

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. What are some things that made you afraid of the dark when you were a child?

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Explain how someone can be "in the dark" and the emotions that person might experience.
  - Talk about what darkness may look like metaphorically.
  - Compare with Ephesians 4:18-19, 1 John 1:5-6, and John 8:12.
3. The miracle of Jesus walking on the water, recorded in three of the Gospels.
  - Take time to read the 3 scriptures: Matthew 14:22–36; Mark 6:45–56; John 6:16–21. came on the heels of His miraculous feeding of the 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:17). The story unfolds at the Sea of Galilee, which lies in the lower portion of the Jordan Valley in a mountain range that rises to 4,000 feet above sea level. The lake itself is 700 feet below the Mediterranean Sea. One of the more noteworthy aspects of this body of water is that it is greatly susceptible to sudden and extremely violent storms. These storms are caused by the cold air rushing down from the mountains surrounding it and colliding with the warm, moist air rising off the surface of the water itself.
4. Read Mark 6:45-48.
  - The words, "Later that night", mean it was around 6:00 PM. What does verse 48 mean to you?
  - The words "shortly before dawn" mean it was between 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM.
5. The disciples were struggling for at least nine hours!
  - Did Jesus know they were struggling that long?
  - Why didn't Jesus help them out immediately?
  - How does this relate to our everyday life?
  - Compare this quote from Beth Moore, "We want Christ to hurry up and calm the storm. He wants us to find Him in the midst of it first."
6. What do the disciples see Mark 6:48-50?
  - What was their emotion?
  - Did anyone recognize Jesus?
  - What do these verses tell us about our human nature when facing darkness?
  - Stephen Wellum, said, "Fear and faith cannot live in the same heart, for fear frequently blinds the eyes to the presence of the Lord."

7. Right now, we are in a dark pandemic season.
  - We can't see what's in front of us. We don't know how long it will last. We don't know how schools will operate. We are all thinking of this virus.
  - How does this dark pandemic season compare to the disciples in the storm?
8. What did Jesus tell the disciples in verse fifty?
  - What do the words, "Don't be afraid" mean in its literal form?
  - Compare this with Isaiah 41:10, and Psalm 139:11-12.
9. According to Psalm 1:1-2, what does a blessed person do in the dark?
  - Dwight L. Moody said, "Character is what you are in the dark."
  - What are your thoughts?
10. God does some of His best work in the dark.
  - What did He do in the dark in Exodus 14:19-21.
  - Can you think of other examples in the bible that God worked in the dark?
11. Read Mark 6:51-56. Share any additional thoughts with your group.

### **Application**

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Jesus knows when you need Him the most.
- It didn't dawn on the disciples that day and night are the same to our God.
- There is a spiritual darkness that affects our ability to see Jesus.
- There's darkness in this pandemic.
- Fear and reason don't go together.
- God does some of His best work in the dark.