



GROWTH GROUP LENT 2020
ON THE BOAT WITH JESUS
WEEK 3 – MARCH 15, 2020 - MARK 4:35-41

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

1) Share a time when you were in a dangerous situation, and how it felt.

SETTING THE CONTEXT

Mark's narrative has lots of firsthand information because Peter is more than likely the source for this gospel. The unanimous testimony of the early Church was that Mark had spent considerable time with Peter and served as his scribe (see 1 Peter 5:13). There are also influences of Jonah 1 and Psalm 107:22-32 in this story as well.

In the 1980's the hull of a fishing boat was found in the mud along the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. The boat was 26 ½ feet long, 7 ½ feet wide and 4 ½ feet tall and dated to 120BC-40AD. Both the front and back part of the boat appeared to have a deck where someone could sit or lie down. There were two rowers per side and the boat could have held up to fifteen people. This is more than likely the type of boat that Jesus was in.

The Sea of Galilee is known for difficult weather. The word that is used in Mark for squall can also mean hurricane. The violence of this storm should also remind the reader of the violence of the storm that Jonah had endured when he was running from God.

This is the only time in the gospels that we hear about Jesus sleeping. Even in the midst of adversity, he completely trusts God. The disciples, some of whom would have sailed in situations like this before, are frightened.

Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the waves to be still. Just as God had "spoken" order out of chaos in Genesis 1, Jesus brings order with the power of his spoken word. Mark uses the same word for the rebuking of the wind that was used earlier (Mark 1:25, 3:12) when Jesus rebuked / exorcised "evil spirits." The narrative shows us that Jesus can do what only God can do. No one else can do these things.



The real threat to faith does not come from a lack of knowledge, but from doubt and fear. Jesus does not seem overly concerned about the disciples lack of knowledge about him. Rather, he seems more concerned about their fear, which in the Greek language has to do with losing heart or cowardice.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

Read Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

- 2) In Vs 37, we see that the fierce storm is filling the boat with water. What do you think the disciples were feeling? Why?
- 3) In Vs 38, The disciples cry out "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown? Have you cried out to Jesus to save you from one of life's squalls? How did He answer your prayer?
- 4) Stress and anxiety can cloud our thoughts when we are in danger. Do you reach out to Jesus when you are experiencing anxiety in your life? How?
- 5) In Vs 39, Jesus calms the storm and then asks the disciples his questions. If he had asked them before calming the storm, how do you think they would have responded? What does this teach us when addressing others experiencing fear and anxiety?
- 6) Jesus asks, "Why are you afraid?" in vs 39. Do you experience fear in your life? Why?
- 7) The disciples move from being afraid in v. 39 to being terrified in v.41? They are safe from the dangers of the storm, but now they are terrified. What has happened? is this terror different than fear?

BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) The disciples didn't know the end of the story yet, Jesus death, resurrection and ascension as well as the gift of the Holy Spirit. Knowing all of that, does it help you to have faith in the outcome of fearful situations?