

Preparing for Mission

Session Thoughts:

- Among your group discuss how LISTENING went.
- Read Mark 4:1-41 at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations. What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Mark 4:1-25. What is the parable of the Sower about? What does Jesus teach here about the purpose of parables in general. Why can some people hear them and others can not?
2. Read Mark 4:26-34. Give a brief summary of Jesus' teaching in these parables.
3. Read Mark 4:35-41. What happened to the disciples on the boat? What was Jesus doing during their crisis?
4. Look carefully at the question that the disciples asked in v.38. What were the assumptions of the disciples concerning their situation? Have you ever wrestled with these 2 doubts and fears?
5. How did Jesus answer this question? What did he do in verse 39? What did he say to them in verse 40? How do these words challenge you? What does it mean to have faith?
6. What does this passage show us about Jesus' power? What are the disciples feeling in verse 41? Is this an appropriate feeling for believers? Why is "the fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge (Prov 1:7)?"

"If you have a God great enough and powerful enough to be mad at because he doesn't stop suffering, you also have a God who's great enough and powerful enough to have reasons that you can't understand."

Next Steps:

- This is the last official Session before our groups take a shift and begin to look outwardly and invite people in. What thoughts, questions, ideas or concerns do you have about what groups will look like in the Fall?
- Have your leaders write them down so they can be discussed this summer as we solidify direction and strategy for next semester.