**Dealing with Doubt – Week 2**

**Opening Discussion:**

1. How do you think Christians view those who have doubts?

**Read Matthew 14:22-31**

**Discuss:**

1. Any initial observations from this text?
2. Do you relate with Peter? Why or why not?
3. What does this passage teach us about God?
4. What does it teach us about ourselves?

*Joe suggested there are three benefits from doubt:* ***humility, dependence, and patience.***

**Humility***: doubts force us to recognize we don’t have all the answers. That we can’t always walk on water. Faith pushed Peter into a place of risk, and doubt made that place dangerous.*

1. Was there ever a time in your life where you thought you had all the answers?
2. How did you move from being a know-it-all to being more humble and searching?
3. Do you have a specific step of faith in your life that was especially risk-taking? How did it go?
4. If you were to “step out of the boat” now, what would it look like? What risk-taking endeavor is God calling you to?
5. Does the fear of failure keep you from taking that step?

**Dependence*:*** *like Peter, doubt forces us to cry out to God in desperation. Peter cried out “Lord save me.”*

1. If you could only pray one prayer the rest of your life, and it could be no more than 5 words long, what would that prayer be?
2. *Personal Reflection*: Do you believe God can catch you even if you fall?

**Patience:** *sometimes**God gives us a sign that is immediate, other times God gives us a sign that is cumulative—we know that God is who God says God is because of the overarching story of our lives and all the ways God has worked.*

1. In your faith journey, taking a bird’s eye view, do you consider yourself just starting out, somewhere in the middle, or closer to the end?
2. Do you have enough of a walk with God to be able to look back and see how God has worked? Do you take time to “remember” what God has done? How has this practice helped increase your confidence in God?
3. Have you ever experienced an immediate sign from God that confirmed something you were searching? Can you share about it?

**Closing discussion:**

1. Besides humility, dependence, and patience, can you think of any other benefits of doubt?
2. Any other thoughts or discussions regarding this topic or scripture reading?

Close in prayer.