

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JUNE 25, 2021 // FEAR NOT

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Pastor Daniel Rankin continued in our *I've Been Thinking* series with a message that captured the theme of summer camps with the students this summer: Fear Not. Fear is a common landing place for students of all ages. Some of those fears include fear of being known or found out, fear of living up to parents' or others' expectations, fear of being left alone, fear of being able to get out of a specific sin, etc. Fear doesn't vanish when we become adults. The specific fears might change, but usually when one is overcome another one replaces it. The good news is found in Mark 4:35-41. Caught in a storm, the disciples feared for their lives. With just a few words, Jesus silenced the storm and calmed their fears. Jesus called out their fear for what it was—a lack of faith. Jesus had revealed his power in many circumstances with the disciples, and yet, when they found themselves in a storm, they fell into fear instead of standing firm in faith, trusting in the Lord. Fear is a normal reaction to chaos; it's what you do after that initial reaction that matters—do you get tossed about or turned away in fear? Or do you stand firm in faith, trusting in the power of the Lord to be with you in the storm. Will your faith be stronger than your fear?

## SCRIPTURE – MARK 4:35-41 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup>That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup>Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup>A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup>Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup>He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup>He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup>They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" NIV

## PSALM 56:3 (NIV)

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out today from Daniel's message?
2. Read Mark 4:35-41. What is the situation, and what are the various responses?

3. What storms, chaos, or situations out of our control, do people face today? What does it look like when people respond out of fear? What about when they respond with faith?
4. What storms, chaos, or situations out of your control are you currently facing? What does responding with fear look like? What about responding with faith?
5. What are ways you can increase your faith? How can your faith increase through service? How does fear hold you back?
6. Read Psalm 56:3. Commit this verse to memory.
7. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Reaffirm your faith in God. Pray Psalm 56:3, and ask God to be with you in whatever storms you are facing. Ask him to increase your faith so you focus on his power. Pray for where God may be calling you to serve, especially in the lives of the youth in the church, and pray for him to give you the power to overcome any fears that may be holding you back.