



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team #15 6/30/2020

## Candletime Online



### Opening Game MacGyver

MacGyver was and is a popular TV series about a secret agent who solves complex problems with everyday ordinary objects.

Leader asks the participants to write 3 ordinary objects in the chat box. (ex, stapler, tape, pencil or tire, rope, and dryer lint) Ask the participants to also type in suggestions for life-threatening situations (thrown overboard in the middle of the ocean, car is stuck on a train track, lost while hiking in the mountains. Leader chooses a participant, give them a situation to survive and 3 objects from the lists in the chat box. Explain that when you say "Action" they must share how they would use the 3 ordinary objects to survive and get out of the situation.

Depart to Breakout Groups

Share your name and something you feared as a child.

Watch <https://youtu.be/qONbOqP8yPo> from Shrek, Clip 3 I'm Looking Down

Share Some of our fears are carried over from childhood or previous experiences like snakes, bees, drowning, or getting lost. Others are justified like the evil in the world of wars, famine, and disease. Nothing has provoked more fear and public upheaval in America in the last 50 years as has the Covid 19 Pandemic. Many of you have heard that the world was brought to a standstill on 9/11 but you did not experience it. And you might have heard of how polio struck kids in the 40's and 50's and even affected the president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. You might know his well know line at his inaugural address, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Fear is a powerful force, and it affects us in different ways. Fear is not always a bad thing, for example sometimes fear can prevent us from doing foolish things that might harm us, like fear of dying could stop us from texting and driving or fear of getting or sharing Covid-19 could mean wearing a mask and social distancing in public.

Ask? At this point in your life, what would you list as your top 3 fears?

### **Read Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus Stills the Storm**

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" <sup>26</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. <sup>27</sup> They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

**Ask** What were the disciples most afraid of?

How do you think Jesus felt to be woken from a sound to sleep to listen to the panic of 12 grown men?

Would you consider when the disciples said, "Lord, save us, we are perishing!" a prayer of faith? Explain your answer.

What do you think is the significance that the windstorm "arose" without warning?

The disciples were amazed that Jesus removed their fears in such a dramatic way. What would Jesus have to do to "amaze" you and calm one of your top fears?

### **Read Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,<sup>[a]</sup> for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind,<sup>[b]</sup> he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**Ask** Why wasn't Jesus in the boat with the disciples to begin with?

If you had been on the boat, what are 3 words to describe your feelings?

What allowed Peter to overcome his fear to the point of walking on the water to meet Jesus?

Why did Jesus chide Peter for his lack of faith and not the others?

In these two stories, what connections can you determine between faith and fear?

**Share** The phrase “fear not” appears in the King James Version of the Bible 62 times. The command usually comes from God or an angel. God invites us to rely on His power and not our own.

**Ask** In your own life, can you think of an action you need to take to “get out of the boat” and let Jesus show you what He can do?

What are ways that we can help others overcome their fears especially in this moment in our lives?

**Challenge** To grow your faith, create your own list of bible verses to refer to when challenged with fear. Use can use the concordance your bible to help you find verses.

**Prayer** Ask everyone to **Light** a candle or candles as a symbol that Christ’s light shines around you and hears your prayers. Take a moment to **pause** in silence. Feel God’s presence with you. **Ask** What prayers do you have for God. Who or what is on your heart to pray for? **Pray together** Ask everyone to share one petition.

**Return** to the Large Group

**Closing Prayer** <https://youtu.be/VLPP3XmYxXg> How Can I keep from Singing? Created recently in NYC during the Pandemic.

**Bless** one another by marking the sign on the cross on your hand and raising it towards your camera.

God, Send down your blessings on these your servants.  
May they grow stronger in their Faith in you,  
Strength when they are weary,  
Compassion for their neighbors,  
Courage when they are afraid,  
And Peace during the storms of life