Water-Walking Faith

Water-Walkers Pioneer	
SESSION GOALS	
The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing.	
MAIN IDEA: People with water-walking faith blaze new trails.  Head Change: To know that God calls ordinary people to live extraordinary lives.  Heart Change: To feel grateful that we serve the God of breakthrough, not breakeven.  Life Change: To live a life that says yes to God by dreaming, asking, initiating, and pioneering.	
OPEN  Have you ever tried water skiing, jet skiing, windsurfing, paddleboarding, or some other water sport? What thrills you, intrigues you, or terrifies you about water sports?	
You may have moved across water on all sorts of boards and boats, but probably never on your own feet. In this opening session of the series, Jason Mendis tells the familiar, always exhilarating story of Peter stepping out of the boat and walking on water toward Jesus. We'll explore the astonishing truth that God calls ordinary people and does extraordinary things in them and through them. If you long to live a purposeful life — for something bigger than yourself — then it's time to learn how to live with water-walking faith.	
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As you watch, write down how Jason answers these questions.

Whose idea was it for Peter to walk on water?

What did Jason's experience with his rugby league club teach him about how God works and about God's character?

According to Jason, what does it mean to 'live a life on green'?

Show SESSION #1: Water-Walkers Pioneer (11 minutes)

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## REVIEW

Jason opens this session by re-telling the story of Peter walking on water. He reassures us that God has called us to live lives of water-walking faith. Do you remember how old you were when you first heard or read Peter's water-walking story? What did it make you think of Peter? What did it make you think of Jesus?

Jason reckons the reason this story resonates with us so deeply is that God took an ordinary man living an ordinary

Jason reckons the reason this story resonates with us so deeply is that God took an ordinary man living an ordinary life in an ordinary place and He did something extraordinary in him and through him. Do you long to live a life of purpose? What does that mean to you? What might a purposeful life look like in your current season or circumstances? In contrast, what might an average or mundane life look like? Who stands out to you as someone who lives for a cause bigger than themselves — a cause that will outlive them?

Matthew 14:22–32 gives us the account of Peter stepping out of the boat and heading toward Jesus. Was it Jesus' idea or Peter's idea for Peter to walk on water? Does this surprise you? Why, or why not? What do we learn from Peter's attitude and his subsequent actions about being 'water-walkers'?

Jason says, 'Water-walkers pioneer. They initiate. They start things. They're asking... they're kicking things off. Water-walkers pioneer.' Discuss the idea that sometimes we need to wait on God, and sometimes God is waiting on us to dream, pray, and initiate. Where or how do you think God may be waiting on you to believe, serve, give, or start something in your circles of influence and concern right now?

James 4:2 says, 'You have not because you ask not.'
Jason believes that some of our greatest breakthroughs are left unfulfilled in our minds because they never leave our mouths. We never ask. Can you share about a time when asking God for a breakthrough set change in motion in your life? How would you encourage someone to begin praying about a dream or desire? How might you encourage someone who has been asking God for a breakthrough but the breakthrough hasn't come?

Jason reminds us that we should step out in faith by

1/8/24, 11:50 AM Reader

us. Practically, what does 'stepping out in faith' look or feel like in your current circumstances? Does stepping out in faith always yield immediate results? Why, or why not? What will you ask God for today?	
Jason tells the story of asking for his pack of member paraphernalia from his rugby league club— and getting even more than he'd hoped for or expected. He makes the point that God is generous. He's not the God of breakeven; He's the God of breakthrough. Share your experiences of times when God didn't just give you your heart's desires, He gave you more. How would you explain to your kids or to someone who has recently put their faith in Jesus that God is into abundance, not scarcity?	
Jason and his wife have committed to living their lives 'on green'. That means their default response to God is yes. Would your family and close friends describe you as cautious, spontaneous, risk-averse, or impulsive? Do you live your life more 'on red' or 'on green'? Do you generally tend to find more reasons to say no to God, or more reasons to say yes to God? Why do you think we need to shift from red to green if we want to live lives of water-walking faith?	
Peter didn't wait for instruction and he didn't wait for conditions to be perfect. He initiated an encounter with Jesus. What do you have faith to pioneer in this season? What would it cost you to initiate or take responsibility or step into the life God has called you to live?	
We tend to wait for the ideal setting or circumstance before we launch ourselves into something new or different or bigger or better. God is just waiting for our	
obedience. What is your next right step of obedience?	
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## **BIBLE EXPLORATION**

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus says, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you' (NIV). Another version reads, 'Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you' (NLT). Is there an area of your life where you need to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking? Do you need to persevere practically or in prayer?

John writes, 'Dear children, let us not love with words or

John writes, 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' (1 John 3:18). What have you been talking or dreaming about for a long time? What action do you need to take to translate the dream into reality?

The same Peter who walked on water later wrote, 'So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world' (1 Peter 1:13). Discuss the idea that, although Peter had matured in his faith by the time he wrote his letters, he still possessed the same passion for pursuing Jesus that he did when he walked on water. Does he remind you of anyone you know?

In another letter, Peter wrote, '...make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ' (2 Peter 1:5–8). **Discuss how Peter's words here are something of a manifesto for pioneering, water-walking faith.** 

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## **LAST WORD**

Perhaps to begin living a life of water-walking faith your first step needs to be just that: a *step*. Perhaps you've been waiting for God when all the time God has been waiting for you to take a step out of the boat by dreaming, asking, and initiating. Remember too that water-walkers pioneer but they don't do so alone. God's presence goes with you as you pioneer, and His presence is an invitation into the impossible and the miraculous because the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. Perhaps it's time to go where you've never gone before and do what you've never done before. It's time to believe for a breakthrough because Jesus Himself says, 'I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father' (John 14:12).

## **DEEPER WALK**

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

**Read:** This week, read through the book of James. He talks a lot about actively, front-footedly living out our faith. Is God prompting you not just to pray but to pioneer?

**Write:** Perhaps you haven't ever been honest with yourself about the dreams stirring in your heart. Spend some time writing them down. Be specific. If a first step — or a next step — comes to mind, write that down too. It's never too late or too soon to begin to pioneer.

**Pray:** Who in your community strikes you as particularly courageous and humble? Dare to ask them to pray with you and for you, that God would engender in you a brave and pioneering spirit as He stretches your water-walking faith.