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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Introduction

Life's storms can often feel overwhelming, leaving us questioning where help will come from. In Mark 6:45-50, we see Jesus sending His disciples into a storm, only to later reveal Himself by walking on water and calming their fears. This moment serves as a powerful reminder of His divine presence in our struggles. As we explore this passage, let's consider how our personal storms are opportunities for growth and reliance on God, recognizing that He is always with us, ready to declare, "I AM" in our times of need.

Disciple Measure

Intentional Friend: Who do you have in your life you can call on during storms? Who would say knows they can call on you during their storms?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

The Reason for Storms in Life

HIGHLIGHT

Have someone read aloud...

Mark 6:45-50

EXPLAIN

Discuss the following questions...

Opening Question: Share a time when you faced a significant storm in your life. How did you feel during that experience?

- 1. Why do you think Jesus "made" the disciples get into the boat and face the storm? What might He have been trying to teach them?
- 2. How does understanding Jesus' identity as the "I AM" impact how we view Him during our struggles?
- 3. Discuss the significance of Jesus "passing by" the disciples. How does this connect to Old Testament revelations of God?

Have someone read aloud **Exodus 33:17-23** and **1 Kings 19:11-12**.

4. What do these Old Testament passages communicate to us about the nature of God and Jesus? How can this encourage us during difficult times?

Application Questions Notes:

APPLY

Discuss the following questions...

- 1. The sermon mentions that "Sometimes God sends you out to sea so that you turn to Him for rescue." Can you relate to this statement? Share an experience if you're comfortable.
- 2. How can our lowest points become opportunities for spiritual transformation?
- 3. Do you typically trust in God or in other things during times of crisis? Why or why not?
- 4. How can we cultivate courage and trust in Jesus when facing life's storms?

RESPOND

Force for Good: Is there someone in your life going through a storm? How can you intentionally invest in this friend during their storm? If someone in your life is going through a

life is going through a significant struggle, click **here** for resources on a variety of different struggles.



Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for being our "I AM" in every storm of life. Help us to recognize Your presence and purpose even in our struggles. Give us the courage to trust You and the wisdom to grow through our challenges. Amen.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Mark 6:45-50

What do you think this passage tells us about Jesus and who He is? For younger kids, discuss that Jesus can do amazing things, like walking on water, showing He's special. With older kids, talk about how this miracle shows His divine nature and care during tough times

How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus walking on the water, and how might we feel in the same situation?

Younger kids can relate to feeling scared or surprised. Older kids can discuss how the disciples' feelings are like our own in difficult situations and how recognizing Jesus' presence offers comfort.

How can we remember Jesus is with us when we're afraid or worried?

Younger kids can pray or sing about Jesus' love. Older kids can read the Bible, share concerns with family, or help others as expressions of faith.

NT 260

WEEK: 21

- Mark 10
- Mark 11
- Mark 12
- Mark 13
- Mark 14

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:43-44

Resources

Resources to Listen to

BEMA: She Giggled



Marty Solomon dives into the account of Jesus walking on the water and shares a personal story that relates it to how Jesus sees us. (24 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - Mark



The Bible Project gives an in-depth guide through Mark with multiple resources and videos (10 min)

Bible Project Guide - The Gospel



The Bible Project gives an overview of reading the Gospel. (6 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.





Commentary

Notes:

What's Going On?

In Mark 6:45-50, Jesus has just finished performing a remarkable miracle—feeding a massive crowd with just five loaves and two fish. This event sets the stage for what's about to happen. After this miracle, Jesus tells his disciples to get into a boat and go ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee while He stays behind to dismiss the crowd and pray. Later, the disciples find themselves struggling against a strong wind in the middle of the lake. As they strain at the oars, Jesus comes toward them, walking on water, but intends to pass by them. When they see Him, they think He's a ghost and are terrified. Jesus reassures them, identifies Himself, and calms their fears.

This story is more than just an account of a miracle; it's a lesson in faith and recognition. Jesus deliberately chooses to approach them during their time of need but waits until they acknowledge their need for Him. This passage showcases Jesus's divine identity and His authority over nature. The disciples' initial fear and subsequent relief reflect the journey of faith, moving from misunderstanding and fear to recognition and reassurance in Jesus' presence.



A Bit of Background

To understand this passage fully, it helps to know a little about its historical setting. The Sea of Galilee, where this event takes place, is actually a large freshwater lake. The disciples, many of whom were seasoned fishermen, were familiar with these waters. Despite their experience, they struggled during this particular trip due to adverse weather conditions. This highlights the severity of the storm they faced

and sets the stage for a significant lesson.

At this time in history, many people were expecting a messiah to come, someone who would liberate them from Roman occupation and bring a new kingdom. Jesus' miracles, like feeding the multitude and walking on water, point to his messianic identity, but in a way that defies the expectations of a political or military savior. The disciples had to learn to see Jesus : in a new light, recognizing His divine nature and authority.

In this context, roads and communication were limited, so Jesus' miracles spread by word of mouth through eyewitnesses like the disciples, bolstering the claim of His divine nature. The event in Mark 6:45-50 is a pivotal moment that invites both the disciples and readers today to perceive Jesus as the Son of God, who is present with us in our most challenging moments.

Mark 6 Birth of Crucification End of Christ and Resurection Revelation Today's highlighted passage and other related passages

Notes:

Sermon Notes

		CSB

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After he said good-bye to them, he went away to the mountain to pray. Well into the night, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on the land. He saw them straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Very early in the morning he came toward them walking on the sea and wanted to pass by them. When they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke with them and said, "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

every opportunity to help people take their next step ::

closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking
for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak
truth into someone's life.

When a disciple lives out their Godgiven calling, they naturally become a force for good :: where they live, work, and play. This type of person is : looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.

