

April 23, 2023

Pastor Keith Smith

## A Wavering Faith

**Mark 6:45-52** (NIV)

<sup>45</sup> Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. <sup>47</sup> Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, **"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."** <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

### Thoughts & Questions to Fuss With:

1. What are some things in life that you are fearful of?

How have your fears changed as you have grown older?

2. When is a time that you felt God didn't see or even care about your situation?

3. Why do you think Jesus stayed back to pray and did not travel with the disciples in the boat?

4. What do you think was causing the disciple's "hearts to be hardened"?

What are things that cause our hearts to be hardened?

5. Jesus said to his disciples, "Take courage! I am here!" What are other accounts in the Bible that similar language is used by God?

6. Take time before the group dismisses to write out your personal "Snapshot" of a time your faith grew. Be sure to turn it in upstairs before leaving.