



## Introduction

First century Jews viewed the sea as something that symbolized a dark power of evil that threatened to destroy God's good creation, good purposes, and people (Psalm 136, Daniel 7, Revelation 13). Therefore, when a great storm arose while they were sailing on their little fishing boat, they feared the worse. But Jesus - with one word - rebuked the wind and waves and created calm out of chaos. Jesus' actions were a clear indication that he was greater than the very thing that threatened them most.

## Observation/Interpretation

- Why were the disciples still fearful after Jesus calmed the storm? (4:41)
- In this story, what do you think Mark wants to teach us about Jesus? In light of this understanding, how should we respond to Jesus?

## Application

In John Newton's famous song, "Amazing Grace" he wrote;

*It was Grace that taught my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved.*

This line seems to hint at Mark's story. The disciples went from fearing the storm to fearing Jesus. It has been said that our fears are only conquered by a greater fear. Read Psalm 111:10 and answer the questions below:

- How does a proper reordering of our fears actually lead to true freedom and joy?
- Conversely, how does inordinate fear of the wrong things lead to our pain, brokenness and death?
- Why would John Newton say that, "it was grace, that taught my heart to fear?"

## Prayer

- Thank God for his grace in opening your eyes to see that Jesus is greater than our greatest fears, including death. Jesus ultimately conquered our fears through his death on the cross.
- Ask God to give you a proper fear of him.

### Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

### Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.