

# Discussion Guide

Week of November 25, 2012

Mark 4:35–41

## Passage Overview:

Mark 4 contains a series of parables about the kingdom, or “rule,” of God. The OT speaks of a day when God will once again rule the earth after defeating the kingdoms of the world and saving his people. Accordingly, Mark portrays Jesus as God’s King (Mark 1–3) who has come with God’s authority to God’s world to usher in God’s kingdom. In vv35–41, we are given an account from Jesus’ life illustrating this very authority in the midst of chaos.

## Understanding God’s Word—Read Mark 4:35–41.

- The geography surrounding the Sea of Galilee leads to violent and sudden storms over the water. How do the disciples react to one such storm? What emotion do they exhibit, as pointed out by Jesus in v40?
- What is Jesus’ initial “response” to the storm (v38)? How do the disciples interpret this?
- After Jesus calms the storm, what emotion best characterizes the disciples’ reaction (v41)?

## Living and Applying God’s Word

- Read Psalm 107:25–30. In the Old Testament, God is often described as ruler over the seas and storms, two constant reminders of chaos. Why then does Mark take care to record this account of Jesus’ life?
- Now, think in terms of Christ’s divinity and humanity. What does this account tell us about the person of Christ? About trusting in Christ?
- At first, the disciples fear the wind and waves, but as Jesus subdues the chaos they fear him instead. Who or what do you fear most? How are you called to “fear” God instead?

## Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- The disciples ask two questions of Jesus. Consider each question in its context and how you are tempted to ask them of Jesus yourself.
  - “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (v38)
  - “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (40)
- Jesus asks the frightened disciples, “Have you still no faith?” which implies a certain unbelief for which they are responsible. How do we respond to things beyond our control? How can we turn and trust Jesus instead of fear?

## Pray

Ask God to help your unbelief, to turn your fear (of man, of circumstances, of failure, etc.) into fear of Him. Consider the prayer needs of your group, especially as they pertain to difficult circumstances and temptation to fear. Pray also for Valley Rescue Mission, which serves Christ in Columbus.

## Announcements

- Starting Pointe membership class (Nov. 30–Dec. 2) *RSVP to robert@insidecrosspointe.com.*
- Children’s Ministry Orientation (Dec. 9, 9 a.m.)
- Ski Retreat (Jan. 3–6) *RSVP to will@insidecrosspointe.com.*