

OPEN

When the storm sirens sound, do you:

- A) Gather everyone in the bathroom under a mattress?
- B) Check the weather radar map to see how close the storm is?
- C) Finish watching your TV show because the storm is never as bad as they say?

Mark 4:35-40

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

DISCOVER

Jesus uses questions to challenge the disciples' understanding and belief.

What has already happened "On that day"?

Why did Jesus sleep through the storm?

How do the disciples interpret Jesus sleeping through the storm?

How do we know Jesus wasn't just a good meteorologist who knew just when the storm would end?

What do you think Jesus is trying to do in asking the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Why are the disciples terrified after the threat of the storm has ended?

What did the disciples believe about Jesus at this point?

DEEPEN

Jesus uses questions to lead His hearers to a greater understanding of who He is and what He calls them to believe.

How does Jesus' rescue of the disciples by calming the storm with a word deepen the disciples' understanding of who he is?

What does Jesus teach about life in the Kingdom through this episode that he was not able to teach through parables?

How are fear and faith related?

Why does Jesus allow storms to afflict our lives?

DELIVER

Jesus calls His disciples to act on what He has revealed to them. The disciple responds by trusting Him to work through them in all their vocations.

A friend going through a difficult trial tells you, "God seems asleep at the wheel. Why doesn't he do something?" How might Jesus' calming of the storm help you respond?

What fears in your life could be seen as opportunities to learn more about walking by faith in the Kingdom of God?

PRAY

Share something you're thankful for and/or something you would like to see God change.

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"Lord, in your mercy ... hear our pray."

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