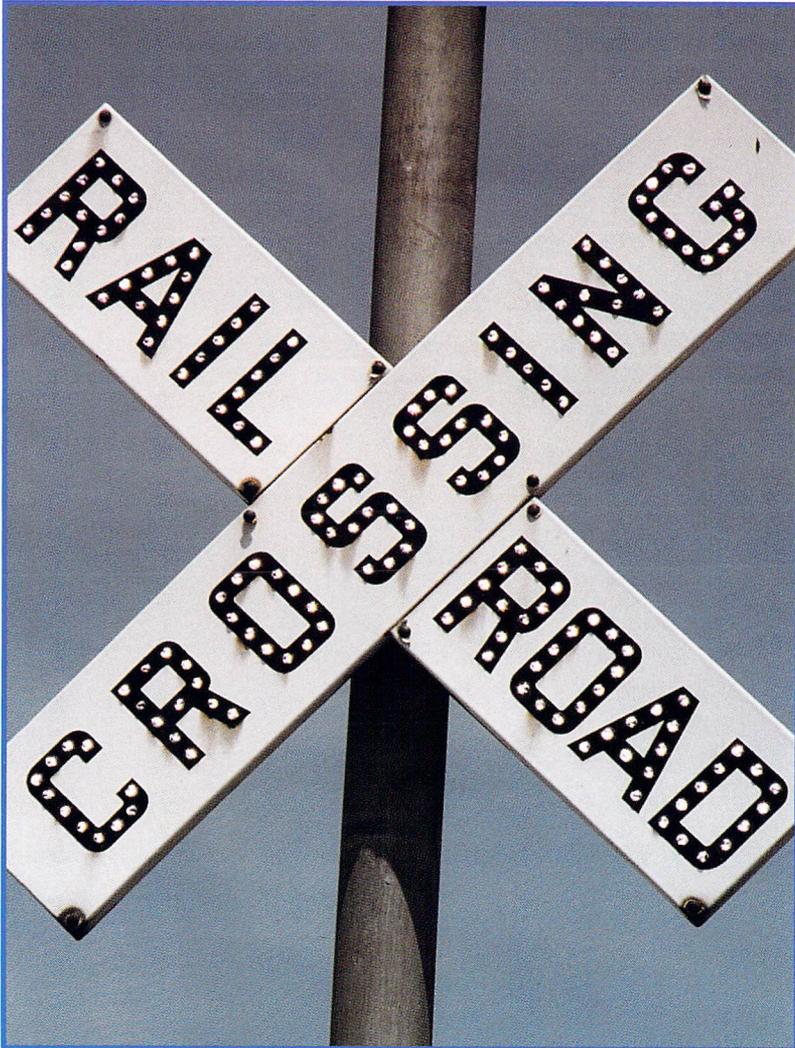


MY FUTURE



Introduction

Everybody identifies with Peter. He was always outspoken and doing things that he shouldn't. But he also was someone who was willing to take risks—sometimes crazy risks. This Bible story is one of those times.

Now, move into groups of 4 and have someone read the Scripture passage out loud. Then, discuss the questionnaire.

1. Imagine you were a journalist and met the disciples on the other side of the lake after this incident. What would you do next?
 - sell the story to *The National Enquirer*
 - develop a segment for *Unsolved Mysteries* on television
 - ignore it so that nobody would think I was crazy
 - gather testimony and write about it for a network news show
2. If you had been in the boat when the disciples saw someone walking on the water, what would you have said?
 - "I'm seeing things!"
 - "Where's Jesus?!"
 - "Let me out of here!"
 - "Do you see what I see?"
 - "I think I ate too many anchovies!"
 - I would have been speechless.
3. If you could put in a good word for Peter here in this story, what would you say?
 - He meant well.
 - He learned a lot from this experience.
 - He at least was willing to ask.
4. How are you at "stepping out of the boat" and taking risks?
 - just plain scared
 - I'll try anything once.
 - daring
 - I'm good at going second.
 - cautious—I put my big toe in first.

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³²And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:22-33

5. Where do you feel God is inviting you to get out of the boat now?
- in my relationships—dealing with a problem
 - in my future planning—doing something I've been afraid to try
 - in my inner life—facing a hang-up
 - in my spiritual walk—putting God first

6. Before you can do this, what is standing in the way?
- fear of failure
 - my negative thoughts
 - inconsistency
 - intellectual doubts
 - fear of standing alone
 - unhealthy relationships
 - sense of inadequacy
 - impulse to rush into things before counting the cost
 - other: _____
7. What would be the best way for God to help in the situation?
- be very gentle with me
 - give me a good kick in the pants
 - assure me it's okay to fail
 - surround me with supportive people
 - get out of the boat with me
8. What dreams do you have for the future? What risks are involved?
9. What are you facing in your life right now that you need to hear Jesus say, "Don't be afraid"?
10. How can this group help you in prayer this week?