

THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM

Week 1: Silence! Be Still!

April 19th, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of life.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

As we begin this new series called *The Storm Before The Calm*, describe a time that you experienced a literal storm (i.e.-Tornado, Hurricane, Snow storm, severe weather, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

This week begins a new series entitled: ***The Storm Before the Calm: Lessons on Survival from a Leader Who Lives***. We are in a season that feels like a storm to so many of us; over the next several weeks we are going to study the words of Jesus. Because He lived, died, and lives again, He can teach us about survival in tumultuous times. Our series begins with a study that comes from a biblical narrative that is the basis for our time together for the next several weeks. The title is "***Silence! Be Still***" it is found in *Mark 4:35-41*. As we engage in the story, think about the ways God has strengthened your faith in difficult situations.

Bible Storytelling: Mark 4:35-41

- Tell the Story: This week's story will be told by one of our group members.
- Examine the Story: Looking at Mark 4:35-41 in your Bible, what did the storyteller add or omit in their retelling?
- Read the story: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- **Has there ever been a time when you felt like Jesus used a difficult situation to help you grow in your faith?**
- **If so, were you aware that Jesus was at work while you were in the situation? Or did you realize it after it was over?**
- **Why were the disciples "absolutely terrified" after Jesus calmed the storm?**
- **What does this passage of scripture tell you about Jesus, and how might it help strengthen your faith and trust in Him?**
- **If your group is comfortable with this, would you take a few moments to allow members to talk about the "storms" they are in right now? Then end your time together this week praying for each other.**

CLOSING PRAYER-Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.

****Be sure someone is selected to tell next week's story...Matthew 6:25-34***