

# ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

## **Unit 6: God's Dream**

### **Lesson 2:** Accepting the Dream

#### **The Cave of Wisdom**

**The Burning Bush:** The next step is yours

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of “Drowning”. How long and how far can you swim? Many people believe Jesus is the Son of God, but still believe they can make life on their own, without his help. Do you know someone who was baptized and then disappeared from the church? Excuses include: “I just don’t have the time”; “Sunday is the only day I have to sleep”; “I don’t get anything from the pastor’s sermon”; “It’s a waste of my time”; “I play sports on Sunday”; or “I just don’t like the people there.” These people are “drowning” and don’t know it.

What will it take for them to call out to Jesus, “Only you can save me, Lord”? In this lesson we see what it took for Peter to cry out to Jesus. He was physically drowning and accepted his condition of needing help. But he was also spiritually drowning and didn’t know it.

The dream that the Father had for Peter was drowning as well and would lead to the three time denial of Jesus. Why didn’t he just turn around and swim back to the boat on his own power? He saw the wind and the huge waves and was

afraid. When you take your eyes off the master, you open yourself to the world of wind, fear, and drowning. You break the relationship of believing in Him. Believing was the first step in knowing God's Dream for you, but the next step of "Accepting" him as the master of your life must also be taken or you begin to sink. Believing requires you to "get out of the boat" and accept Jesus as your "only hope" for your life. His Dream for you is your hope.

**God's Dream:** Accept His Word.

*Scripture: Matthew 14: 22-32*

<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup>During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup>"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup>And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

### **Biblical Character:** Peter

Act the part of a disciple in the boat on the stormy water when Jesus appears, walking on the water, as described in verse 25. Also describe Peter walking on the water and then sinking. Use a large fan to create "wind" and toss some small cups of water at the members to represent the waves coming into the boat. Make this a very dramatic and startling scene.

Show the video *"Jesus invites you to get out of the boat"*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67IrisJVDAI>

**Reality Character(s): Susan Boyle** A tale of two dreams: 1) from the heart 2) from the world.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxPZh4AnWyk>

Susan Boyle – Britain's Got Talent 2009 Episode 1

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pdf1Q5\\_\\_uvq](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pdf1Q5__uvq)

Marilyn Manson - Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQHrspjw4aA&NR=1>

Eurythmics - Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)

Which dream do you have for your life? Susan had the courage, despite physical problems, to get out of the boat and follow the dream using the gift God had given to her. The opposite is the dream of the world as depicted in the Marilyn Manson video where “everyone is looking for something” but don’t know what. They are drowning. But you know what you are looking for ... the dream of God.

***The Tribe:*** God’s Dream is for you to reach out and take His hand, like Peter took the hand of Jesus when sinking into the water, and follow Him in your life’s purpose He has for you.

**Craft:** Add to the “Stone Faces” tile from last week a drawing of a hand reaching upward to God.

### **Recreation Activity: “Water Balloon Volleyball”**

This activity should be conducted outdoors. Construct a volleyball net using a sheet and poles. Team members should not be able to see the other side of the court. Fill a dozen balloons with water. Have the teams play volleyball using a water balloon instead of a volleyball. One team member begins the game by tossing the “ball” over the net. A member of the opposite team must catch the “ball” and

throw it back over the net. Play continues until the catch is missed or the “ball” breaks. In both situations, the team that threw the “ball” gets the point.