



## **Week 4: May 24-30**

### **Share Life:**

**Review Guidelines:** Emphasize listening to your group so that each person can hear what the Holy Spirit wants to say through everyone who speaks.

**Vision:** Small groups are a safe place for all of us to share what is going on in our lives. As we share, we get to see how God is working in our lives and it encourages our faith and trust in Him.

**Question:** Can you share about a time in your life when you felt very afraid? What happened?

### **Share God's Word (story):**

#### **Background:**

Today's story takes place at the very beginning of Jesus's ministry. Jesus had just called His twelve disciples to follow Him. Together, they followed Jesus as He ministered around the various villages near the Sea of Galilee. This was all very new to these disciples and they had a lot to learn. In Mark 4, Jesus takes time to teach His new disciples several parables about faith. Through these parables, Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that their success as His disciples would be dependent on their faith and how much they trusted God. Jesus knew that the faith of His disciples would be tested time and again, so He wanted to do all He could to help them be ready to fight for faith.

Telling parables that encourage faith is one thing, but what happens when faith is tested by fear? In today's story, Jesus asks His disciples to get in a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee with Him. This was a really big ask. There were strong cultural beliefs about evil spirits and access to the underworld under the waters of the Sea of Galilee on the opposite side of their shore. When Jesus asked them to get into the boat, it required faith for them just to step off the shore and into the boat. Little did the disciples know just how much their faith was to be tested by fear on this voyage. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Mark 4:35-41**  
**Read the story from Mark 4:35-41**

1. What do you like or dislike from this story?
2. What does this story teach you about people?
  - a. What does this story teach you about yourself?
3. What does this story teach you about God?
4. How can you relate to this story?
5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you and how do you need to respond?

### **Share in Prayer**

Many people's lives are being affected in different ways as a result of COVID-19. Pray for those who have lost jobs, are making difficult medical decisions, or are suffering mentally from this pandemic.

**Recruit a storyteller for next week!!**



## Week 4: The 7 Essentials

Jesus had a knack for connecting the unconnected. He loved those who were considered unlovable. He saw those who were hurting and afflicted and He accepted each person for who they were, no matter what their past looked like. This is a big reason why so many hated Him—because He loved sinners. It is also a huge reason why He is worth following. Check out these verses below to see the importance of connecting the unconnected.

**Romans 15:7** – “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (ESV)

**Matthew 9: 9-13** – As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (ESV)

**Luke 19:10** – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (ESV)

**Matthew 11:15** – “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (ESV)

Who do you know who needs to be connected to Christ? Who do you know that needs to be connected to group? It is easy to think, “That person wouldn’t want to...” But if we are not willing to at least ask, we may miss an opportunity to connect a Matthew to the body of Christ. Let us not answer for anyone. Rather, let us do our part.