



# LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

## Lord of the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

Storms are not a time of peace, planning, and predictability.

They are chaotic. Stressful. Scary.

In Mark 4, we read about a storm—a storm that pummeled the disciples' boat and punched the courage right out of the disciples. Jesus calmed the storm, of course, but the story is about more than Jesus' rescuing his disciples from a storm or even from their own fear. After all, even after the storm was over, they felt fear. The story highlights Jesus' sovereignty over the chaos of sin, and points to the way he would ultimately conquer the greatest evil of all.

Like the disciples, we too must be reminded that all power belongs to Christ and that our proper response is to trust him.

The central message of this story is reinforced by the four questions in the text.

1. A cry of doubt - "Don't you care that we are perishing?"
2. A confrontation of fear - "Why are you so afraid?"
3. A challenge to faith - "Have you still no faith?"
4. A call to worship - "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The first and last questions were asked by the disciples. But notice how remarkably different are those questions are. In the first question, the disciples cry out in doubt. In the last, they call out in worship. As their boat moved through the storm, the Lord was taking them on another journey. Even they traveled from a familiar land to a foreign landing, the Lord brought them from panic to praise, from fear to faith, from worry to worship.

Jesus' victory over the raging wind and waves reminds us of God's promised victory over the raging rebellion of sin and its effects (see, for example, Isaiah 17:12-13). Mark's account of Jesus' life culminates with the answer to the disciples' question, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" The answer finally comes as Jesus hangs dying on the cross, defeating the chaos of sin by dying for sinners. It is there that the centurion admits, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39).

### Questions for Application and Discussion

1. Notice that the disciples were in the storm in the first place because Jesus had instructed them to "go across to the other side" (Mark 4:35). They were doing his will when they encountered trouble. Why do we tend to assume that doing God's will exempts us from trouble? What is wrong with this kind of thinking?
2. At what points in the story were the disciples afraid? What is different about the first (4:40) and second (4:41) fear (refer also to Matthew 10:28)?
3. What are some specific ways you can exercise faith instead of fear during a time of turmoil and chaos?
4. How can you encourage others to trust the Lord instead of surrender to fear?