



Small Group Study Guide for September 13, 2020

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: When the storms of life overtake us and we are fearful, we often cry out to God and wonder if He is sleeping in the front of the boat. Yet the One who is with us is the One who is able to guard and keep us, and He is good! Even the wind and the waves obey Jesus!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. With all the disruptions we've experienced the past several months, share with each other a time when you experienced a deep peace, even if just for a moment. What was the most tranquil or peaceful moment you have had recently?
2. In the past six months, share a time that you were the most fearful. What was something you were afraid of and how did you work through that fear?

In the Word: Mark 4:35-41 (a closer look at the text)

3. Prior to this event, Jesus had actually been in a boat all day. Read Mark 4:1 for what happened earlier in the day and note the contents of chapter 4. Why was Jesus in the boat to begin with?
4. Storms on the Sea of Galilee can sprout up quickly, as cool air from the Mediterranean Sea mixes with the hot air over Galilee. At night it can be difficult to see them coming. Mark gives some details about what Jesus was doing that demonstrate his full humanity. What does it say in verse 38 that shows Jesus' human nature?
5. The disciples wake Jesus and call out to Him in a panic – "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" This was asked in unbelief, in doubt, and in fear. What are some alternate responses of the disciples that might have demonstrated more faith or insight into Jesus' true identity?
6. Jesus' command of the wind and the waves demonstrate Jesus' divinity. He is fully God, the Creator. He commands them with His word. How do the disciples respond to this miracle in verse 41?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

7. This year has been a “stormy” year and many of them have come up suddenly. Jot down a few of the “storms” you have faced this past summer and share them with your group.

8. How did you respond to these storms? Often we also respond with panic or fear, and even ask “Lord, don’t you care?!” Sometimes we respond with faith and trust. Often it is a mix of both. Describe how we respond to the storms of life in fear or doubt, and then describe how we can respond to the storms in faith and trust.

9. When we wonder to ourselves, “Does God really care?” What are some of the ways that the Lord reminds us of His love, His care, and His goodness?

10. Mark’s account of the disciple’s reaction to Jesus’ miracle ends with an unanswered question. “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” (4:41) The answer obvious to us is – He is the very Son of God! But Mark’s Gospel shows of Jesus’ identity slowly unfolded as the events took place until the Roman Centurion at the cross said at Jesus’ death – “Surely He was the Son of God.” What are some things that might make people today ask the question – “Who is this Jesus? Could He be more than just a mere man, a mere teacher?” What things might slowly reveal Jesus’ true identity to the people in your life that you are praying for and witnessing to?

Prayer: Thank God for being with us through the storms of life, and ask for greater faith and trust in His goodness and faithfulness. Ask God to open our eyes to His presence and power, and to take heart that Jesus is with us in the boat. Also pray for people who struggle with Jesus’ true identity, that they might see Him with eyes of faith as the divine Son of God – our Savior.

Next Week: We begin a preaching series called “*Heart Issues are Hard Issues: A sermon series on racial healing in the Church and in the Community.*” God’s Word gives us language and direction in addressing the social injustice and ethnic divides that plague all people. We see who we truly are as human beings, and how God addresses the root cause of our sin by giving us the Savior of the Nations.