

**Walking on Water – Growth Group Study**

**8/11/20 – John 6.16-24**

**John Malcolm**

**What do you see as the key differences between the nature of the recent American election and the election here in New Zealand?**

What marks the difference in attitude to power between Jesus and modern politicians?

**Read Deuteronomy 18:15 & John 6.14-15**

Why was Moses such an important figure in Jesus' day?

What expectation from the Old Testament do the crowd associate with Jesus and why might they have come to this conclusion about him?

Why do you think Jesus was not interested in the desire of the crowd to enthrone him?

**Read Hebrews 3:3-6**

In his gospel John records a number of events that echo events in the life of Moses

Manna in the wilderness – feeding the 5000

Water flowing from a rock – Jesus' promise of living water flowing from his followers

Walking through the Red sea – Jesus walking on water

Why might it have been important for John to show Jesus is greater than Moses?

**Read Matthew 14:22 & John 6.16-17**

What reason does Matthew give for the disciples getting into the boat?

Why do you think Jesus sent them away rather than leaving them there with the crowd?

**Read Proverbs 13:12 & John 6.18-19**

What hindered the disciples as they tried to cross the lake?

How might the picture of the disciples rowing be like an image of our lives?

Replace the word rowing with the word praying, praising, serving or some other Christian actions Jesus might send us to do. How do you feel when you are not making much headway in prayer, praise ...?

What waves are breaking in our community and limiting our progress?

What deferred hopes do you or we as a church struggle with?

**Read Psalm 42:3 & 11, Matthew 14:26, John 6:20–21 & 14:27**

What does the writer of the Psalms do when faced with troubles?

Why were Jesus' disciples frightened?

How does Jesus comfort them?

What happened when Jesus got into the boat?

What difference does the presence of Jesus make to us when we are struggling?

**Read Psalm 27.1, 121:4 & 1 Peter 5.7**

What reasons do we find here to trust God even when we face hardship?

What lessons might the disciples have learned when Jesus walked on water and joined them in the boat?

**For reflection**

Why did Jesus resist being taken to a throne, but allowed himself to be taken to a cross?

Take a moment to put down the oars of your life, to focus on Jesus rather than on the waves and to remember the great power of the king who is in the boat with you.