

Study Guide



Mark 4:35-41— May 7, 2017

Jesus Calms a Storm

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

Jesus' authority over the wind and the sea demonstrate His identity as God and as the One we can trust. Mark 4:35-41 is marked by careful accuracy and detail. No doubt we have the reminiscences of Peter, the eyewitness authority behind Mark's Gospel. He remembered the time of day ("evening," vs. 35), the cushion in the boat (vs. 38), and the place where Jesus slept ("in the stern," vs. 38). Further, the less-than-flattering picture of the apostles, their embarrassing fear and lack of faith (vs. 40), is not the kind of thing one makes up about oneself.

For this weeks study on Mark 4 please check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

South Sudan & NOLA Baptist— For further information visit norriferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norriferrychurch.org)

Please see the list of local ministries under the "Walk" section below.

Calendar

May 7th— Member's Meeting
May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)
May 29th-July 2— Camp in the City
June 10th— Serve Shreveport
July 11th-16th— [Fort Worth Mission Trip](#)

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[O Come To The Alter](#)":

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Commentary (Read: Mark 4:35-41)

Jesus' authority over the wind and the sea demonstrate His identity as God and as the One we can trust. Mark 4:35-41 is marked by careful accuracy and detail. No doubt we have the reminiscences of Peter, the eyewitness authority behind Mark's Gospel. He remembered the time of day ("evening," vs. 35), the cushion in the boat (vs. 38), and the place where Jesus slept ("in the stern," vs. 38). Further, the less-than-flattering picture of the apostles, their embarrassing fear and lack of faith (vs. 40), is not the kind of thing one makes up about oneself.

God orchestrates an event in the lives of the apostles to increase their faith in the One they should already trust. Few stories have been more poorly applied than this one. It is not about Jesus' getting you through the storms of life. He does that, of course, but this account is about the One who is the sovereign and all-powerful Lord. Demons rightly recognize Him as God (Mark 5:7), and we should fully trust Him.

Jesus had a full day of teaching (vs. 35), it is now evening, and He and the disciples need to get some rest. Jesus tells them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the sea (vs. 35). During this boat ride a "fierce windstorm" arose. Seasoned sailors and fishermen suddenly find themselves in a storm unlike anything they have ever experienced. **The crucial detail here is that Jesus was the one who led them into the storm. This was not accidental. God is working in their everyday circumstances to reveal who He is, who they are, and who they need.** This story is very relatable to us. Trials and tribulations, difficulties and desperate moments are when God does His greatest work in our lives. When He brings us to the end of ourselves, we are driven to Him and Him alone as Savior and Rescuer.

In verse 38 we see the apostles, in a panic, wake Jesus up and question his love and concern for them. They lash out in a rude outburst, "Do you not care that we are perishing?" They do not exhibit faith in the One who has proven Himself trustworthy. Jesus expresses a mild rebuke, "Why are you fearful? Do you still have no faith?" In the eye of the storm, rather than trusting Him, the disciples accuse Jesus of forsaking them (vs. 38). Can't you see yourself in the disciples. Jesus has proven himself faithful over and over, yet when caught off guard, we become angry instead of show faith. **However, unlike the disciples at this time, we know Jesus has taken care of all our sin. We know He rose from the dead. We know He can be trusted no matter what. Trials and difficulties are divine appointments to strengthen our faith. So why do we still have no faith?**

In verse 41 the disciples ask, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey Him!" The fear of the disciples at what Jesus has done (vs. 39) and who He might be exceeds the fear they had over the storm. **They must draw the conclusion that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.** We can know Him and trust Him regardless of our circumstances.

Discussion

1. Why is it unlikely that the disciples made up this story? If you were going to make up a story about being there when Jesus calmed a storm, how would you tell it?
2. When this story begins, whose suggestion is it to go to the other side of the lake? How is it comforting to know that Jesus in his sovereignty, led the disciples into this predicament?
3. How do you think the disciples should have reacted to the fact that the Son of God was sleeping soundly in their boat during the storm? How could they have reacted differently in these circumstances? Would you have reacted any differently than they did?
4. Is it possible to show genuine respect (by calling him “Teacher”) and disrespect (by accusing him of indifference) at the same time? Can you think of a time when you questioned God’s love or justice?
5. Did Jesus respond directly to their accusatory question? What did he do to answer their question?
6. What did Jesus have to say about their frantic reaction to the storm?

7. Are you encouraged to see that the disciples who were with Jesus when He was on the earth were slow to fully understand who He was? On the other hand, do you see why we do not have an excuse to be as unperceptive as they were?

8. What does this story teach us about God's involvement in the storms of life? What does it teach us about God's ways of dealing with the storms in our lives? What does it teach us about the way God uses the storms in our lives?

9. How is the lesson title "Jesus calms the storms of your life" an inadequate interpretation of this episode? What is the greater lesson?

Application

1. What can you learn from this story about how to react to sudden, serious crises in your life and about how to engage with God in the midst of these crises?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!