

PASTOR'S CLASS...SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2010...10:45AM...PARLOR

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GATHERING...ANYBODY NEW?...PRAYER TIME WITH JOYS AND CONCERNS

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***If You Want To Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat***

By John Ortberg A Six-week Journey on Learning to Trust God

**Session Five: "Good News For Cave-Dwellers"**

"Sometimes you are in a cave and no human action is able to get you out. There is something you can't fix, can't heal, or can't escape, and all you can do is trust God. Finding ultimate refuge in God means you become so immersed in His presence, so convinced of His goodness, so devoted to His lordship that you find even the cave is a perfectly safe place to be because He is there with you."

**INTRODUCTION**—Show brief DVD introduction from John Ortberg based on Matthew 14:22-26 and water-walking.

**QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Compared with toddlers, who don't seem to mind failure—such as being misunderstood as they learn to talk, and falling and bumping into things as they learn to walk—how do adults tend to view failure? How do they respond to failure?
2. What aspect of failure is most difficult for you?
3. What enables you to move beyond failure?

**VIDEO PRESENTATION**

Things to listen and look for: (1) To boldly go where no one has gone before. (2) Responses to failure. (3) David and the cave of failure. (4) Good news for cave-dwellers.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

1. Many Christians avoid talking about failure or times of “being in the cave.” John Ortberg spoke frankly about dealing with failure and what God wants to accomplish in us when we’re in the cave. What did he say that was new to you or surprised you?
2. What effect does the common response of withdrawing or protecting ourselves from failure have on our ability to keep growing and risking?
3. What is it about being in the cave that allows God to do some of his best work there?
4. When we are living in the cave, what does taking action accomplish? What makes it difficult for us to take action?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. In his book *If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat*, John Ortberg writes, “In any arena where you are concerned about failure, the single most destructive thing you can do is *nothing*.” What does doing nothing lead to?

## **Group Discussion (continued)**

2. John Ortberg goes on to write, “We can survive the loss of an extraordinary number of things, but no one can outlive hope. When it is gone, we are done. Therefore the capacity to stay focused on the presence and power of God in our lives becomes supremely important.” In what ways have you found this to be true in your life or the life of someone close to you?
  
3. What steps can we take that will help us cultivate more hope in Christ?
  
4. John Ortberg tells a story about a Christian woman who wanted to be buried with a fork in her hand because she wanted everyone to know that the best was yet to come. No matter how deep or dark the cave in which we find ourselves, God is with us. If we will focus on him and take the next step, and then the next, we can rest assured that something better is coming. For those of us who are willing, take a moment to share with the group the “something better” that encourages you.

**NEXT WEEK-- Session Seven: “Learning to Wait on Our Big God”**

**CLOSING PRAYER**