

# Small Group Notes

## UNAFRAID, Week 1 *“Unafraid to Jump”*

Peter was one of the first followers of Jesus. He was an outspoken and passionate disciple. He was one of Jesus’ closest friends, an apostle, and a “pillar” of the early church. As a matter of fact, Peter would be the “Rock” on which Jesus would build His church. Peter would become the leader of Jesus’ closest followers, be crucified upside-down and write two books of scripture that bear his name. But for all his strengths, he had several failings in his life as well. Peter was enthusiastic, strong-willed, impulsive, and, at times, brash and hotheaded. Still, God who chose him continued to mold him into exactly who He intended Peter to be.

### STARTER QUESTIONS

1. When fear grips you, how have you dealt with it in the past?
2. Have you ever had an event in your life that has forced you to grow in your faith?

### SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend’s teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

### WATCH THE VIDEO

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is one time you did something that you were super terrified to do but you did it anyway?

#### **Read Aloud: Matthew 14:22-33**

2. This week, we talked about the story of Peter getting out of the boat and actually walking on water. Jesus is the only other person that has EVER done this. Some would say it took great faith to get out of the boat. Others would say he failed because he noticed the waves and began to sink. What do you think? Was it faith or just typical Peter boldness and folly? Was this a win or a fail for Peter? Why?
3. Thinking through the last ten years of your life, have you been more prone to “get out of the boat” facing possible failure, living life unafraid, or have you played it safe and “stayed dry?”
4. In Matthew 14:25-32, what is Peter afraid of?

The account of Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on water is one of many great faith accounts from the Bible. Another is the account of Queen Esther: a Jewish Queen married to a Gentile king. The King’s right-hand man hated the Jews and had issued a decree that, on a certain day, all Jews should be killed. Esther’s cousin Mordecai asked her to approach the

King to plead for mercy on behalf of the Jews. Esther knew it was against the law to approach the king uninvited and it was punishable by death. But, she approached the King anyway.

5. Have someone read aloud Esther 4:12-16. What is Esther afraid of?
6. Both Peter and Esther chose to take a leap of faith in spite of their fear. How do you think God grew them and others through their actions?
7. Peter was known to be impulsive. Without much consideration, he stepped out of the boat and onto the water to walk toward Jesus. Esther was much slower to act. She took three days to fast and pray before her big moment. Is one approach better than the other? Which approach is most like yours? Can you share an example?
8. When Peter stepped out of the boat, he could see Jesus in front of him. How do you think Esther knew God was with her? How can you know God is with you when you step out in faith?

### **PRAYER**

Close your group with prayer. Pray for one another and for God's help as you seek to live unafraid and fully trust Him in faith.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Living an unafraid life is not always about the absence of fear. Often it is learning to fail forward trusting in God's plan. What do you think God is asking you to "step out of the boat" and trust him with today?

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Our next baptism opportunity will be on May 18 and 19. You can learn more and register at [baptism.sv.cc](http://baptism.sv.cc)