

Stronger Discussion Questions
02.25.18

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. The Scripture today is about a boat in a massive frightening storm. Are there any stories from your own life this reminds you of?

Background

At the end of what was likely one of many long days of teaching Jesus directed his disciples to get in a fishing boat and sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. You can read the parables Jesus shared with the crowd in chapter 4. The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by mountains and is notorious for the storms that can strike the lake creating rough waves and difficulty navigating across. It is also a fairly large lake so it took some time and effort to get across. Once they set sail Jesus, worn out from the day, curled up in the stern of the boat to take a nap. Most Jewish men and women were well versed in what to look for when Messiah arrived on the scene a few highlights were healing of the deaf and blind, calming the wind and waves, and freeing Israel from Roman oppression. So when the disciples witnessed this miracle they should (and may) have recognized it for what it was - a clue to who Jesus truly was. Knowing this helps make sense of what Jesus said to the disciples.

Read Mark 4:35-41

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. Why were Jesus and the disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee that evening?
2. What connection might there be between the storm and the fact they were headed to Gentile territory?
3. What do you know about how the Sea was viewed in the Old Testament? What Scriptures or stories come to mind?
4. Imagine the storm. What would it have sounded like, felt like, looked like, felt like?
5. How did Jesus respond to the disciples before and after he calmed the storm?
6. Why do you think Peter retold a story that made him look weak?
7. Why do you think Mark found it so important to share this story?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Has Jesus ever led you into a situation that felt like what this story describes - crossing a stormy sea? How did you feel and what did you do?
2. How would you have felt in the disciples' spot, knowing there is a monster storm going on and Jesus is asleep?
3. How does following Jesus sometimes lead to more chaos in our lives?
4. What does it usually take before you turn to Jesus for help?

5. Tell about a time Jesus showed himself stronger than the chaos in your life?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How do you think God might want to use the chaotic experiences of your life to show he is stronger and can bring peace even into chaos?
2. Where is the chaos in your life this week?
3. What would it look like to trust Jesus in the midst of the chaos?
4. How can you help others recognize Jesus's victory?
5. How can our faith in Jesus during the hard and chaotic times speak to others of our love for Jesus?

Closing

Spend a few minutes as you finish your time together to pray for one another to see the times in your life when chaos is surrounding you as real opportunities to see Jesus at work..

Reminder: The Good News is Jesus is stronger. He is stronger than temptation, he is stronger than sin, and he is stronger than death. Nothing stands between Jesus and his Father! Jesus has made a way for that to be true for us as well.