

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: Properly Identifying the King

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matthew 14:1–36

Opening Question

Have you ever misunderstood who someone really was until you got to know them personally? What changed your perspective?

Icebreaker

When people think about Jesus today, what are some common misunderstandings or mistaken identities they have about Him?

Read the Passage

Read Matthew 14:1–36 together as a group.

I. Mistaken Identity

Matthew 14:1–12

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Herod believed Jesus was John the Baptist resurrected?
2. How did guilt and fear influence Herod's thinking and decisions?
3. What stands out to you about the character of Herodias and Herod in this passage?
4. John the Baptist boldly spoke truth even when it was dangerous. What can we learn from his example?
5. Why is it dangerous to let public opinion, pride, or fear control our decisions?

Digging Deeper

- In what ways do people today wrongly identify Jesus?
- How can guilt or fear distort a person's view of God?

Personal Reflection

- Are there areas in your life where fear of people or fear of consequences has kept you from obeying God fully?

II. Wrong Expectations

Matthew 14:13–21

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus' response to the crowd reveal about His compassion?
2. Why did the disciples think the situation was impossible?
3. What was wrong about the disciples' expectations?
4. Why do you think Jesus involved the disciples in the miracle instead of simply doing it Himself?
5. What does the feeding of the 5,000 teach us about Jesus' power and provision?

Digging Deeper

- The disciples focused on what they lacked. How often do we do the same?
- Why is "But Jesus..." such an important reality in the Christian life?

Personal Reflection

- What situation in your life currently feels impossible?
- How might Jesus be asking you to trust Him with what little you think you have?

Cross Reference

Jesus fulfills expectations connected to the promised prophet like Moses:
Deuteronomy 18:15

III. Properly Identified

Matthew 14:22–36

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples ahead while He went alone to pray?
2. What does Jesus walking on the water reveal about His authority and identity?
3. Why were the disciples so afraid?
4. What do you admire about Peter in this passage?
5. What caused Peter to begin sinking?
6. Why is the disciples' statement in verse 33 so significant?
7. What is interesting about the response Jesus received in Gennesaret compared to His hometown?

Digging Deeper

- What does this passage teach us about faith during storms?
- Why is it important that Jesus was properly identified as the Son of God?
- How can fear distract us from keeping our eyes on Jesus?

Personal Reflection

- Where do you identify with Peter right now?
- What "storm" is testing your faith?
- What would it look like for you to keep your focus on Jesus this week?

Key Truths from the Sermon

- Many people misunderstand who Jesus is.
- Fear, guilt, pride, and wrong expectations can distort our view of Christ.
- Jesus is compassionate even in moments of personal sorrow.
- Jesus is sufficient where human resources fail.
- Jesus is not merely a teacher or miracle worker—He is the Son of God.
- Faith grows when we trust Jesus beyond what we can see.

Application Questions

1. Which part of this passage challenged you the most and why?
2. How has your understanding of Jesus grown through difficult circumstances?
3. What wrong expectations about God do Christians sometimes have?
4. What practical step can you take this week to trust Jesus more fully?

Prayer Time

Spend time praying:

- For a clearer understanding of who Jesus truly is.
- For faith during difficult storms.
- For courage to obey Jesus even when circumstances seem impossible.
- For compassion toward others like the compassion Jesus showed.

