

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

March 8, 2026

Series: Mark: The Life of a Disciple

Title: Read It Again

Passage: Mark 4:35–41

Opening

Describe a time you experienced something very familiar but noticed something completely new the next time you saw it or experienced it. What changed?

This week we revisit a familiar story and read it again through different lenses. The goal is not just information, but transformation as we reflect on Jesus and our lives as disciples.

Read **Mark 4:35–41** together.

BIG IDEA #1: It is impossible to be in the crowd and on the boat.

- What stands out to you about the phrase “**leaving the crowd behind**”?
- What might the crowd have seen that day? What did they miss by not getting in the boat?
- Why do you think discipleship often happens in smaller groups rather than large crowds?
- Where do you feel like you are right now—**in the crowd or in the boat**?
- Who are the people currently “in the boat” with you in your faith journey?
- Is there a step you could take toward deeper commitment with Jesus and others?

BIG IDEA #2: Life will hit you with more than you can handle.

- What do you notice about the disciples’ reaction to the storm?
- What do you notice about Jesus’ posture during the storm?
- Why do you think it can feel like Jesus is “sleeping” during difficult seasons?
- The phrase “Jesus will never give you more than you can handle” is not found in the bible, why do you think it still gets repeated? What are people trying to say that is helpful? Why might this phrase actually be “unhelpful” for many people?
- What kinds of storms or overwhelming situations are you facing today?
- When feeling overwhelmed, what usually becomes our first response?
- How might remembering that **Jesus is in the boat with you** change how you respond?

BIG IDEA #3: What kinds of questions does your chaos bring?

- What does their initial question to Jesus reveal about their situation?
- Why do you think suffering or chaos often leads to questions about God?
- Which part is harder for people to trust: **God’s goodness or God’s power**?
- Why do you think Jesus responds to the disciples with questions of his own?
- What kinds of questions tend to surface in your life during difficult seasons?
- How can honest questions actually deepen faith rather than weaken it?

- How can “questioning our questions” help us process challenges?
- What does it look like to bring those questions to God in prayer?

BIG IDEA #4: Whose boat you are in will dramatically change your perspective.

- Why do you think Mark mentions that **other boats were also there**?
- How might the people in the other boats have interpreted what happened?
- How does proximity to Jesus change how we see our circumstances?
- What does it look like in everyday life to stay close to Jesus?
- What practices help you remain aware of his presence during storms?
- How can your group help one another stay “in the boat” with Jesus?

What is one step of application related to this story we can ask you about next

week? (*leaders note: write these down, maybe the items have come up already in discussion, and if that is the case, then restate what you heard to make sure you write it down accurately. Text the individuals this week after praying for them, and bring it up next week.*)

Prayer

Spend a few minutes praying together.

Invite people to pray in line with your discussion. Here are a few prompts if needed:

- Trusting Jesus more deeply
- Bringing honest questions to God
- Courage to leave the crowd and follow Jesus more closely
- Faith during overwhelming storms

Close by thanking Jesus for being present with us in every storm.