

# LifeGroups

## *“Peace! Be Still!”*

Mark 4:35-41

*We continue our study of the book of Mark entitled “The Cross-Shaped Life.” We hope you are finding these weekly sermon discussion questions to be a helpful tool to reflect on and apply what you hear from the pulpit on Sunday mornings.*

***This week’s main point:*** *Contrary to the prosperity “gospel,” being a Christian does not exempt one from trials and troubles. The Christian is often tossed this way and that by the world, the flesh, and the devil. In this week’s passage, Jesus reveals himself to be the Lord of nature and the Lover of our souls. Faith means trusting that this Lord and this Lover is working all things together for our good. On the cross, Jesus calmed the worst storm there ever was: the Father’s stormy wrath. So when we encounter earthly storms, we can rest in God’s sovereign plan and allow him to transform us into Christ’s image.*

## Share

*Have you ever had a close brush with death? If so, how did the experience affect you? How did it change you?*

## Study

1. **Read Mark 4:35-41.**
2. *Jesus leaves Galilee and sails east across the lake to the more pagan region known as the Decapolis (the "Ten Cities"). Do you see a connection between Jesus traveling to this region and his teaching on the kingdom in verses 26-32?*
3. *What do you suppose was the disciples' reaction to Jesus' plan to sail to the other side of the lake?*
4. *Why were "other boats" sailing with Jesus and the disciples?*
5. *Re-read Mark 1:21-27. What are the similarities between that story and the present one?*
6. *Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith (vs. 40). How would this story read differently if the disciples had had more faith?*

## **S**ee Jesus

1. *Imagine Jesus sleeping in the stern of the boat while this furious squall was raging (vss. 37-38). What different things about the person of Jesus are revealed in these two verses?*
2. *Why were the disciples "filled with great fear" after the sea had calmed down?*
3. *In what sense is fear the appropriate reaction to Jesus, and in what sense is it inappropriate?*
4. *Read Jonah 1 and note the similarities and differences between that story and this one. How does Jesus succeed where Jonah failed?*

## **S**end

1. *When you think about proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel, what are some of your fears? What does this week's passage say to those fears? Can you put your faith in the One whom the wind and sea obey?*
2. *In his sermon, Mike quoted these lines from the pen of George Herbert: "Storms are the triumph of [God's] art; though he may close his eyes, yet not his heart." What is your reaction to those words? Do you believe God is always for you, even while you are suffering? What would it take to rest more completely in his arms?*

# Supplicate

- ◆ *Pray for our Session (the elders). They are having their annual retreat this weekend. Pray they will be unified as they clarify goals for the coming year.*
- ◆ *Tomorrow (February 17) is Presidents' Day. Pray for President Obama, Vice President Biden, and other government leaders. Ask God to fill them with wisdom and give them a sense of stewardship as they lead our nation.*
- ◆ *Pray for our Stephen Ministers, and for our Stephen Leaders Mike Osborne and Jenny Karraker. Ask God to raise up more people to serve in this ministry of care.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Summit Church - Woodbury Presbyterian*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionary of the week: Chipper & Kristen Flaniken - City Church Gainesville*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Arab of Iran*