

Series - Facing our Present Troubles
Topic - How do we respond to a storm?
(Mark 6:45-52)

Date - 23-Feb-2020
Speaker - Pastor Lionel Goh

CORONAVIRUS "COVID-19" PREVENTION MEASURES

During this period, we recommend all cells to practice the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus:

1. Minimise Contact. Avoid handshakes and hugs during this period.
2. Deny entry for those with respiratory symptoms such as cough, sore throats and runny nose.
3. Individuals that have come into contact with other individuals who are confirmed cases or suspected cases should not attend cell.
4. Practice good hygiene during cell time.

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Still
2. With All I Am

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on how God has seen them through their different storms in life
2. Recognise the obstacles that hinder us from having a more consistent faith
3. Look to God and trust in Him for the situations they are going through now

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Storms of life come when we least expect them
2. In a storm, all our human efforts don't matter much
3. Jesus watches over us and He will rescue us at the appointed time
4. We need to invite the Lord into our boat to calm the storm
5. We grow in Christ when we allow him to still the storm

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Pastor Lionel preached from Mark 6:45-52.

1. Storms of life come when we least expect them

- Jesus just fed some 5,000 people
- This was the apex of Jesus' ministry at Galilee
- After getting fed, the crowd intended to make Jesus their King (John 6:14-15)
- Jesus knew their intention, quickly dismissed the people and sent His disciples to Capernaum (John 6:15-17)
- The disciples felt so upbeat about their ministry as they set sail across the Sea of Galilee
- But they never expected a big storm to hit them in the middle of the sea

2. In a storm – like the COVID-19 outbreak – all our human efforts don't matter much

- We can't outmanoeuvre a storm through self-effort
- Be prudent in practising good hygiene and following health advisory
- Don't get paranoid in trying to keep safe
- Continue to live our life as normally as possible
- Pray, rest in God and wait for His deliverance

3. Jesus watches over us and He will rescue us at the appointed time

Why did Jesus wait 7-8 hours before coming to His disciples' aid?

- To teach them not to lean on their own resources
- To stretch their faith muscles
- To deepen their appreciation of His mercy and glory

4. We need to invite the Lord into our boat to calm the storm

(See John 6:19-21, Psalm 91:14-15)

- God rescues those who call on Him
- When we encounter storms, we need to call on God to rescue us. Otherwise we'll be on our own!

5. We grow in Christ when we allow him to still the storm

(See Matthew 14:32-33, John 6:66-69)

- It is inevitable that we will face storms in life
- But when we choose to let Jesus deal with these storms, we will grow in spiritual maturity

Pastor Lionel ended his sermon by leading the congregation to pray the Lordship Prayer together.

Discussion Questions

1. **Share about a time you went through a “storm”. What happened? How did you overcome it?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes: *A recap and relate question. Leaders can get members to recap the main points that Pastor Lionel shared, and to expand on how they related to that particular point(s) at the time of their storm. It could be a situation where they might have experienced it as an individual, or in a community, or even at the national level. E.g., Point 4: “Inviting the Lord into our boat to calm the storm” – How did they invite God into their situation? What steps did they take to allow God in? E.g., Point 5: “Growing in Christ when they allow him to still the storm” – How did they grow in Christ when they allowed him to still the storm?*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

As we hear each other’s stories, we see how God has seen us through the ups and downs in our lives. However, we are all too human and we will likely continue to falter. We will do well to learn from the examples of Jesus’ disciples.

2. **Why did the disciples still doubt even after witnessing Jesus’ miracle of feeding the multitude? What hinders us from having faith for the next situation?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes: *This is a reflect question. Leaders can get members to discuss the disciples’ apparent unbelief. Are there times when we are in the same situation as the disciples, where we see God intervening in one situation, only to falter when the next storm comes? Leaders can ask members to write down all the reasons they can think of that hinder us from having a more consistent faith, and to get them to share which they identify with.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

All of us will struggle with having faith in God, especially during storms. It is human nature to do so. Some of us will naturally turn and depend on our own strengths, while some will turn to other means to manage. Still, God is gracious and kind towards us. He is patient towards us and will allow us to be pruned and to grow through the situations as we allow him to.

3. **“Take heart; It is I. Do not be afraid.” (Mark 6:50) What is a situation you’re going through right now that you need to remind yourself or others about who God is?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes: *This is a response question for members to share about a current situation where they are facing challenges. Is there any aspect of God’s character that they need to hold on to during this time? Leaders can get members to share in groups and pray for each other.*

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting To Cell & Closing The Discussion)

There will always be storms in our lives and often we feel like we may lose our footing, or lose sight of God in those difficult seasons we find ourselves in. There are times where our fears take over us like huge waves, and we struggle to make sense of the situation. There are other times where the situation makes no sense at all. Even so, God continues to hold on to us, even when we are angry or upset with Him. May we continue to hold on to Him in the sifting and may we also continue to look out for each other and love each other back to God's intention for each one of us – all for His glory.

As part of a fun activity, leaders may wish to get members to sing the children's song "With Christ in the vessel, we can smile at the storm!"

For more inspiration, read Max Lucado's reflection, "The Winds and Waves Obey Him": <https://www.faithgateway.com/the-winds-and-waves-obey-him/#.XlUXliqzay!>

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. We will fix our eyes on Him during the storms rather than our circumstances.
2. Our trust will be in who God is and not our human efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. RCS Charity Movie Event

Sat, 13 Jun | 10am | Shaw Theatres Lido

Purchase two tickets at \$100. Each ticket comes with a drink and popcorn. You can register for the event at tinyurl.com/RCS-MovieEvent2020. Interested donors can email Nigel at nigel@rcs.org.sg.

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.