

New Peace

Opening Question: *What was your first memory of swimming or the diving board; fear or fun?*

Tell them: This week we looked at Mark 4:35-41. Let's take a look.

Ask them: *What's something we learn about God in this passage? (Jesus was in the boat with them. He rebuked the wind and calmed the sea. He can command the elements of nature.)* **Ask them:** *What do we encounter about humanity in this passage? (Humanity struggles to grasp the deity of Jesus. It doesn't matter how many miracles He performs, or parables of wisdom Jesus tells, the disciples, the PRIMARY followers of Jesus questioned his capability to care for them.)*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that humanity thinks that God doesn't care or that He's unaware of our struggles. **Ask them:** *Would you agree with that? (see Psalm 13:1-4 by way of example) How does our fear prove that we think God doesn't care?*

Tell them: Mark 4:41 shows us that for the disciples, the fear of the storm was replaced with fear of Jesus and His power.

Ask them: *How many of you were pliable, trusting, and obedient as children?*
Ask them: *As an adult, do you trust yourself more than any other figure in your life? What are the dangers in trusting others more than yourself? What are the dangers in trusting only yourself?*

Tell them: This scene on the boat shows us that **God's power is fearsome.**

Ask them: How many of you get scared during a storm?

Tell them: Since we live in such a stormy place, let's take a look at a few verses:

Jeremiah 14:22: *"Do any of the worthless idols of the nations cause rain to fall? Do the skies themselves send showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God, who does this? So we put our hopes in you because you alone do all this."*

Psalms 97:4: *"His lightning bolts light up the world; the earth sees and trembles."*

Psalm 135:6–7: “He does whatever he pleases in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the ocean depths. He causes the clouds to arise from the end of the earth, makes lightning bolts accompany the rain, and brings the wind out of his storehouses.”

Ask them: *How can this idea of God’s power over the weather change your storm experiences?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that **God allows storms (physical, mental and emotional) in our lives** for our good, but oftentimes we either blame Satan or humans and we do all we can to go back to our ‘normal’ lives at all costs. **Ask them:** *What kinds of things do we do when storms come? (we complain, we run)*

Ask them: *Why is it biblically incorrect to give Satan credit for our suffering? (it essentially means he has more power than God and it ignores the power of suffering in developing courage, perseverance, faith, hope, trust, etc.)*

Tell them: Pastor Michael pointed out what happens when we repeatedly run from storms. **Ask them:** *Does anyone remember what he said? (God will have those same lessons over and over again until we learn to depend on Him and others, including our leaders.)* **Ask them:** *What do you think about this idea?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said, “When you don’t follow someone else you are following yourself.” **Ask them:** *What do you think about that idea?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael talked about snowbirds leaving the cold months in the north to go south and avoid the storms. He says a lot of us apply that kind of thinking to our daily lives and the storms we encounter thinking, “Jesus wouldn’t want me to sail into those waters. Jesus CERTAINLY wouldn’t want me to STAY in these waters.” And yet, “God allows storms in our lives” to grow our courage, faith, and display His awesome power.

Tell them: Looking back at our passage in Mark, Pastor Michael said that **God allows storms for “other boats.”** (See Mark 4:36) **Ask them:** *Do you remember why he said that God allows storms for others around you? (We reveal our faith in the power and love of God when we act differently than the non-believer) Why do you think that is true? In what ways can we be an example in fearful, stressful or dangerous situations?*

Tell them: We also looked at John 14:27-30. Let's take a look now. **Ask them:** *What do we learn about Satan in this passage? (vs. 30: he is the ruler of this world, and he has no power of God.)*

Ask them: *What is the difference between new peace and old peace in vs. 27? (the peace the world offers)?*

Tell them: The old peace, or the peace the world offers requires:

1. *Obtaining and maintaining power*
2. *Having wealth and success*
3. *Trying to manufacture outcomes,*
4. *Protecting our borders*
5. *Avoiding storms*

Ask them: *What do you think about this way to peace?*

Tell them: The New Peace: Allows us to do all things (weather all storms) with nothing other than the power of the Holy Spirit. **Ask them:** *How is this different from the world? Ask them: What kinds of things has the world told you to fear? How might the next generation benefit from the suffering of the past year? How does normalcy offer to be our peace? Ask them: If anyone feels free to be honest, no judgement here, which do you fear more: the storm or God's power?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked, "the storm obeys Jesus; do you?" **Ask them:** *How do you feel about that question? Ask them: How aware are you of the presence of God in your life?*

Tell them: When we realize the storms of life have a significant spiritual purpose it changes the way we see the storms. Whereas the peace the world offers requires that we avoid storms. When we seek to find peace the world's way, we become our own god. **Ask them:** *What do you think about Elisabeth Elliot's words, "God will not protect you from anything that will make you more like Jesus"*

Tweetable Quotes and Thoughts to Remember

1. When you don't follow someone else you are following you.
2. Storms should remind us of God's power.
3. The storm obeys Jesus. Do you?