

# Next Level

## Leader's Guide

*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you in the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.*

**Matthew 14:28-29**

## R I D I C U L O U S

I recently moved to San Francisco and I thought that walking through Chinatown to North Point would help me see some ridiculous things. Instead I only saw some confused tourist staring at some crazy dressed locals, nothing too ridiculous. So what do you do next? Go online. Loads of totally ridiculous stories. Below are those stories and a couple more examples and the story of Jesus calling Peter to walk on water. If you need more than these you can go online, there are lots online to be found. Also at the Ripley's Believe It or Not website are pictures of these stories- minus Jesus and that of the Lakers.

### Ridiculous #1

Believe It or Not!, an American vegetarian held 11 Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches in his mouth for ten seconds to beat the world record. Previously, the record was only nine of the two-to-three inch insects. Mr. Fessler, the champ, is no stranger to the bugs: he owns over 1,000 as pets! Ewww.

### Ridiculous #2

After an entire minute of freefall, Holly Budge and two other adventure enthusiasts touched down in the Himalayas and became the first to skydive over Mt. Everest. The trip cost each participant almost \$30,000 but they'll tell you it was well worth it. The jump was from 29,500 ft up, and divers reached 140 mph. The parachutes had to be specially made to float through the high altitude. Believe It or Not!

### Ridiculous #3

Lizardman gets all twisted up in his famous "Corkscrew" trick at the London Gala, where he twists a long curly metal rod up his nose and out his mouth. ~ "He says it doesn't hurt, but COME ON...it's a metal rod up your nose, PEOPLE!"

### Ridiculous #4

This one is from my sister. Just this week she was looking online to see how much it would cost to sit on a folding chair next to Jack as he watches the Lakers play in the first round of the NBA Playoffs. Guess how much? The ridiculous price of more than \$7000.00 That's the price of a cheap car!

### Ridiculous #5

A man is on a boat with eleven of his other friends. It's late in the night, they are exhausted, all they want is to get to the other side of the lake. Then out of nowhere one of their other friends catches up to them, actually passes them and comes back. But he's not on the boat, dude, he's walking on water. One of the guys, Peter says "tell me to come to you on the water." His friend Jesus says, "Come." And Peter gets out of the boat and walks towards Jesus.

You're probably thinking there's no way that these stories are true. Well, people eat roaches all the time, no one you and I may know personally but people do. And with technology people fly like airplanes. Ridiculously people jump out of planes and cliffs and they land perfectly safe with the right training and gear. The corkscrew thing... well crazy people do that kind of stuff all the time. I wouldn't and I wouldn't recommend you do but people sticks things up their noses and call it talent. Then there's the Lakers' seats, we see it with all the big selling sports teams. And the most ridiculous of them all is the story of the two guys in the middle of the lake walking on water. There is technology to fly but I haven't heard of one where we can walk on water. There are many that have been invented that would allow people to swim very far, even across oceans but to walk, that's just not possible.

### **What would possess a man to do something that it impossible?**

When Peter asked Jesus to call him to walk on water he knew the temperament of that lake. He had been caught in the middle of the lake in a storm where he thought that he would die.

**At some point in our lives we have to trust.** Have you seen the Geico Lizard commercial where the executive stands in front of the Lizard and he tells the Lizard to catch him. We know what's gonna happen to the poor Lizard, we know what's gonna happen to the executive. When I see that commercial I just want to intercede and catch the man myself but even in the ridiculousness of this commercial you've got to commend the old executive, he was willing to fall back and trust the little creature.

### **Here you can try to practice this exercise- make sure however that people are paired up evenly... remember you are the adult be smart about this exercise.**

Before we can get to that point of trust there is first the necessary step of getting to know each other. You would want to take that relationship to the Next Level. Peter at this point in their relationship knew that Jesus would never leave him hanging. He knew that if Jesus said "Come" he would be there to meet him.

Jesus is calling us into a relationship. He wants us to get to know him and he wants to get to know us. He wants so deeply for us to tell him what is most important to us, our deepest concerns, our greatest joys, and our sorrows. It is only when we take our relationship to the Next Level that trust can be built. A Next Level kind of relationship is built on strong trust the kind that allows us to let go, fall back in his arms and do what he has called us to do with no reservations. It is only when we have that kind of relationship that we will do what seems so ridiculous to the rest of the world... to walk on water and follow Jesus.

### **Where is Jesus calling you to follow him? What is he asking you do? Will this relationship make it to the Next Level?**