Water-Walking Faith

Water-Walkers Trust	
SESSION GOALS	
The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing.	
MAIN IDEA: Jesus is trustworthy. Head Change: To know that our faith is not in our ability to walk on water; our faith is in God's ability to catch us when we fall. Heart Change: To give thanks that Jesus is always closer than we can imagine. Life Change: To take the next brave step into the unknown, knowing that it's not unknown to God, and we can trust Him.	
OPEN	
Estimate (or use the calculator on your phone) how many times in your life you've sat in a chair, slept in a bed, eaten in a restaurant, or flown in a plane. What role did trust play in any or all of these activities? Have you ever done a tandem skydive? If not, what's stopping you?	
In this session, Jason points out that trust is incredibly powerful, and it plays a pervasive role in all our lives. Yet, we so often struggle to trust God. Peter's story again stirs our faith, training us in the truth that water-walkers trust.	
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REVIEW

Jason points out that every day we trust people we don't know or have never met. We trust objects and appliances without a second thought. Why, then, do we find it so difficult to trust God? The account of Peter walking on water is a powerful story of trust on display. Matthew 14:31 tells us that immediately – without any intervening time or space – Jesus reaches out His hand to take hold of Peter when he starts sinking. Do you tend to think of God as a God of the immediate? Why, or why not? Can you trace times in your life when you were aware of God stepping in to rescue you immediately? Have there been times when it felt as if God didn't step in at all, never mind immediately? How have you reconciled those experiences with your faith in Him? Jason reminds us to be grateful that we serve a God who isn't far off in the clouds; He immediately steps into our circumstances. What does Emmanuel mean? Do you take particular comfort in the truth that God goes ahead of you, or are you more comforted knowing that He's with you? Why? Mostly, we want God to rescue us from storms. Often, however. He doesn't take us out of the storm but rather walks with us through the storm. Why do you think God does this? What are some of the things you've learned during stormy seasons of life? How did God help and provide for you during those storms? Describe a time when it felt as if Jesus was very far away - and then suddenly He showed up powerfully in your situation. The disciples recognised Jesus because they'd done life with Him for years. What would it take for you to get better at recognising Jesus in your circumstances? Jason says, 'Our faith is not in our ability to walk on water. Our faith is in God's ability to catch us when we fall.' Which of your natural abilities, gifts, or skills do you tend to rely on or put your faith in? Has your skillset ever let you down? This week, what could you do or think differently, shifting your faith so you're trusting completely in Jesus?

None of us can tell the future. We never really know what will happen next, or where our next step will take us but God does, and He is ready to catch us, immediately, when we fall. If you find it particularly hard to trust, can you trace that struggle to an event or an experience that hurt you? What would healing look like in your life?	der
BIBLE EXPLORATION	
Read Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6, and Matthew 1:23. What does God with us mean to you personally? How would you explain to someone who has recently put their faith in Jesus, what it means that He is Emmanuel?	
God is not just with you. The Bible is full of prepositions telling you the truth that God is also for you (Romans 8:31), He goes ahead of you (Deuteronomy 31:8), He hems you in behind and before and He lays His hand upon you (Psalm 139:5). Also, God is in you (2 Corinthians 4:7, Colossians 1:27), and underneath you are the everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27). You are completely surrounded. If time allows, read through all these	
verses, and discuss which prepositional truth resonates most deeply with you.	
In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says, 'Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.' How does this verse comfort, convict, or challenge you to muster your water-walking faith and put all your trust in Jesus? Practically, how would obeying Jesus' instruction in Matthew 6:33 play out in your life?	
LAST WORD	
Before heading into the final session of this series, ask yourself honestly: Do I really trust Jesus? Am I trying to walk on water by my own strength? May you rest in the truth that you can't save yourself, but you have a Saviour. You can't heal yourself, but you have a Healer. With Jesus, all things are possible, and you can trust Him as you step into all He's called you to be and do. He loves you faithfully and unconditionally. He is always nearer than	
you think, ready to catch you when you fall.	

DEEPER WALK

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

Read: Meditate on Psalm 56:3–4. When the psalmist was afraid, he put his trust in God and the result was confidence, assurance, and hope. What are you afraid of? What's your next step?

Write: If you are struggling to trust God and others, write a letter to God and have it out with Him. Scrawl out the reasons – all your disappointment and all the ways you've been hurt or betrayed. Then write out a prayer of surrender, asking God to help you to trust.

Pray: Pray every day this week for a tangible sense of God's presence, wherever your feet take you. Ask God to help you recognise His immediacy. Ask Him to help you know how close He is, every moment.