

Mark 4 Discussion Questions

Check In: Did your student complete their challenge? Encourage them to do better this week. **Begin in prayer** and pray for them individual and specifically.

Recap Video: Watch the recap video from this past week's message [here!](#)

Bible Discovery: Read Mark 4:21-41

Main Idea: Are You Listening, Understanding, and Trusting?

***Use some, if not all, of the questions to facilitate a conversation about the scripture with your student. Mark has long chapters! Take multiple days to discuss if you need to! ***

- 1) What initially sticks out from the passage of scripture you read? Do you notice any themes?
- 2) What is this passage teaching us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
 - a. What reasons does Jesus give for speaking in parables? (**see v.10-12**). When does Jesus choose to explain the parables? (**see 10,33- 34**)
 - b. Jesus was only able to speak the word to his followers as they were able to hear it (**v.33**). Think back to last week's discussion of the **Parable of the Sower**. What could have been preventing the people from being able to receive Jesus' teaching and words?
 - c. Jesus tells his disciples twice (**v.9,23**) "let them hear" and to also "take heed what you hear" (**v.23**).
 - i Why does Jesus put so much emphasis on "hearing." Is there a possibility that we do not hear or that we hear incorrectly? Can you hear the wrong things?
 - d. What does the story of Jesus calming the wind and the waves tell us about Jesus' power?
- 3) What does this passage teach us about mankind and his relationship with God?
 - a. Describe the condition of the people who heard Jesus' explain his parables (v.9-10,23-24).
 - b. In the first parable we read, Jesus calls for his followers to be lights. What does it look like to be a light for Jesus in school, at home, etc.? (**See Matt. 5:14-16 for more insight. Pay special attention to the wording of v. 16**).
 - c. In the Parable of the growing seed, what is the seed (**see Luke 8:11**)? What role do people have in seeing people saved? What role does God play? (**see 1 Cor. 3:5-8 for more details**).
 - d. What does the mustard seed represent in the Parable of the mustard seed (**see Luke 17:6**)? What does this parable teach us about the power of the "mustard seed?"
 - e. When people go through storms in their life, how do they tend to respond (v.38)? How do you respond?

- f. Why does Jesus say that his followers had little faith (v.40)? Are their promises from God that you struggle to trust?
 - g. Why do you think the followers of Jesus feared Jesus exceedingly after the miracle of him calming the wind and the waves (v.41)?
- 4) What is this passage challenging me to change in my life?
- a. In the **Parable of the Sower**, every person is representing by a different type of soil. In the Parable of the **Light Under a Basket**, Jesus communicates that eventually, the kind of soil you are will be revealed (**v.22**).
 - i In light of this, why is it important that we “take heed what we hear?”
 - ii How are you a light for Christ at home? Among your friends? At school? At youth? On your team/job? Share!
 - iii How can you be an even greater light?
 - iv How are you taking time to “hear” the Words of God daily?
 - b. In the Parable of the growing seed, we have a part to play in the mission of seeing people come to know Jesus.
 - i Who is someone you can reach for Jesus? Are they a “person of peace?” (Someone that is open to the things of God, searching for meaning or something more, personally hurting, etc.)
 - c. God’s promises (v.35) don’t promise a perfect life (v.37). Are you going through a storm in your life? How can you seek God during your storm (v.38)? How can your family/friends/venture leaders pray for you?
 - i Is God using the storm to teach you something or change something in you?

Closing Thought: Praise God that even when we are not faithful to Him, he is always faithful to us!

Challenge: Encourage your students (**and yourself – Lead by Example!!**) to make a personal challenge that is specific and measurable that they can accomplish this week. End in prayer.

BONUS CHALLENGE: Challenge students to commit **Luke 17:6** or **Matt. 5:16** to memory!