

Knock it Off

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.



INTRODUCTION

Pastor Dave shared a personal fish story with photos to prove it! Perhaps you have your own tall tale to tell. Mark told his stories of Jesus with the confident assurance of the Holy Spirit. Today we learn that Jesus is more incredibly powerful than we realize. And we come to understand how His power clearly shows the way we can deal with fear and uncertainty.

STARTER QUESTION

What is your most memorable or frightening story of being at the ocean or on a boat?

INTO THE WORD

In Mark 4:35-41 the disciples were on the sea in a storm with Jesus, and still they lost faith and became deeply afraid. When a storm arises in your life, what are the first things you typically do?

In the same passage we see Jesus' power seems to be the source of the disciples' fear. What is your reaction when you contemplate God's power?

In 1 John we read, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, ... The one who fears is not made perfect in love." Love is the ...

Relentless reality of God (v. Jn 4:7-10)

Craving for others to see God (v. Jn 4:11-12)

Abandonment of self-reliance (v. Jn 4:13-21)

How would you describe the sense in which the enemy of fear is love?

Read Psalm 121. How can promises like this calm our fears?

APPLICATION

Today we were reminded that Jesus promises us: life, acceptance, friendship with God, blessings, joy, trials, control, watching over, doing good, and providing. Which of these promises do you claim during times of fear? Why is claiming a promise of God so important to reaffirming our faith?

In what ways do you experience God's love in your life? Share some specific examples with your group or write them down in a faith journal. Talk or think about what you can do to spread that love to others.

PRAYER

Help us understand and live out how even storms allow us to celebrate the incredible power of God and to crush fear through faith seen in love!