



GROUP MEMBER HANDOUT—"Bible Study" Week

[WATCH VIDEO CLIP]

Notes...

[PAUSE VIDEO FOR GROUP DISCUSSION]

Questions...

What are some of the differences between how you approach a LEGAL DOCUMENT and how you approach a LOVE LETTER?

With a LEGAL DOCUMENT, what do you look for, what do you feel, what emotions does it stir in you? How do you feel about the author and how does the author feel about you?

With a LOVE LETTER, what do you look for, what do you feel, what emotions does it stir in you? How do you feel about the author and how does the author feel about you?

If you were to begin to approach the Bible more like a love letter, how might it change the way you look at scripture, the way you look at God, and the way you look at yourself?

[WATCH VIDEO CLIP]

Notes...

If you are interested in any of the resources or handouts that Carmen mentions in the video, please feel free to email her at carmen.biggs@daybreakweb.com.



BIBLE REFLECTION EXERCISE:

Now we're going to read a story from scripture and invite God to challenge and encourage us while we take time to reflect. This is a great way to allow God to speak to you through scripture, and you may find that it's a method of Bible reading that you will want to return to more often.

The goal of this exercise is to give you an opportunity to spend some time alone with scripture and then come back together to share a bit about what you've learned. Whether this is a story that you've never heard before or have heard many times, taking time to reflect on it in this manner is something that often leads to noticing new things and God speaking to you in new ways.

Step 1: REST

Begin with 30-60 seconds of silence, asking God (silently) to speak to you through his Word.

Step 2: READ

Have someone from the group read the story while everyone listens.

Matthew 14:22-33 (New Living Translation)

²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

²⁸ Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

²⁹ "Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.



Step 3: REFLECT

Read the passage again, this time on your own. While reading, try and put yourself in Peter's shoes.

As you read, ask yourself some good questions and record your thoughts below:

- **Who is in this story? Where is it happening?**
- **What is going on in this story? Why is it happening?**
- **Is there a word, a scene, or a moment from the story that jumps out and sticks with you? Why?**
- **How do you feel about what is happening? Why do you feel that way?**
- **What does this passage tell me about Jesus? Does it change anything about the way I view him? Does it change anything about the way I think he views me?**

“Reflect” Notes/Thoughts...

Step 4: RESPOND

- **What does God want me to understand and/or apply from this scripture?**
- **What changes is he inviting me to make in the way I think?**
- **What changes is he inviting me to make in the way I live?**

“Respond” Notes/Thoughts...

Step 5: RETURN

- **Before you go to bed tonight, return to what you sensed God saying to you today. Spend a few moments talking with him about it.**

****NOW RETURN TO YOUR GROUP FOR A FEW GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE.****