

DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

A week ago, most of us would have mocked anyone who told us that virtually every Christian in America would be participating in worship services this weekend, not from a pew, but from their living room sofa. As the COVID-19 crisis has swept across our nation, every one of us has been touched by the most insidious disease of all: fear. From the woman plowing people down with her cart at the grocery store, to the man who won't let his family step outside the house, fear is having an enormous impact on our daily lives. Fortunately, Jesus had quite a bit to say about fear and why we, as His followers, can live in peace and freedom even in the face of a global pandemic.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the largest storm or natural disaster you have ever witnessed? What part of that experience stands out most in your memory?
2. Do you consider yourself to be a fearful person? On a scale from 1-10, how fearful are you?
3. Which of the below is causing you the most anxiety? (circle all that apply):
 - Elderly friends/family getting sick
 - Getting sick myself
 - Losing my job/income
 - Economy Failing
 - Losing investments/retirement
 - Figuring out how to care for kids out of school
 - Collapse of infrastructure/government
 - Not having access to food/waterHow are you coping with these fears?
4. Read Matthew 8:23-27, then Mark 4:35-41. Write down any initial observations or questions. Circle any words or phrases that stand out to you. What is similar/different about the two accounts? In one sentence, what is the message the authors are conveying?
5. Why is it so significant that Jesus was able to calm the storm? That He didn't ask the Father for help, but just did it?
6. Why do you think the early Christians were so fear-less in the face of death? Do you have this kind of faith? If not, what do you need to do to build your faith in the face of this storm?
7. Offer your current fears up to God. Pray, "Lord, you are bigger than my fear of _____ (fill in your fear) and I trust that you will provide even in this." Spend a few moments alone/in your group in prayer offering your fears to God and allowing Him to comfort you.

DISCUSSION

cont'd!

MOVING FORWARD

Sometimes it feels like we are in the middle of a storm and Jesus is sleeping in the front of the boat. As we plow through the waves, we need to remember that whether we can see the work He is doing or not, He is in the boat with us! He has offered up Himself to calm every storm, so we can face our future with security and peace. There is nothing this world can throw at us that He is not Master over. Trust Him and be Fear-less.

READING CHALLENGE

The way we spend our free time is going to radically change from “normal” over the next few weeks. Why not use this opportunity to really dig in to your faith? We would like to challenge you to take the next 14 days and read a Gospel (hint: Matthew has 28 chapters...that’s 2 per day!). As you read ask yourself three questions:

1. What does this say?
2. What does this mean?
3. What does this mean to me?

REMINDER!: Check scgchurch.org regularly for devotion guides and updates!