

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Matthew 14:22-33. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Peter's faith helped him to trust that Jesus would not let him fall. Peter may have lost his footing and become distracted by the storm around him, but Jesus remained present and did not let Peter fall. Has your faith ever been tested like this? Have you ever found yourself taking a leap or step of faith, hoping Jesus was present and ready to extend his hand to rescue you?

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create — Writing

- Write about a “stormy” time in your life when you felt God's presence with you or your family. Did you rely on God during this time? Did it feel unnatural to trust God in this situation? Why or why not? Who, besides God, helped you through this rough time? Did you experience or see God in those who helped you?
- Write a poem titled “Face to Face.” This poem can be through Peter's eyes, another disciple's eyes, Jesus' eyes, or your own.

✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

- Create a piece of mosaic art by pasting tiny scraps of torn paper together to form a picture or scene based

on our scripture text today. Give your work of art a title when you are finished.

✔ Create — Outside the Box

Using the art supplies provided, create:

- Complete one or all of the phrases, “Jesus is holding me, when...” “God is present, even if...” “Christ is beside me, although I...” Continue to complete one or all of these phrases over and over again, adding in different answers each time. Give yourself the freedom to respond however you feel- no answer is wrong, no answer is too shocking, no answer will hurt God's feelings. Respond honestly.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and explain their meaning, or tell the stories behind them.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for being present in the midst of stormy times. Ask God to always be present and open armed to us all along our journeys.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

by Carra Hughes Greer

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