

SMALL GROUP GROWTH GUIDE

May 1, 2022

BIG IDEA: Jesus puts his power on display validating the truths he has just spoken of to demonstrate his Lordship.

Mark 4:35-41

BELONG

Mark began his gospel letter with “Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” With that being the starting point or foundation to all of life, talk about what your understanding of his Lordship means. What he can ask of you. His expectations are of you. Your will verse His will. Do you see this as adversarial or complementary? Why?

GROW

1. Jesus invited, commanded, his disciples to get in the boat to go to the other side presumably for some much needed rest. Therefore, they were where they were supposed to be, right in the middle of God’s will. When you know that and believe you are doing God’s will, do you expect life to be peaceful or stormy or some other alternative why?
2. How do you view or approach the storms of life that make their way into your life? Describe one.
3. Read Acts 9:10-14. What “boat” does Ananias presume that Jesus is asking him to get into? If Jesus is Lord can he ask or command him to do so? Why or why not?
4. Read Acts 9:15-16. What “boat” is Christ going to ask or command Paul to get into?
5. Ananias is confronted with potential danger based on what he has heard about Paul. Jesus is going to let Paul know the extent he will suffer, i.e., stoned, left for dead, shipwrecked, beaten, prison and so on. What motivates them or what understanding do they have to still get in the “boat”? What is your motivation to do life likewise? How much suffering are you willing to deal with before you ask, “God don’t you care”?
6. Have you ever been in very difficult life situation and asked, “God why me?” Have you ever stood and looked at the sunrise and asked the same question? What is being presumed in your answers? What do you believe God owes you?
7. Jesus was sleeping because of his faith or knowledge of the Father. Why do you think the disciples interpreted that as lack of concern for them? When storms come what makes you think God is not there with you?
8. Does it help you in this life to know that *one day* in the future Jesus will calm all the storms and bring the peace of eternal life? Why or why not? See Romans 12:17-21
9. In the midst of the storms or the testing of your faith, what does God ask you to be in control of? Example, Proverbs 3:1-8. What is the fundamental issue based on Jesus’ question in Mark 4:40 is faith. What is faith?

REACH

John 16:33—The tension between experiencing life’s storms and taking heart is where most people get derailed. Jesus doesn’t say or claim he has overcome your specific trouble but that he has overcome the world. A few hours later on the cross Jesus will say, “it is finished.” The world that brought you the storm is crumbling all around even while we deal with its consequences. Take heart there is a new one on the way.