

Study Guide for August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Walking on the water. John 6:16-21

Introduction: Describe a time you were reassured by a sense of God's presence. What criteria helped you evaluate that experience? What did it teach you about God?

I. (Not) Alone in the night: John 6:16-17

- A. At what time of the day are these recorded events? What if any significance?
- B. Where are the disciples going? How are they traveling? Where is Jesus?
- C. Read Ex. 14:19-20. What happened for the Israelites as they endured a long night?
- D. Reflect on Psalm 139:11-12. When have you been aware of God in the night?

II. Terrified by the sight: John 6:18-19

- A. What were the disciples encountering on the lake? How do you think they felt?
- B. What do they see (vs. 19)? What conclusion do they draw from their observation?
- C. How do you explain the disciple's fear and conclusion?
- D. When you last terrified? What was the source of your fear?

III. Calmed by the word: John 6:20

- A. How does Jesus identify himself to the disciples? What if any significance?
- B. Note how God identifies himself in the following passages and the application.
  - 1) Is. 41:10, 13:
  - 2) Is. 43:1-3:
  - 3) Is. 44:2:
- C. Do you think the physical presence of Jesus alleviated the disciples' fear?

IV. Safe at the shore: John 6:21

- A. When did the disciples receive Jesus into the boat? What happened then?
- B. Read and relate Psalm 107:23-32 to this experience by the disciples.
- C. What lessons do you derive from this miracle about what Jesus wants to teach us?