

60-Day New Testament Journey
Does God Care When I Struggle? Leaders Notes
January 12/13, 2013

Memorize

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." – Hebrews 13:5, NIV

Connect With Others

- 1. Have you ever had a time when you wondered where God was? What kinds of situations make us feel this way?**

This question is designed to get your group talking about the weekend's message. Discuss what storms of life (financial, medical, or career) that tends to make them feel anxious and begin to doubt God's ability to provide.

- 2. If you were giving a weather report of your life right now, how would you describe it? Sunny? Partly cloudy? Foggy? Winter storm? Clearing? Explain.**

Similar question to the first! Get them connecting the story of Mark 4 to their own storms in life!

Commit to Growth

Read Mark 4: 35-41

- 1. Discuss the disciple's response to the storm. What do you think they made of Jesus sleeping? What did the disciples fail to notice, as they encountered this storm?**

Jesus did not worry, even in the storm. He had already told the disciples that they would reach the other side. They sensed that they were in great danger and it became difficult for them to believe that Jesus could take care of them. But they failed to see or believe that God was in their midst. Only God can control the weather. So the disciples had to realize that Jesus is God.

- 2. Think about it: Peter, Andrew, James and John were experienced fishermen by trade. So, they were not unfamiliar with sudden storms on the Sea of Galilee. Yet they were afraid! What do you think Jesus intended his disciples to learn from this situation?**

The disciples must have tried to control the boat by themselves, as they were experienced fishermen, but it must have overpowered them. They trusted in who they were, and their own abilities. Jesus uses this as an object lesson for them to come to trust Him and know Him better.

3. What do you think the disciples learned about the “nature of Jesus” through this situation?

- Mark 4:38 – He was tired = That He was a man!
- Luke 4:39 – His power over nature = That He was God!
- Therefore He was both God and Man! (This is the greatest mystery of all!)
- Ask your group, how they connect with the reality that Jesus was a man?

4. According to these verses, what does God promise us about storms? Which promise do you most identify with? Why?

- a. **1 Corinthians 10:13** – That God will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear!
- b. **Hebrews 13:5b** – That God is always with us! He will never leave us! Remember, Jesus was in the boat, but the disciples failed to remember who was in their midst!
- c. **Revelation 21:1-4** – That someday there will be no more storms.

5. In what situations are you tempted to ask, “Jesus, don’t you care if we drown?” What does your response to the storms of life reveal about your faith?

We may not go through a physical storm like the disciples did, but all of us go through many other storms of life like sickness, losing jobs, personal failures, the death of loved one, accidents, depression and hopelessness. We may think or feel like God does not care. He is sleeping. He is not answering our prayers. But thank God that Jesus is in our boat! He is in control and the storm won’t last forever!

6. Can you think of an example from your life where you chose to believe in God more than the crisis or tragedy? What was the outcome of the situation?

This is a personal reflection question. There are no right or wrong answers. But help the members of your group make the connection between the storms and perhaps how God showed up or what He did through the storm. Celebrate that God answers prayer and that He never leaves us!

7. Why does God let us go through the storms of life? According to Romans 10:17, what is one practical thing you can do to strengthen your faith in the coming weeks? Discuss this in light of the 60-Day New Testament Journey and what you are experiencing as you read God’s Word?

As Pastor Rick shared, the storms cause us to ask life’s most crucial question, Who is Jesus? According to Romans 10:17, our faith muscle is strengthened by spending time with God and in His Word. As we learn about Him, we come to trust God with the little things and slowly give him more and more control of our life. Help people see how being faithful in their reading will help their faith muscle grow! Discuss how their perspective on storms has been different as they have read God’s Word.

Pray

To enhance your daily reading, remember to read our daily devotion online at www.60day.adventurechurch.org!