

onechurch

bigIdea



Last week we saw Jesus and His disciples in a boat in the middle of a storm, yet Jesus was in control, even during a storm. But fast forward two thousand years later—when you and I are caught up in storms today—whether it be an unexpected flood, a recession, a spouse leaving—what assurances do we have today that Jesus is in control? Jesus isn't physically with us like He was with His disciples in the boat, right?

BIG IDEA: We show others that God's in control by being Jesus' hands and feet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel like it would have been easier to believe in Jesus if you would have seen Him and walked with Him? Why or why not?
2. Read John 20:25-29. If seeing is believing, then why did so many people reject following a Jesus they could see and touch?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 and Ephesians 4:12. What does it mean to you that the church is called the 'Body of Christ'?

You see, though Jesus is no longer here on this earth physically, the Bible says that when the church does what the church is supposed to do, then that is as close as people get to the actual hands and feet of Jesus. That even though He isn't here in form, people can still see Jesus at work THROUGH the church! That His hands are still working and healing. His feet are still moving spreading love. That Jesus is at work when the church.

4. Share about a time when you were part of a life-giving community, inside or outside of the church (this may have been in a family, group of friends, team, organization, etc.) What made this experience so memorable?
5. Read Acts 2:2-4. What role does the Holy Spirit play in fellowship and community?
6. How can you experience the power of the Holy Spirit, individually and as a Community Group?
7. Read Acts 2:42-47. In what ways does your Community Group currently reflect this model of community?
8. Other than wearing masks, what are some factors that keep you from experiencing true community with each other? What can your group practically do to become a reflection of true biblical community?

FURTHER STUDY

9. Read Acts 4. What is your initial reaction when things don't go according to plan? Why do you think you typically respond that way?
10. Read Acts 4:1-22. Do you ever feel like God has let you down? If so, in what ways? What do you do in these circumstances?
11. Share with your Community Group some of the ways that God has come through for you in the past.
12. Read Acts 4:23-31. Even though the disciples had just been persecuted, what did they pray for? What would you say the majority of your prayer life is focused upon? What might this reveal about your faith or your relationship with God?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What specific actions can your group take to build community with one another? For example, look for opportunities to share life together outside of group meetings (social outings, serving in the community, etc.); or look for opportunities to build and share community with others by inviting them to a community gathering with your group this summer. Also, as group members share their needs, look for ways that you as a group can rally around each other. Lastly, as the group leader, who can you empower to serve the group by coordinating fun group activities, serve projects, or prayer requests?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27