Family Commentary August 2-August 9, 2026

August 2: Matthew 14:13-21, The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Moving away from the parables we've heard throughout the summer, Jesus now begins to teach through signs. In this passage, Jesus heals those in the gathering crowd and then feeds them with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. This sign shows us what God is up to, what is important to God. God takes care of people. God wants us to take care of people too. By breaking the bread and fish, Jesus provides enough food for all who are gathered to be nourished. And Jesus not only feeds them physically, but he also feeds them spiritually by creating a community founded in sharing and care for each and every person.

Questions for Reflection:

Where in our worship service at church do we break and share bread? How is that similar to this story?

I wonder what the people thought and felt as they returned home the night Jesus fed them?

August 9: Matthew 14:22-33, Jesus Walks on Water

This passage shows us another sign, insight into who Jesus is and what God is up to in the world. Jesus, after feeding the crowds, takes some quiet for himself time to pray. He notices, however, that the disciples' boat has drifted off far away from the shore. To join them, Jesus walks on the water. The disciples react as we might, "It is a ghost!" But Jesus calls out assuring them it is truly him. Peter questions this though and at Jesus' instructions walks toward Jesus on the water. When he becomes scared, Jesus reaches out to save him. The end of this story talks about faith. Despite Jesus' confidence in walking on the water, he must have known that this would be a scary endeavor for Peter. So, Jesus' question of, "why did you doubt?" is not critical but rather encouraging Peter's growth, meaning that Jesus is giving Peter permission to have faith even in the scariest of situations because God will be there to support him.

Questions for Reflection:

I wonder why Jesus decided to walk to the disciples on the water?

What is another Bible story about water that you like? What do you think God is trying to say in that story?