

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION WEEK 2

JULY 31, 2011



SUPERNATURAL

Jesus Calms the Sea Today we're going to talk about a story in the Bible where Jesus shows off his power. A journey across the Sea of Galilee becomes an opportunity for Jesus to show that he has the authority to control nature. It's amazing, but it shouldn't be a surprise, because Jesus is the Word who gave life

to all of creation! Today we're going to talk about how we can turn to Jesus for strength when we feel weak, out of control, and powerless.

Some things to think about...

- * The disciples had been traveling with Jesus for a while and had seen him heal and minister to many people. What do you think they might've been thinking about Jesus while he was sleeping?
 - Imagine you're in a life-threatening situation and Jesus was with you, but was SLEEPING. What do you think you would say to him?
 - Have you ever felt the way the disciples must have felt that day?
 - During your tough times, do you tend to find peace or do you focus on the danger? Why do you think you respond that way?
- * Why don't you think Jesus acted immediately when the disciples called him?
 - Several of the disciples were seasoned fishermen. They'd seen a lot of storms and bad weather, so why were they so scared?
 - The disciples seemed to expect Jesus to intervene, but they weren't really sure what he could do. What do you think they expected from Jesus? How might they have expected him to help?
 - Think about the last time you asked for God's help in the middle of a "storm." Were you really willing to let God be God, or did you have a prescribed plan for how God should act? What did you learn?
- * How would you explain the difference between faith and fear?
 - Why were the disciples filled with awe when Jesus calmed the storm?
 - When was the last time you felt in awe of God's power?
 - Why do you think we sometimes forget how awesome and powerful God really is?
 - When has Jesus stepped in and helped you when your life felt like it was spinning out of control?
- * Read John 1:1-5. How do these verses relate to this story?
- * Read Psalm 91 together. Which words in this psalm offer you the most encouragement or strength and why? How might you incorporate this psalm into your prayers this week, or when you're in a "storm"?
- * What tough "storms" are you facing in your life right now? How do you need God to work in your life today or this week? Pray for each other!

MEMORIZE: The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" (Mark 4:41)

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THE 5 FAITH SKILLS

There are 5 REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS that every follower of Jesus should know how to do - we call them The 5 Faith Skills. Why are they so important? Because they're the skills that you need TO GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER!

This summer, we want you to take a look at all five of these faith skills, and ask yourself some questions...

- 1. NAVIGATE THE BIBLE** Do I read the Bible regularly? Can I find my way around it? Do I understand the story that God tells through His word?
- 2. PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE** Do I know how to apply God's word to my life, my choices, and my actions? How can I do a better job of memorizing His word and hiding it in my heart?
- 3. DIALOGUE WITH GOD** How often do I talk to God? Do I know what to pray for? How can I get to know God better through prayer?
- 4. SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY** What is my grace story? Which of my friends and family members need to hear me tell the story of what God has done in my life?
- 5. WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE** Am I worshipping God with my whole life? How can I do a better job of giving back to Him? How can I serve God and serve others better?

Think you need some help getting better at some of these 5 Faith Skills? Talking to your parents and your Small Group Leader is a great place to start!