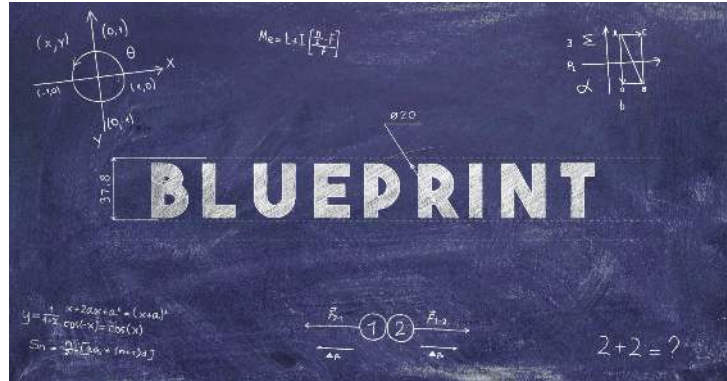


SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



BLUEPRINT
CHAD BRUEGMAN
FEBRUARY 04, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

LEADER / ICEBREAKER

Welcome everyone! Introduce yourself first:

- How long have you been attending RPC?
- Describe your family.
- Super Bowl Sunday is next week. If you enjoy watching football, what is your favorite Super Bowl snack and what team are you rooting for? If football is not your sport, what do you enjoy watching on TV?

Go over the Small Groups Covenant. Be sure to start and end your group on time!

READ

The title of this week's message is "*I love you for trying.*" Read Matthew 14:22-26.
We have the 12 disciples, Jesus, the boat, and the storm.

QUESTIONS

- When life gets stormy what kind of things do you tend to trust or lean into that makes you feel comfortable and secure?
- Fear and uncertainty tend to paralyze our actions and prevent us from reaching our full potential. What are some things that prevent you from trying new things?

READ

Matthew 14:27-32

QUESTIONS

- Peter being courageous wants to try a new thing and join Jesus on the water. How does Peter get out of the boat in verse 28? (He says if you're in this Jesus, if this is something Jesus you want me to do, then tell me to come out on the water.)
- How does Jesus respond in verse 29 to Peter's ask "Can I try? Can I come?" (Notice Jesus did not fix the disciples' problem by making the storm go away. He just gave Peter the command "Come!")
- What allowed Peter to walk on water for a brief moment? (His faith in Jesus, Fixing his eyes on Jesus, Trusting in Jesus even during the difficulty or unknown)
- Why did Peter start to sink? (He begins to look at his surroundings, He takes his eyes off Jesus)
- How does Jesus respond to Peter's real-life moment of taking his eyes off of Jesus? (Jesus gives grace, Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and took hold of him)
- How is faith in Jesus described based on this story? (Faith is having the courage to say yes to where Jesus has called you. Faith is not based on your circumstances but on Jesus who is the object of your faith. Faith is not blind. Faith is trust in Jesus.)
- The faith behind our "try" is one of the most important things we can steward in life. In a world that recognizes success and failures Chad hopes that you'd hear the heart of God say to you in 2024, "I love you for trying." Amid the storm, Jesus says to the disciples, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Jesus met Peter in his "try," how can this scene be encouraging and instructive for your own life?

THE THREE QUESTIONS: The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

- **What did you hear?** What point in this message was most impactful for you?
- **What do you think?** How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
- **What will you do?** How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: How can the group pray for you now and in the days ahead?

LEADERS: Please take attendance. Every week encourage someone to share a little bit of their story. A great format is to take 3 positive and 3 negative things that have had an impact on who you are today. Leader – Start by sharing your story in this format next week.