

JESUS Talks

Ideas worth spreading

JESUS TALKS Part 3 Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[2 Timothy 3:1-4]

*You can be certain that **in the last days there will be some very difficult times.** ² People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud, stuck-up, rude, and disobedient to their parents. They will also be ungrateful, godless, ³ heartless, and hateful. Their words will be cruel, and they will have no self-control or pity. These people will hate everything that is good. ⁴ They will be sneaky, reckless, and puffed up with pride. Instead of loving God, they will only love pleasure.*

Jesus is always pointing us to the end of the event.

[John 14:27-28, NLT]

*“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. **So do not be troubled or afraid.**”²⁸ Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again.*

[Mark 4:35-41]

*As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “**‘Let us go over to the other side of the lake.’**”³⁶ So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed).³⁷ But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.³⁸ Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are perishing?”³⁹ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “**Peace! Be still!**” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.⁴⁰ Then he asked them, “**Why are you afraid? Don’t you have any faith?**”⁴¹ The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”*

Our fears cause us to ignore who is actually with us in the boat.

[Psalm 34:4]

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

The greater the storm, the greater the need for the revelation of the love of God.

Faith-led Responses to Uncertain Times:

1. Go deeper in your love relationship with Jesus.

[2 Timothy 1:7, NLT]

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2. Spread the love of Christ in your world.

[Romans 8:31-39]

What, then, shall we say in response to all these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died and was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are some common things that can cause fear? (spiders, heights, the dark, and life changes, etc.) What are some typical responses in uncertain situations?**
- 2. What does God's Word say about the times that we are living in? What signs should we be keeping our eyes and ears tuned into?**
- 3. What is one overwhelming storm that you, or your family, experienced? What emotions came up for you? What did it take to "turn the tide" for you personally?**
- 4. How can we follow Jesus' saying: "Let's go over to the other side"? What are some personal plans and promises you believe God has for your life that have yet to be seen?**
- 5. When have you found yourself equating your present condition with the love of God? (In other words, "God, if you love me, then you will...)**
- 6. What does your confession reflect: faith or fear? Is it in alignment with the Word of God?**
- 7. How is Jesus' peace something so unique that the world cannot offer us the same?**
- 8. How do we share our confidence in the faithfulness of God, even in times of uncertainty?**