

Talk About Matthew 14:13-22

The following questions can be used as a starting point for engaging with this passage as a part of Highland's "Practice of the Month." It can be used on its own as an introductory resource or in connection with some of the additional resources provided. Most of the questions provided below can be answered by all ages, so feel free to spend time answering them as a personal reflection or in a larger group or with family.

- Begin by reading the passage. It may be helpful to read it out loud or listen to someone else read. As you do so, you may want to attempt to paint a picture in your mind of the events taking place. As you read/listen, try to pay attention to what jumps out as important or peculiar to you, as well as the questions and gaps in your painting. After reading/listening to the passage, spend some time answering a few of the following questions:
 - What stands out to you? It could be an action, a quote, a phrase, a feeling, or an image. If someone asked you to explain why this stood out to you, what would you say?
 - What does your painting of the scene look like? What colours did you use? Who are all the characters? If you put yourself in the scene, what did you smell? ...taste? ...hear? ...feel?
 - Were there gaps in the scene that leave you wondering or asking questions?
 - What differences are there between your experience of the world and the experience of those who originally lived out this scene? What similarities are there?
 - If you zoom in on Jesus, what do you notice about him during this scene? What actions does he take? What does he say? What does Jesus not do or say?
 - How does this close-up on Jesus make you feel? Are there aspects that surprise you? ...that you like? ...that you dislike?
 - If you zoom out from the scene, you may recognize that this scene is part of a broader story taking place. The broader story of chapter 14, the broader story of the book of Matthew, the Bible, of God's relationship with humanity. How do you think this passage fits into all of that?
- Have fun!