

BE A BRINGER

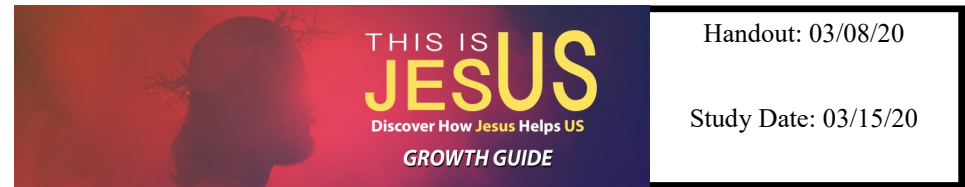
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Jesus Calms My Fears

The Sea of Galilee was known for its spontaneous, raging storms. We know that some of the disciples, at least four, were professional fishermen and made their living on the water. Professional fishermen would know how to react to a sudden storm if they spent their lives in the occupation. We can gauge the storm by how frightened these fishermen were. They even thought they would die! (Luke 8:24). The boat filled with water, it crashed against the powerful waves, and yet Jesus slept at the stern (Mark 4:37–38). He slept peacefully and restfully because He knew that God was with Him. Proverbs 3:24 and Psalm 4:8 teach that the sleep of a believer is peaceful because he or she knows that God is near. Jesus was awoken by His disciples and rebuked them, asking them if they had any faith (Mark 4:40).

This story is an example of how Jesus' disciples were just like you and me. They saw Jesus perform countless miracles and walked with Him day to day, but they still found it hard to believe that Christ would not let them drown. When Jesus rebuked their lack of faith, by extension He also rebuked our lack of faith. We face many storms in our daily lives. The world is sinful and broken, which means that we are bound to experience illness, financial loss, painful relationships, and eventually death (1 Corinthians 15:55). Jesus can calm us during the storms of our lives. He is with us and is happy to bring us peace and comfort.

Knowing that the storm was coming (as God, He is omniscient), Jesus still decided to set off for the other side (Matthew 8:18). God has promised us that He will be with us in the midst of storms. In John 16:33 Jesus said, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Storms will come, but we are never alone in the midst of our pain or fear. When we persevere with Christ, we overcome (Deuteronomy 31:8; James 1:12).

Through this story, we see Christ's humanity as well as His deity. Man cannot make the "winds and water obey" (Luke 8:25). The sea obeyed Christ, calming at a quick word from the Lord (Mark 4:39). In the midst of our personal storms, this is comforting and can bring peace to our hearts. We can never misplace our faith when we put it in Christ. When the waters of life appear to loom over us, threatening to crash, we can rest knowing that He is with us and has the ability to bring peace and safety to our lives.

Source: <https://www.compellingtruth.org/calming-the-storm.html>

KEY VERSE

Mark 4:40 (NKJV)

But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Mark 4:35-41; Isaiah 43:1-2; Luke 12

Introduction

1. What is the worst storm you have been through? Where did you find peace in the middle of the storm?
2. List some situations in life that cause you to fear. What can we learn about the ability of Jesus to calm our fears from today's scripture readings?

Tuesday: Mark 4:35-37; II Corinthians 4:7-9; Luke 13

Know That Your Life Will Be Full Of Storms

3. How did the disciples react to the storm? Why do you think they reacted this way?
4. The article on the cover of this Growth Guide says the Sea of Galilee was known for storms. Everyone will experience storms in their life. How do you typically react when you are in the middle of a storm?

Wednesday: Mark 4:38; Philippians 4:6-7; Luke 14

Pray To Jesus During Your Storms

5. What did the disciples say to Jesus? What did Jesus do when then the disciples came to Him?
6. Some storms last longer than others. How can you persist in prayer through the storms in life?

Thursday: Mark 4:39-40; Lamentations 3:21-25; Luke 15-16

Believe That Jesus Will Help In Your Storms

7. The disciples had witnessed Jesus perform miracles. Why do you think they were afraid during the storm?
8. Think of all the things Jesus has done for you. List some of them here. Why do you experience fear during your trials?
9. What can we learn about the faith of the disciples from this passage? Storms can test us and show us how strong or weak our faith in Jesus is. Think about the last storm you went through. What can it teach you about your faith in Jesus?

Friday: Mark 4:41; Colossians 1:13-17; Luke 17

Focus On The Power Of God Over Your Storms

10. Why are the disciples afraid in Mark 4:41? How is this feeling of fear different than the fear of the storm?
11. What did the disciples ask each other after Jesus calmed the storm? Describe a time when God's power left you in awe of Him.
12. In what areas of your life are you tempted to respond with fear rather than faith? How can you choose faith over fear this week?