



It's Not Safer in the Shallow

Michael Todd

Focus We don't need an anchor in the shallow water, but we do need an anchor in the deep. God wants us to be anchored in Him, and He is asking us to go deeper in our walk with Him. The blessings that come in our lives won't happen in the shallow water; the blessings happen in the deep water where we are connected to our *anchor*.

Fun If you had one free week to do anything, how would you use it?

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 5:3–4; Psalm 42:7

1. God wants to be your anchor.

An anchor is a source of security, and it holds a vessel firmly in place. Without an anchor, a boat would drift or be tossed about in storms. Drifting is subtle, and you don't recognize it's happening until you look up and realize you're far from where you started. We're all anchored to something. If our anchor isn't God, then we will be tossed about when the storms of life hit. God wants the Church to be anchored in Him. Through every challenge and difficulty, He will sustain us.

2. You only need an anchor in the deep.

You never see an anchor in a pool because a pool isn't deep enough. In the same way, we don't need our anchor in the shallow water of faith. We can have the right books and post the right verses on social media, but we aren't truly anchored if that's as deep as we go. We can say the right things and look like we know God, but if our ideas and character haven't changed then we're simply playing in the kiddie pool of faith. God won't force us to go deeper, He will gently ask us to push off the shore and go deeper. When we respond to His nudges, Jesus becomes our anchor and God moves in the deep waters of faith.

3. We are called to be an anchor for others.

The deep places in our lives need the depth of God's love. Shallow waters and immaturity keep us from being anchored in Jesus and from being an anchor for others. We all have a responsibility to leave a legacy that reflects who God is, but for this to happen we have to be anchored to God. There are people counting on us to be anchored. In the same way that the boat party anchored to the other boats, we are called to first be anchored to Jesus Christ so that others may anchor to us. The world is looking for a Church that is anchored together.

Group Dynamics Idea Have a time of extended worship or a night set aside specifically for worship. Consider inviting a guest worship leader. You can start the evening off with fellowship and then enter into worship. At the end of the evening, take time to pray for one another.

Discuss

1. What are some practical ways to move from living in the "shallow water" to living in the "deep water" of serving God?
2. Why do you think it is sometimes hard for people to move on to deeper things in God?
3. What does it mean to you for God to be your anchor?
4. Can you think about a time you were going through a difficult season or storm in your life and God was an anchor to you? Share about how God anchored you in that difficult season.
5. Michael Todd shared about boats connecting to a single anchored boat. As you are anchored to Christ, what are some ways you can help anchor others?
6. Who is depending on you to be anchored? Ask God to help you be anchored to Him.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God calls us into maturity.
- God is our anchor.
- God asks us to go deeper.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being our anchor. Help us go deep with You. Help us to trust You. We believe You are with us, and we believe You will strengthen us. You are asking us to go deeper and we say, “Yes.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Jesus told Peter after His death and resurrection, “If you love Me, feed My sheep.” One way you can demonstrate your love for Jesus is by “feeding”—caring for and loving—God’s people. Trust that God has called you to lead and to care for people, and always lead with kindness no matter what challenges you face or what difficulties you encounter.