



THE SIGN OF HIS PRESENCE

BIG IDEA: In Jesus's presence, we have no need to fear.

DATE: Sunday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 11, 2026

SCRIPTURE: John 6:16-21

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever witnessed something that took your brain a few minutes to catch up to what your eyes were seeing? *What happened? What was that experience like?*

SETTING THE STAGE

Today's passage occurs right after the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples had just seen Jesus provide for their ordinary physical needs. But now Jesus will show them how He can also provide for their "out of the ordinary" needs by calming their fears with His presence.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:16-21 (CSB)

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ A high wind arose, and the sea began to churn. ¹⁹ After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid." ²¹ Then they were willing to take him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading.

DISCUSSION

READ JOHN 6:16-21

The disciples had a long day with the crowds and probably left later than normal to get to Capernaum. They had already been rowing for miles and were ready to get to shore for some rest. How does our physical exhaustion affect our spiritual condition?

What are things people turn to for comfort (good or bad) when they hit a “storm” in their life and worry takes over?

What do you notice about verse 21? What other miraculous thing happens?

What were some things you were afraid of growing up? Who or what could calm your fears?

Scripture is full of assurances for us not to be afraid because of God’s presence - both in the Old and New Testaments. Read these verses out loud.

- “Haven’t I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).
- “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).
- “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment” (2 Timothy 1:7).
- “Therefore, we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6).

What are some things that happen to us physically and emotionally when we experience fear?

How does Jesus’s presence calm your spirit amid fear? What are some practical things we can do when faced with paralyzing fear?

RESPONSE

In Jesus’ presence, we have no need to fear. Worry is really us saying to God, ‘I don’t trust You can or will provide what I need.’ But the truth is He is all powerful and we *can* trust Him. Think of a fear you are facing right now. Picture yourself in the boat –right in the middle of the storm. Now picture Jesus walking on the stormy water towards you, getting in that boat of fear with you. Allow His presence to calm your fears and get you through.

READING PLAN

2/8 Isaiah 52
2/9 Isaiah 53
2/10 Isaiah 54
2/11 Isaiah 55
2/12 Isaiah 56
2/13 Luke 22
2/14 Acts 8