

Life Group Sermon Based Discussion Questions

Center Point Church

Sermon Summary

In the sermon "In the Midst of the Storm," Pastor Mark Phillips emphasizes the importance of faithfulness during challenging times. He begins by expressing gratitude to the congregation for supportive prayers and sharing his family's missionary work in Niger. During a time marked by political turbulence, he urges the congregation to pray for people in Niger who can't escape the dangerous circumstances. Pastor Mark uses this challenging situation to lead into an analysis of Mark 4:35-41, where Jesus and his disciples navigate a perilous storm on the Sea of Galilee. Throughout his sermon, Pastor Mark elaborates on three key takeaways from the biblical story. First, he stresses that obedience to God's commands often lead to trials, reflecting on the disciples' obedience to Jesus despite the storm. Second, he highlights that the challenges or 'storms' we face expose the true nature of our faith and trust in God. He candidly shares his personal struggle with doubt amidst the situation in Niger. Lastly, Pastor Mark argues that these storms allow us to see the true persona of Jesus. It is during adversity, he posits, we recognize Jesus's divinity and supreme control, thus inspiring unwavering trust in him. The sermon concludes with Pastor Mark urging his congregation to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior and Beacon during life's storms. He calls upon them to pray for believers enduring difficult circumstances, empathizing with the challenges missionaries endure. This sermon serves as a reminder of faith's vital role in maneuvering life's trials and tribulations, emphasizing unwavering trust in God's sovereignty and goodness.

Ice Breaker Question

If you had to bring one item with you to survive a storm (real or metaphorical), what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions

1. How can we remain obedient to God even when we know that obedience can sometimes lead to challenging situations?

Context: In the sermon, Pastor Mark noted that obedience to God often leads us into challenging situations, including storms.

Application Question: What is one step you can take to strengthen your readiness for the difficulties that obedience to God might bring?

2. In Mark 4:35-41, how did the disciples' reaction to the storm reveal their level of faith in Jesus?

Context: Pastor Mark discussed the passage from Mark 4:35-41, where the disciples' fear and lack of faith in Jesus were exposed during a severe storm.

Application Question: Can you share a personal experience when a challenging situation revealed something about your faith?

3. Why is it important for our faith to be tested and exposed through difficult situations?

Context: Pastor Mark emphasized that storms expose our hearts and reveal our faith or lack of it.

Application Question: How can being honest about our faith struggles help us grow in our relationship with Jesus and with one another?

4. What aspects of Jesus' divinity and sovereignty do you find most comforting during challenging times?

Context: Pastor Mark highlighted how Jesus' power over the storm and His rebuke towards the disciples' fear revealed His divinity and sovereignty.

Application Question: What is one way you can remind yourself of Jesus' power and presence during difficult situations in your life?

5. How can we support and pray for missionaries and believers facing challenges in difficult circumstances?

Context: Towards the end of the sermon, Pastor Mark encouraged the congregation to remember missionaries and believers in prayer.

Application Question: Can you think of a practical way to support people facing hardships for their faith, either locally or around the world?

Application Prayer Prompts

- Pray for God's strength and guidance to apply the lessons learned in the sermon in their daily lives.
- Pray for courage and faithfulness to follow God's lead, even when it may lead to challenging situations. Ask for a heart that remains obedient amidst trials.
- Pray for an open heart that can be exposed and strengthened during life's storms. Ask for the grace to trust in God's plan, even when faced with doubt and fear.
- Pray for a deeper understanding and recognition of Jesus in the midst of personal storms. Ask for a faith that sees and trusts in Jesus's sovereignty and goodness.
- Pray for The Phillips family, the missionaries and believers in difficult circumstances, especially those in Niger. Ask for their protection, strength, and steadfast faith.