

# Life Groups

## Signposts to Jesus



• 2026

• TOPIC 5 • JOHN 6:16-24

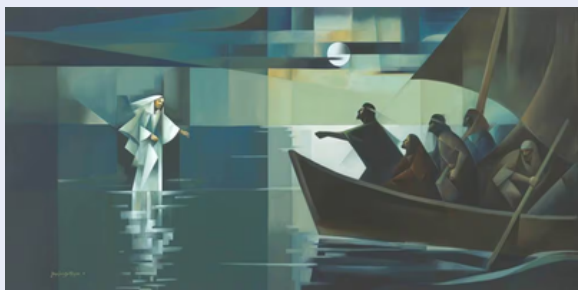
### Topic

Jesus walks on the water

### First Thoughts

The first four signs point us to Jesus as the source of abundant new life, as the authority over sickness, as the source of lasting healing and as the divine provider.

This fifth sign demonstrates once again that Jesus is the successor to Moses but also that he has power over the elements, even over nature itself, regardless of how chaotic it can often be. Each sign shows us something more of the divine nature of Jesus, the logos we heard of at the start of the gospel.



1. Throughout the bible, water is often viewed as unpredictable chaos and disorder. How accurate is this description of how life can feel?

2. Can you think of any accounts in the scriptures when the stormy sea is tamed?

### Focus

Jesus has fed the 5000 and has spent time teaching them. Rather than hearing his teaching, eating and leaving, the crowds begin to recognise Jesus as a prophet, even “the prophet who has come into the world”. Rather than being forced into a corner, Jesus withdraws to spend time alone.

### The Scriptures

 Read John 6:16-24

What importance does John give the sign of the feeding of the 5000? See v14

Why do you think the disciples left for Capernaum? See v16-17, 24

### Going Further

1. Does the text suggest the disciples expected Jesus to join them later? v17

2. Read Job 9:6-9. Do you think this passage helps us understand the events of John 6?

3. In Exodus God tells Moses to raise his staff before He parts the sea (Exodus 14). Do you think John is telling us that Jesus is like Moses or is it something more?

4. Why do you think the disciples are initially afraid? See v18-19

5. When Jesus speaks he says “It is I”. The literal translation is “I am”. What do you think the significance of this was to the disciples?

## Going Further continued

6. Jesus uses the “I am” statement around 35 times in this gospel. Why do you think John tells us that Jesus uses this unique reference so often? What is the message for his readers? See Exodus 3:14.

7. Read Psalm 107:28-30. One commentator says of the disciples, “the one who fed them also brought them home safe”. What do you think of this idea?

## Life Application

1. What lesson do you think John is impressing upon his readers about who Jesus is in this short passage?

2. Is there an important lesson for us here in trusting God to bring us safely to our final destination?

3. How important do you think it is for us to “go looking for Jesus”? See v24

4. Somebody once said, “Jesus doesn't just calm the storm; He gets in the boat with you.” What do you make of this? Is it a comforting thought?

**“After the suggestions that Jesus might be the prophet and king, now we have hints of him acting like God.”**

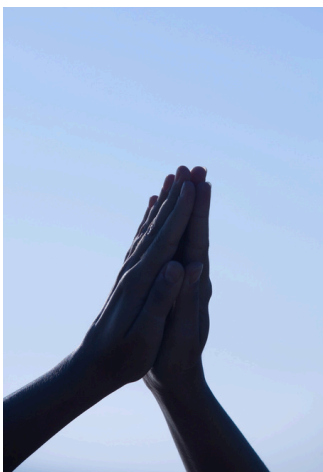
**- Richard Burrige**

**“In the light of his power over nature, Jesus thus goes beyond reassuring the disciples and claims for himself a divine identity and authority.”**

**- Scott Hahn**

## Prayer

A prayer of St. Benedict



Gracious and Holy Father,  
give us the wisdom to discover You,  
the intelligence to understand You,  
the diligence to seek after You,  
the patience to wait for You,  
eyes to behold You,  
a heart to meditate upon You,  
and a life to proclaim You,  
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen

## To finish

Take a few moments to thank God for His care, protection and guidance in our lives. Give thanks for the times when Jesus has calmed the storm and for the times when we have known his presence with us in the boat.

Ask God to fully enable us to see Jesus for who he is. Ask the Father to draw our unbelieving family members to Jesus so that they too can see him and accept him for who he is.