BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 14:22-34

Open It:

What is the riskiest thing you have ever done? What made it risky?

Dig Into It:

- 1. Read *Matthew 14:22-27* and answer the following questions:
 - a) Why did Jesus stay behind and send His disciples across the lake without Him?
 - b) Why do you think Jesus spent time alone in prayer?
 - c) What purpose was there in Jesus walking across the lake instead of around it? Did He mean for the disciples to see Him?
 - d) The disciples thought they saw a ghost; how did Jesus reassure them?
- 2. Read Matthew 14:28-34 and answer the following questions:
 - a) Why did Peter insist Jesus invite him out onto the water?
 - b) How do you think Peter felt when his feet first touched the water and he didn't sink?
 - c) Why did Peter sink? What was the first thing he said when he started to go under?
 - d) Why did Jesus say Peter had, "little faith"?

Reflect on it:

- 1. When you read this story, does it make you see Peter in a positive or a negative light?
- 2. Many have criticized Peter for becoming afraid and sinking, but do you think most of those critics would have gotten out of the boat in the first place? Would you?
- 3. In what areas of your life does Jesus want you to "get out of the boat"? What is holding you back?
- 4. If Jesus came to you today and asked, "What risks are you taking for the kingdom of God?" how would you answer?
- 5. Do you think the church and individual Christians should search for ways to "risk" for God? Why or why not?
- 6. In what way can we pray for you today?

Pray About It:

Name:	Need: