

# PJP Aquatics



Paul, Jonah,  
& Peter  
Aquatic Sportsmen



Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Session 1

## Introduction

Welcome to Lake Texoma and the Tomball Methodist Youth Program. We're glad you've taken time out of your busy summer schedules to join us for this great trip. You can really find lifelong friendships on trips like this and we're grateful for the opportunity to get to know you.

This journal is filled with questions and stories to help you process all the information and lessons we've prepared for you. Feel free to use it as you wish and to write whatever you'd like in it - it's yours - no one else will be reading it.

The theme for this week is "PJP



Aquatics" which we realize doesn't make much sense to you at this point. Here's a breakdown of what all we'll be looking at:

P - Paul (Sailor)

J - Jonah (Scuba Diver)

P - Peter (Barefoot Water-skier)

Questions:

Why are you here?

What do you want to get out of this trip?

Why do you think God brought you here?

Think about how can your friends help you to come closer to God and consider letting them know about what you want to happen on this trip so they can help you.

## Session 2

### "Love one Another"

Matthew 22:39

Last night you heard about Paul's love for the people who had taken him captive. (Check Acts 27 in the back of the journal if you want to read about it.) We all know we're supposed to love everyone, but it's very difficult sometimes. Who is someone that you have a hard time loving?

We also found out that the people he showed love for had even ignored his advise. Think of a time when someone ignored you. Was it still easy to love them after being treated that way? Why?

It's easy to quit loving when the times get tough, but that's not what love is. I Corinthians 13 says, "Love always lasts." Check out this story:

Once, there were two adventurous boys (good friends) who were out spelunking (exploring caves). When they found what looked to be bear tracks deep inside the cavernous tunnel, they bravely decided to keep going, but to move very slowly and cautiously, keeping their eyes and ears alert in case they actually encountered a bear.

Suddenly from behind a rock jumped the biggest, meanest-looking grizzly bear they had ever seen. Standing right in front of them the bear beat on his chest like Tarzan and roared, sending the terrible sound echoing off the walls of the cave. The boys immediately turned to make a run for it.

Just then, one of the boys dropped to the floor untying his hiking boots. He whipped them off, jammed on his running shoes, and tied them up.



His friend yelled at him, "Come on man! Let's get outta here! Why are you changing shoes at a time like this? We don't have

much chance of outrunning that bear anyway!"

Jumping to his feet and starting to run, he replied, "I don't have to outrun the bear. All I have to do is outrun you."

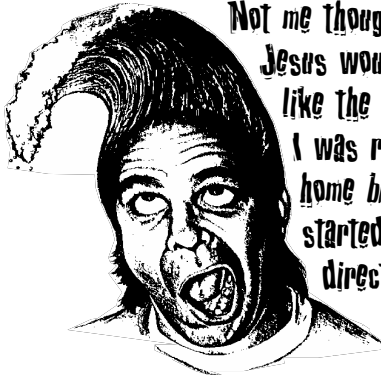
Do you have friends like that? Ones that bail out on you when you get in trouble or when things get tough. Always remember that you've got at least one friend that will "never leave you." Jesus - Matthew 28:20)

The "WWJD" thing (What would Jesus Do?) comes into play here too. When things get bad and you feel like bailing on your friends, don't do it! Jesus wouldn't and He is our example. Read the story below and ask yourself WWJD when you get there?

One time when, I had just graduated from High School. I went to a summer camp to be a counselor. This camp was different from ours because once you got there you signed up for which room you would be in. Since I was pretty young in comparison to the other counselors, my cabin filled up quickly, but I didn't recognize any of the names on the list I received. When the evening came and everyone came to the cabin for the first time I realized something. There were 23 High School guys in my cabin who were the weirdest guys in the camp. No joke - One guy had green hair, another had a purple and green mohawk that was spiked, they all had ear rings and chains on their wallets and wore T-shirts of the wildest Punk Rock Bands of the day - they each looked like the typical

80s punk rocker. I figured they picked my cabin because they knew that they were older than I was (they failed many times) and they outnumbered me and would be able to do anything they wanted to. I was no dummy - I knew they were there to take advantage of me.

What would Jesus Do?



Not me though. I didn't do what Jesus would have. Instead, just like the guy in the last story - I was ready to bail out and go home before anything even got started. I even went to the director of the camp and told her about my situation. She reassured

me and talked me into staying.

Well, that first night things changed for me as soon as I pulled out my guitar. Almost every one of them wanted to play and thought it was cool that I played too. That first night, God took the situation and turned it around. The guitar won their respect.

That night we had a talk and they decided that they were there for the right reason (Jesus) and that they wanted to do something to express that. Since they were so into music and everything, they came up with the idea of calling themselves "God's Groupies" and during the day they'd come up individually and ask

me what they could do to be one of "God's Groupies." I would simply respond "What would Jesus Do?" and they would look around and think about what he'd do - like go talk to someone who was sitting by themselves, pick up trash, or whatever God led them to do at that moment - and they would really go and do it. As they finished the task (whatever it was) they'd yell at the top of their lungs, "God's Groupies!"

In the end, that year at camp turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. Think what I would've missed out on if I had bailed out. If the camp director hadn't talked me into staying.

Here's the lesson - **Always Love Others even when it's hard to and God will reward you.**

Don't bail out on your friends and more importantly, don't bail on God. He loved you enough to give His life in order to have a relationship with you. How can you even think about bailing out on someone who loves you in such an incredible way?

What situation do you find yourself in where you want to bail out on someone or on God?

What Would Jesus Do in that situation?

Decide that you're gonna do it His way  
and then pray for Him to help you.  
Remember what Jesus says, "I am with you  
always. . ." Matthew 28:20

Write down anything you'd like to about  
your day.

Say a prayer asking God to help you love  
others today.

# Session 3

## "Spread the Word"

Last night you heard about Jonah. He had a right to hate the Ninevites, but God loved them and asked him to go and



show them that love. Do you find yourself running away from any of the things God has called you to do? Or people He has called you to love? Who?

We all find ourselves in this position at one time or another. When I was in High School, I met this kid who was basically a good guy, but man, he just got on my nerves. He was new in our church and he followed me around like a lost little puppy at church, school, and anywhere else. He drove me nuts. He listened to Rap Music like "UTFO," "The Fat Boys,"

and "Tone Loc," and I hated all that stuff. He also had a weird family that treated everybody like babies.

I was pretty cool (at least I thought so) at that time in my life. I had quite a few girls kind of chasing after me, had just gotten my driver's license, a job, money in my pocket, and things were looking pretty good for me.

Then, at church camp, I was paired up with him to be my "Buddy" where we'd have to go and get to know each other. I knew that I was put with him because they thought I'd be sort of a "Big Brother" to him, but I didn't want the job! I knew that was what God wanted me to do but I just refused.

Don't get me wrong, I did what I was supposed to do at camp, but I really didn't try to get to know him or share God's love in any way.



After camp was over, he used to call me and ask me to go do stuff with him, but I always had an excuse. I couldn't hang out with him. It would ruin my reputation to be friends with such a nerd.

Well, to make this long story a little shorter - I finally quit running from what I knew God wanted from me and became friends with Shayne. He is now

the only person (outside of my family) that I make an effort to talk to when I go home. Shayne is without a doubt my best friend, and he's not a nerd anymore either. He and I have lots of cool memories together - trips, inside jokes, funny stories, I was even in his wedding. Shayne has even come to visit me down here and knows some of you.

Anyway, the lesson for me was this: **When we obey God and do what He asks of us, He will reward us in ways that we can't even imagine.**

I know that none of us like to think of ourselves as being obedient - it sounds like we're dogs or something. We've grown up *all* our lives hearing phrases like: be yourself, express yourself, stand up for yourself, go against the flow, be independent. Well, I'm here to tell you it's *all* a lie. We're supposed to be Godly people and that means - obedience to Him and His Word, not obedience to our own desires. When we're obedient to Him and His Word, that's when we truly find happiness in who we are.

**Is there someone God wants you to spread His Word to that makes you want to run away? Who?**

What are you afraid of? What's the worst thing that could happen?

What's the best thing that could happen? Could God give you something if you obeyed Him? What might you miss out on if you don't do what He says?

Here's another cool story for you:

*A few centuries before Christ was around there was this guy named Alexander the Great who conquered almost all of the known world with his strength, cleverness, and diplomacy. One day, he and a few of his*



*soldiers approached a heavily fortified, strongly defended, walled city. Standing outside the city, he demanded to see the king who agreed to come and see him. "Surrender to me immediately," commanded Alexander. The king laughed. "Why should I surrender to you? We have you outnumbered. You are no threat to us!"*

*Alexander was ready to answer the challenge. "Allow me to demonstrate why you should surrender," he replied. Alexander ordered his men to line up single file and start marching. He marched them straight toward a sheer cliff that dropped hundreds of feet to rocks below.*

*The king and his soldiers watched in shocked disbelief as, one by one, Alexander's soldiers marched without hesitation right off the cliff to their deaths. After ten soldiers had died, Alexander ordered the rest of the men to stop and return to his side.*

*The king and his soldiers, realizing that nothing could stop men so dedicated to their leader, surrendered on the spot to Alexander the Great.*

**Are you as dedicated to Christ's commands as these men were to Alexander or are you more like Jonah who's first response was to run away?**

**How would the world be different if we took seriously Jesus' command to spread His word? (Matthew 28:19-20)**

**Will you commit to do something to fulfill this command or will you run and hide like Jonah? What will you do?**

# Session 4

## "Love God"

Matthew 22:37

Last night was special. We talked about Peter and how he loved God and could focus on Him. Even as to walk on the water. Check out Matthew 14:22-33 in the back of the journal if you'd like to read about it. Here's another little story for you:

*There once was a a great circus performer by the name of Blondin who stretched a long steel cable across Niagara Falls. During high winds and without a safety, he walked, ran, and even danced across the tightrope. The large crowd of people were amazed and delighted to see such skill.*



*Next, he took a wheelbarrow full of bricks and amazed the crowd by pushing it effortlessly across the cable to the other side of the falls. Blondin then turned to the crowd and asked, "Now, how many of you believe*

*that I could push a man across the wire in the wheelbarrow?"*

*The vote was unanimous. Everyone cheered and held their hands high. They all believed he could do it!*

*"Then," asked Blondin, "would one of you please volunteer to be that man?"*

*As quickly as the hands had gone up, they went back down this time. Not a single person would volunteer to ride in the wheelbarrow and to trust his life with Blondin.*

The questions are almost the same to you. 1.) Do you trust Jesus? and 2.) Are you willing to demonstrate your belief by trusting your life with Him?

Being a Christian and loving God is not about going to church, or doing all the "good" things, or even about trying not to sin. Being a Christian simply means that you have a relationship with Jesus. All that other stuff happens as a result of wanting to be a good friend to Him. How do you have a relationship with Jesus? It's really not much different than having a relationship with anyone else. If you want to get close to someone, you've got to spend time with them. In order to get to

know God it's the same way. You've just got to spend time talking to Him and hanging out with Him. We can talk to God by praying to Him and He talks to us mainly through the Bible - that's why we call it "His Word." - 'cause that's how He speaks to us. Sometimes God speaks to us in other ways, too - like through our friends, or sometimes even miraculously, but mostly God speaks to us through His Word - the Bible. So basically this is it - **If you want to get to know God, pray and get to know the Bible 'cause it's His Word.** Just like you get to know other people by listening to them, we can begin to know God by listening to Him through the Bible.

I read somewhere once that the average Pastor spends 3 minutes a day with God. That's pathetic! I know We all get busy and forget to spend time with God, but don't we all expect more from preachers? Well,, my mom has this thing hanging on her wall that says, "If you want a clean world, you better start by cleaning up your own front porch." I'd say the same is true here. We better get close to God and Love Him ourselves

before we can expect others to do the same.

I've got a confession to make, until about a year ago, I was just like the average Pastor who spent about 3 minutes a day with God. Here I was playing this game of trying to be a Godly leader and not even being with God. It was sort of like living a lie. Pretending to be something I wasn't. Oh, It's not that I was going and doing bad stuff, it's just that I was pretending to be a healthy Christian when really I was empty on the inside. I loved my job, and the youth, and living in Tomball, and I guess I even loved God, but I didn't love Him enough to really spend time with Him. I spent time with everyone else, but not with Him. I guess you could say that everyone else came before God.

Well, now things are different. I don't get to the church as early as I used to every morning, but I spend my mornings with God and it really has made a difference. The other day I said a prayer, and a miracle happened (like Peter walking on the water) Literally a few seconds after I said "Amen!" my prayer was answered!

IF YOU REMAIN IN  
ME AND MY  
WORDS REMAIN IN  
YOU, ASK  
WHATEVER YOU  
WISH, AND IT WILL  
BE GIVEN YOU.

JOHN 15:7

*PUTTING GOD FIRST AND  
SPENDING TIME WITH HIM,  
FOCUSING ON HIM (LIKE PETER)  
WILL ALLOW YOU TO WALK ON WATER.*

What do you need to do in order to know  
God better?

Do you pray and talk to him enough?

What water do you need to walk on right now? What miracle needs to happen?

Are you focusing on God to accomplish this miracle? Why?

Write down any other thoughts you've had about the trip.

Pray for God to lead you as you go back to the regular world and to help you develop a stronger relationship with Him through the Bible and prayer.

# Paul

## Loving Sailor

### ACTS 27

<sup>1</sup>When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. <sup>2</sup>We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

<sup>3</sup>The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. <sup>4</sup>From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. <sup>5</sup>When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. <sup>6</sup>There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. <sup>7</sup>We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. <sup>8</sup>We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup>Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast.<sup>A</sup> So Paul warned them, <sup>10</sup>"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." <sup>11</sup>But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. <sup>12</sup>Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

<sup>13</sup>When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. <sup>14</sup>Before

very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup>The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. <sup>16</sup>As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. <sup>17</sup>When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. <sup>18</sup>We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. <sup>19</sup>On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup>When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

<sup>21</sup>After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup>But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup>Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup>and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup>So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup>Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

<sup>27</sup>On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic<sup>B</sup> Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. <sup>28</sup>They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet<sup>C</sup> deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet<sup>D</sup> deep. <sup>29</sup>Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. <sup>30</sup>In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. <sup>31</sup>Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." <sup>32</sup>So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

<sup>33</sup>Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food--you haven't eaten anything. <sup>34</sup>Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." <sup>35</sup>After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. <sup>36</sup>They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. <sup>37</sup>Altogether there were 276 of us on board. <sup>38</sup>When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

<sup>39</sup>When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. <sup>40</sup>Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. <sup>41</sup>But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

<sup>42</sup>The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.

<sup>43</sup>But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. <sup>44</sup>The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

# Jonah

## A Scuba Diver Spreading the Word

### JONAH 1

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup>"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

<sup>3</sup>But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."

<sup>7</sup>Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

<sup>8</sup>So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

<sup>9</sup>He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."

<sup>10</sup>This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

<sup>11</sup>The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

<sup>12</sup>"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he

replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

<sup>13</sup>Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased." <sup>15</sup>Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup>At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

<sup>17</sup>But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

## **JONAH 2**

<sup>1</sup>From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. <sup>2</sup>He said:

"In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.  
From the depths of the grave<sup>A</sup> I called for  
help,  
and you listened to my cry.

<sup>3</sup>You hurled me into the deep,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers  
swept over me.

<sup>4</sup>I said, "I have been banished  
from your sight;  
yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple."

<sup>5</sup>The engulfing waters threatened me,<sup>B</sup>  
the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup>To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever.  
But you brought my life up from the pit,  
O LORD my God.

<sup>7</sup>"When my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered you, LORD,  
and my prayer rose to you,  
to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup>"Those who cling to worthless idols  
forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

<sup>9</sup>But I, with a song of thanksgiving,  
will sacrifice to you.  
What I have vowed I will make good.  
Salvation comes from the LORD."

<sup>10</sup>And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited  
Jonah onto dry land.

### **JONAH 3**

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second  
time: <sup>2</sup>"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the  
message I give you."

<sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to  
Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit  
required three days. <sup>4</sup>On the first day, Jonah started into the  
city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be  
overturned."

<sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast,  
and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on  
sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup>When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he  
rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered  
himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup>Then he  
issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:  
Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste  
anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup>But let man  
and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone  
call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil  
ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may yet  
relent and with compassion turn from his fierce  
anger so that we will not perish."

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned  
from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring

upon them the destruction he had threatened.

#### **JONAH 4**

<sup>1</sup>But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup>Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup>Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?"

"I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."

<sup>10</sup>But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup>But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

# Peter

## Loving God as a Barefoot Waterskier

### Matthew 14:22-32

<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat was already a considerable distance<sup>A</sup> from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup>During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup>"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup>And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."