

"Controlled Chaos"

1. If you have one, share a frightening story about the sea or any large body of water. If you don't have a story, share an image of the sea that best helps you understand why the ancient world would associate it with chaos and death.
2. Read John's account of Jesus walking on the water in John 6:16–21. What other important sea stories from the Bible can you recall? Can you detect a common theme, a common truth about God, taught in all these stories?

In one sentence, what is the truth pointed to by the "sign" of Jesus walking on the water? In what circumstances do you most need to be reminded of this truth?

3. "They were frightened. But he said to them, 'It is I; don't be afraid.'" (6:19b–20) Evaluate the following two statements. Is there merit in both, or are they mutually exclusive?

A genuine encounter with God will produce fear. If not, we have failed to perceive his awesome power and holiness.

The more we come to know God, the more we will realize we have nothing to fear in his presence.

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?