CURRICULUM GUIDE
Neighbors to Nations
Season 8, Episode 3
November 8-14

LEADER NOTES

If we know people and are helping ground them in Jesus, eventually we have to **give them opportunities to practice what they are learning.** Sometimes leaders believe they are discipling someone because they are teaching them. But Jesus did more than teach His disciples—He gave them responsibility. He let them participate in ministry, make mistakes, ask questions, and grow along the way. **This week, ask yourself: Who am I developing, not simply leading?** Look around your group. Who could lead prayer? Who could facilitate part of the discussion? Who could organize the next hangout, welcome someone new, coordinate a serve opportunity, or begin investing in another person? Don't wait until someone feels completely ready. Give them a meaningful next step, set them up to succeed, and then walk alongside them.

A simple rhythm can look like:
Identify → Invite → Practice → Debrief → Release

And remember: **empowerment without shepherding is abandonment.** Trusting someone does not mean handing them responsibility and disappearing. Encourage them. Coach them. Give honest feedback. Celebrate growth. Give grace when it isn't perfect.

Your goal is not to remain indispensable to your group. **Part of discipleship is helping other people discover that God can use them too.**

Important links: Join our Leader GroupMe

DISCOVER

Reading Schedule Discussion

November 15-21: Acts 9 **November 22-28:** Acts 10 **November 29-December 5:** Acts 11

Guiding Questions

What was the main idea and context of this week's chapter?
What was encouraging about the chapter? What was challenging?
What did it teach you about the character of God?
What does it reveal about humanity?
What truth, command, warning, and/or promise should we pay attention to?
How can this be applicable to your life this week?

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Sermon Text(s): *Matthew 14:22–33; 1 Peter 1:3*
Big Idea: Where has God asked YOU to step out in faith?
Connect Question: If you had to be on a reality TV show, which one would you choose?

DEEPEN

Read Matthew 14:22-33. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?

When the Storm Comes

1. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples into the boat when He knew a storm was coming? What does this reveal about following Him?
2. There are five possible reasons we experience storms: living in a broken world, someone else's sin, our own sin, demonic attack, or God's sovereign hand. How does understanding these possibilities shape the way you respond to difficult circumstances?
3. Why do you think we often interpret difficult circumstances as evidence that God is absent, rather than opportunities to grow in our trust of Him?

Remember Who Is in the Storm

4. The disciples had already witnessed Jesus calm a storm before this moment. Why do you think they still struggled to recognize Him and trust Him?
5. The sermon emphasized that "forgetfulness is the enemy of our faith." What are some ways we can intentionally remember God's faithfulness when we are overwhelmed by our current circumstances?
6. Fear can convince us that God is not good or will not take care of us. What are some lies fear has caused you to believe, and how does Scripture help you combat those lies?
7. Jesus tells the disciples not to be afraid—not because the storm isn't scary, but because He is present. What is the difference between having peace because your circumstances are good and having peace because Jesus is with you?

Get Out of the Boat

8. What is something Jesus may be calling you to do that feels uncomfortable, uncertain, or even a little unreasonable?
9. Pastor Joby asked, "Are you doubting you or are you doubting God?" How might that question challenge the way you approach something God is calling you to do?
10. What is one practical step you can take this week to obey Jesus, even if it feels uncomfortable or uncertain? How can your group encourage you and hold you accountable?

1825 is a ministry of The Church of Eleven22 that exists to connect 18-25 year olds to their role in the Great Commission.

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