

# TIED UP IN NOTES

## WEEK 4 | LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - DOUBT NOT

### CONNECT

- Has someone ever doubted you or showed a lack of confidence in you? What were the circumstances around that? How did that make you feel?

### CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

### CHRIST

- Read **Matthew 14:22-33**
- There are many protagonists in this story. We have the 12 disciples, the boat, the storm, and of course Jesus Himself. We see the disciples in the boat struggling to get where they were going, Jesus walking on the water in the midst of the storm. Upon Peter's request, Jesus encouraged Peter to do the same. Peter was actually accomplishing this miraculous feat until he began sinking. There is some scholarly debate over the true meaning of this story. Here are some questions to consider:
  - **What is your interpretation of this story?**
  - **What does the boat represent?**
  - **What does the storm represent?**
  - **What allowed Peter to actually walk on the water for a period of time?**
  - **Why did Peter start to sink?**
  - **Why did Jesus even ask Peter to attempt this in the first place?**
- Nothing in the Bible is there by accident. Here the Word says that when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and began to sink. **What does this tell us about the effects of fear in our lives?**
- The title of the message this past weekend was "Doubt Not." **Is doubt the same as fear? Does one come before the other? Discuss...**
- We asked you at the beginning of these study questions to recall a time when someone doubted you or showed a lack of confidence in you and how that made you feel. **When we doubt God or show a lack of confidence or faith in Him, how do you think that makes Him feel?**

# TIED UP IN NOTES

- We see in this passage of Matthew 14 when Peter began to sink that “immediately” Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. At times, some of us have experienced this same “immediate” response from the Lord when we’ve been in times of fear or doubt. At other times, the Lord may have not shown up quite as quickly (at least in our minds). **Why do you think there is a difference in the timing of the Lord’s?**

## CALLING

- It is said that doubt gives us an opportunity to work out our faith. **Jude 22 tells us to “be merciful to those who doubt.”** However, maybe in the past we have not shown mercy or given grace to those who have doubted the Lord or showed a lack of faith in Him. We may have even condemned people for their lack of faith or even been hard on ourselves for having those same feelings of doubt and fear. If so, make it part of your regular prayers to ask God to give you His heart for those with these feelings and especially if you are having those feelings about yourself.
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend some time each day with Northside devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside’s App for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6*
- **Further Reflection:** If you are one of those who journals, a good exercise to do when you are struggling with anything, but in this case doubt and fear, is to write down the thoughts of God. You can do this by praying and asking God His thoughts about you. Using the format of writing down God’s thoughts as if He was talking directly to you will help. It would look like this:
  - o (Insert your name here), you are (insert God’s thoughts about you here).

You can write down as many thoughts as you hear God saying to you. The more, the better! Pray, listen to what He is saying to you during this time, then keep the pen moving and the conversation with God going.