

LIFEGROUP STUDY
FOLLOW ME: INTO THE STORM
March 14, 2021

PARTICIPANT NOTES

OVERVIEW

Welcome back to our LifeGroup study, Follow Me. In Mark 4:35-41 Jesus says, "Follow Me", and then leads his disciples right into a storm. It's a great reminder that following him does not prevent the storms of life. But we don't have to be afraid. We can learn to trust him even through storms, suffering and persecution. The key is in answering the question, "Who is this man that commands the winds and waves?" When we answer, "He is God with us", we can have peace in the storm.

ICEBREAKER That Was a Doozy!

One of my favourite experiences is being on the shores of Lake Huron watching a storm come in. The ominous gathering of black clouds, the sudden onslaught of wind and the lightening flashing across the vast sky is a sight to behold! **What "doozy" of a storm have you experienced? What impressions has that storm left in your memory?** Share your story with your group!

STUDY

You cannot, of your own free will, follow someone you do not trust. This is also true of our relationship with Jesus. When he calls on us to "Follow Me" He is inviting us to turn over the leadership of our lives to him. He is calling on us to let Him be our life-guide. To say "No" to him is to say, "I do not believe in you as someone worthy to be my life-leader". To say "yes" to him is to say, "I am putting my trust and faith in your leadership over my life." Our response to his call is a statement of our faith in Jesus.

- 1. What does our faith in Jesus look like when we choose to follow Him? In other words, what actions demonstrate that I have faith in Him as my Life Leader?**

- 2. What do you think of the following two statements?**
 - I will never be any closer to, any more intimate with, any more alive in my relationship with Jesus than the degree to which I trust in, believe in, put my faith in Jesus.
 - If you are not close to Jesus it is a "faith in Jesus" issue.

- 3. How do the following verses help us understand what faith is?**

Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 NASB

Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him. Hebrews 11:6 (NCV)

4. Create your own definition of faith. How would you define it?

On Sunday we did a bit of a FAITH 101 study. We talked about FAITH: THE FACTS. Review the following 7 facts that were shared and help each other remember them.

#1 Everybody's Doin' It

#2 Faith is Evidenced in Our Actions

#3 God Demands It

#4 It's More About the "Where" Than it is About the "How Much"

#5 It Comes With Doubts

#6 Acting in Faith Affirms that Faith

#7 God Wants to Help Us Grow in Our Faith

5. Are there other facts about faith that you can think of that are not on the list?

Which of the 7 facts about faith do you find most helpful?

Which of the 7 do you most need in your life to help you do a better job of following Jesus

READ: Mark 4:35-41

Storms can serve as an analogy of the difficulties that come into our lives. These difficulties can challenge our beliefs about God and our expectations of how He will work. For example, when storms come we may think it's because we've done something wrong. We may believe that if we are faithfully following God, we'll be protected from all storms. Neither of these presumptions are necessarily true.

6. Why is it important to understand how God can use storms in our life?

7. Read vs. 38 again. Why is it a terrible question?

In Mark 4:40, after Jesus stills the storm, he says to the disciples, "*Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?*" In Luke's account in 8:25 Jesus says, "*Where is your faith?*", he asked his disciples. Having three accounts (Matthew, Mark and Luke) of the same event can give us a fuller picture of what took

place and what it was that Jesus said. It is likely that Jesus asked all three questions and Mark records two of them and Luke one.

8. **Why would Jesus ask them these questions? What is He hoping they would learn?**

9. In verse 41, we read the disciples are “absolutely terrified”. There is bad fear and there is good fear. **How has bad fear impacted your life this past year? How can good fear grow our faith in Jesus?**

10. Think about the storm you are in right now or one you’ve been in recently. **How can you look to Jesus in your storm?**

PRAYER

Let’s pray for our Celebrate Recovery ministry at Creekside.

Please pray as we continue serving our community well as we stay online, and transition back in person. We know the value in both and want to ensure we are doing them as best we can...but not sure we can do both well!

We are seeing an increase in our numbers (yay!) from other parts of Canada (From Newfoundland, Quebec & Alberta). Pray for wisdom in how to proceed locally for those can only join us online.

Pray that those joining us would continue to seek Jesus and his healing power. We are seeing the mental toll this pandemic is having on many. We want to serve them well, understanding what our role is in their life.