

ETERNAL LIVING

What Jesus Really Meant
About Eternal Life

Icebreaker (Pick one):

- 1. What's something you got better at because someone helped you see what you were doing wrong?*
- 2. What do people sometimes try harder at when they really need a better strategy?*
- 3. Who was a great coach, teacher, or mentor in your life? What made them good?*

Introduction *(Read aloud before discussion.)*

*Taking apprenticeship seriously means trying to learn. But trying harder isn't always enough. Sometimes we need to understand why something isn't working. A good apprentice learns to try, pay attention, ask questions, listen to the Rabbi, and try again. **The goal is actually putting what Jesus teaches into practice.***

Sermon Discussion *(Use as a guide for dialogue; let God lead, and read the verses aloud.)*

MATTHEW 14:23-29

1. Why does Peter ask Jesus to let him come out on the water? What does this reveal about his understanding of discipleship?
2. Jesus gives Peter one specific instruction: "Come." Why is it helpful to work on one instruction at a time?

MATTHEW 14:29-31

3. Peter actually tried to do what Jesus told him to do. What does it mean to actually try?
4. Peter tries and fails. Why is trying and failing important to learning? Why are Christians often so afraid of failing?
5. Jesus asks Peter, “Why did you doubt?” Why ask a question instead of simply telling him to try harder?
6. What’s the difference between trying harder and slowing down to understand why something isn’t working?
7. Why do people sometimes become discouraged when trying to change?

LUKE 13:22-24

8. Jesus says, “Make every effort.” What’s the difference between casually wanting something and seriously pursuing it?

PULLING IT TOGETHER:

1. What is one teaching or instruction from your Rabbi that you are currently working on?

FURTHER STUDY — READ JOHN 13:6-10

- Peter initially refuses to let Jesus wash his feet.
- What similarities do you see between Peter here and Peter getting out of the boat? What do both reveal about how seriously Peter took being Jesus’ apprentice?