

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for February 14 - Matthew 14:22-33 **Title: Finishing Faith**

Read **Matthew 14:22-33**—*Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Question: We're all guilty of not finishing something we started. Read Peppy's top-10 list of things people start but don't finish and raise your hand at the one/s that tell your story. What stopped you? Circumstances? Money? Time? Discouragement?

Question: What person does God commend: the one who says “Yes” to God and promises to obey his command, but then doesn’t, or the one who says “No” to God, but then has a change of heart and obeys God’s command? (Read Matthew 21:28-32) What does this parable say about finishing faith?

Question: One of Peppy’s principles states that obeying God can lead to rough seas and stormy skies. Should we view difficulties as an indication that we should try something else? Or should we press on when faced with impossible circumstances? Is there another alternative? (Hint: What did Peter do?)

Question: To reach an objective in business, it’s common to define “what is” and “what will be”, and then develop a strategy to reach the objective. How does this differ from what Peppy has taught us about our journey from HERE to THERE? Or does it?

Read: James 1:2-4— *Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* **Question:** If the trials are inevitable, how can we prepare for them? Or should we?