

WEEK THREE
ADULT SMALL GROUP
JESUS CONNECTION: JESUS CALMS THE STORM

QUOTE: Charles Spurgeon

“It is no easy thing to quiet yourself: sooner may a man calm the sea, or rule the wind, or tame a tiger, then quiet himself...”¹¹

Jesus was the only person to calm the sea and rule the wind, and he provides the ultimate example of living our calm, quiet, hope, and trust even during the most chaotic times.

READ MARK 4:35-41 (also found Matthew 8:23–27, and Luke 8:22–25)

35 On that day, when evening had come, he told them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea.” 36 So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So, they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”

39 He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41 And they were terrified and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

DISCUSS:

- Why were the disciples feeling distraught? Did they have a right to feel that way?
- What does it say about Jesus that he could sleep during the storm?
- While the storm did not wake him, the panicked disciples did? What might that say about Jesus' love for his people in distress?
- What do you think the disciples expect Jesus to do when they wake him up?
- Why does his response of calming the sea shock them? Why was Jesus' action so surprising to them?
- How does Jesus’ response differ from their understanding and expectation of Jesus? Why does that cause them to fear?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- What storms are you facing in your life? How are you trying to bail yourself out on your own strength?
- Does it ever feel like Jesus is asleep during your life?
- What do you expect Jesus to do to your storms? How do you respond when he does not meet your expectations?

REREAD VERSES 40-41

- Jesus asks, “Do you still have no faith?” How does faith shape response? How does the disciple’s faith shape their response? How does your faith shape your response to Jesus’ working in your life?
- Why do the disciples ask, “Who then is this?” Why does Jesus’ control over nature and chaos break their paradigm of who they think Jesus is?
- If we were to genuinely believe this story, how does Jesus’ control over chaos reshape our understanding of who Jesus is?
- How can our answer to the question, “Who then is this?” lead to calm, quiet, hope, and trust?

READ: Psalm 131:1-2a

Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I do not get involved with things too great or too wondrous for me. Instead, I have calmed and quieted my soul.

This week, during the times of chaos, do not place your hope in your own skills and abilities, place your hope in Jesus and experience calm, quiet, hope and trust.

¹¹ Spurgeon, Charles