

not a fan.

**Pastor Hilary Harris
not a fan.**

Part 3: Following Jesus through Storms

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.

We reach moments in our faith journey where we ask ourselves, "Should I keep following Jesus through this?" This is where our personal stories meet his personal grace.

[Luke 7.21-23, NLT]

At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. Then he told John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. And tell him, 'God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.'"

[Mark 4.35-41]

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But suddenly a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. 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 going to drown!?" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

1. God is good.

[Psalms 34.8]

Taste and see that the Lord is GOOD. How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

[Jeremiah 29.11]

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

It's easy to profess God's goodness when you're not in the storm; when you are in the middle of them, though, it seems that Christ's character comes into question.

[Mark 4.37-38]

But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion...

Fallen world...good God...Storms happen.

2. Be transparent with Jesus

[Psalm 18.6]

In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

[Mark 4.39]

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

3. Recognize who is in your boat.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What evidence is there in your life that would convince someone that you are not just a fan but a fully committed follower?**
- 2. Do you have a story of a storm that you endured or are enduring?**
- 3. How good is your God? Come on, don't give a one sentence answer; talk it up. How good is your God?**
- 4. Have you opened your heart to God and have you been truly transparent about how you feel? Why is it so hard to give God an earful of how we feel, and that we might not know where to go from here?**
- 5. Who is God to you? Have you bought into the lie that God will do for others but not for you?**

6. Jesus intended for you to go to the other side. What does the other side look like for you?