

Week 7: Kingdom Conflict

Life in the Kingdom of God is not without conflict and chaos. We have an enemy who brings opposition, making the mission difficult. But the story of Jesus walking on the water reminds us that He always sees our struggle and comes to us in the moment of our greatest need, giving us the confidence to keep "straining at the oars."

Discussion Questions:

- 1. **Read Mark 6:45-46**. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples ahead while He stayed behind to pray? What does this reveal about Jesus' role in our lives today? How does knowing that Jesus is interceding for you (Romans 8:34) give you confidence to live for Him?
- 2. **Read Mark 6:47-48**. Have you ever felt like Jesus doesn't see your struggles or doesn't even care? What do these verses reveal about his character and care for us? How can knowing that Jesus sees you and comes to you help you navigate the storms of life?
- 3. In **Mark 6:50**, Jesus tells the disciples, "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Why do you think fear is such a natural response in storms? How does knowing Jesus is with us change our perspective?
- 4. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples ahead of Him knowing a storm was coming? What does this tell us about obedience and following Jesus? Have you ever faced opposition when trying to follow God's calling? How did you respond?
- 5. Is there a "storm" you are facing right now? How does this story encourage you to keep "straining at the oars"? How can the group support you in the storm?