Whiteboard: Ask the members of the group to list out the ways in which they are each involved in service to God, either in church or ministry or their daily life and work.

Game: Who am I? In teams, take turns to read out descriptions of famous people and have the other team guess who it is.

Readings: Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14:22-33) and Peter’s confession of the Christ (Matthew 16:13-18) Split into two groups. Each group is given the passage to read in full. They also have a group of pictures depicting the story. Get the group to put the pictures in the correct order and stick on the relevant verses. Then each group presents their story to the other.

Discussion of reading 1.

Tell the group about a time you have been scared, or a time that you have been brave. Can you be both brave and scared at the same time?

Peter was brave when he was looking at Jesus. His faith was so that he was able to walk on the water towards Jesus. But then he looked at the storms and felt scared, that’s when he started to sink in the water. Ask the group; what do storms feel like? Sometimes Christians use the word ‘storm’ to mean, not an actual weather storm a time in your life that feels scary, chaotic or traumatic. Give examples and ask for examples. Peter had faith but he also had doubts in this story. What did he do when he started to sink in the water and was doubting? He asked for help. He cried out to Jesus. The story is encouraging us to call out to Jesus for help. This description of Simon Peter starting to walk on the water miraculously but then starting to sink after all makes me think of things in life that Jesus has called me to do. Maybe I started out doing them full of faith and focus but now am more focused on the storm, more full of worries. Think about a way in which you serve God in faith maybe in church or your job. Do you always do it with faith and focus or do you sometimes spend the whole day thinking about your worries?

Pray: Dear Lord, Jesus, you alone are the Son of God. You have the power to still the real storms. You have the power to make my worries stop. Please help me when I’m feeling worried. Please help me to focus on you and trust that I can get through anything.

Reading 2: Video of the story of Elijah.

Elijah was a prophet who lived in the time of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. These royals worshipped a false god called Baal. They were ruthless and they killed many of God’s prophets. Elijah’s miracles proved the power of the God of the Jews, Yahweh. Hundreds of years later when Jesus was teaching and healing people, a rumour started that he might be Elijah come back to life. The Jews liked that idea because the Jews in the first Century suffered persecution from the ruthless Roman Empire. Some people wanted Jesus to start a righteous rebellion against Rome in the name of Yahweh. Herod the Great had recently beheaded John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin who had baptised Jesus as well as many others
and taught about God in the wilderness. This reminded people of the time King Ahab killed the prophets in his time. Some people rumoured that Jesus was John the Baptist come back to life to prove Yahweh’s power to Herod. God did not use a blast of fire, like with Elijah, to prove his presence in Jesus. **What was special about Jesus that showed people that he was the Messiah?**

**Discuss. (Leader write down answers so we can address the classes ideas next session.)** Next week we will pick up here and look at the Messianic Prophecies and how they were fulfilled in Jesus ministry.

Simon Peter’s confession came soon after his experience of Jesus’ and him walking on the water. Simon’s faith was growing. He was the first to say that Jesus was the Messiah. From this point on Jesus named him Peter because of his faith.

**Pray:** *Dear Jesus, help us to grow in our faith this week. Help us to trust you with all our worries. Thank you for being the Messiah sent to save us all. Amen*

**Homework:**
- Read over these passages again
- Write a letter to Jesus with things you worry about and ask him to help you to not worry.
- Collect items for filling in your shoebox. Deadline for them being filled is the second week in November. Any questions contact Rachael.