explore the tremendous faith of Peter to walk on water with Jesus, followed by his doubt which caused him to sink. In this brief episode on the water, Peter's experience teaches us a lot of what it means to follow Christ in a world filled with storms and waves.

*Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.  
But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink.*  
**Matthew 14:29-30**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think we are spending so much time studying Matthew this year?
2. Read [Matthew 14:22-27](#).
  - a. Why didn't Jesus rebuke the wind and the waves here like he did in [Matthew 8:26-27](#)?
  - b. What is the significance of Jesus' reassurance in [verse 27](#)? (See also [Exodus 3:14](#))
  - c. How would you describe the relationship God has with the waters of chaos, as depicted in [Isaiah 43:16](#) and [Job 9:8](#)?
3. Read [Matthew 14:28-33](#).
  - a. How does the reaction of the disciples in this passage compare to their reaction when Jesus calmed the storm in [Matthew 8:27](#)?
  - b. What does this passage tell us about Peter's personality and character?
  - c. What do you think Jesus is trying to convey in his response to Peter in [verse 31](#)?
4. If Matthew is a discipleship manual, what is he teaching us here about following Jesus?
5. How does this passage offer an invitation to dream bigger? (See also [Ephesians 3:20](#))