



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

### Read Mark 4:35-41

Spring is just around the corner, and it's inevitable; storms will come. Just like in nature, life will at times be calm, and at other times it will seem as if the full might of mother nature is crashing down on us. While it's unlikely that you are looking forward to the next storm in your life, they do serve a purpose, and how we choose to react to them matters. Just like the decaying trees or the junk lying around outside, storms remove what is dead and unwanted. It also shows us who we really are, which is seen based on our reactions. No matter what we choose, we have to remember that Jesus is always there in the boat. We can either be afraid, or we can stand firm knowing that he is with us in the middle of every storm.

## Pray

Lord, please help us to not fear the storms of life, but to instead, prepare and turn to you to help us get through them. There are so many responses that we can have to storms that are based in our humanity. Lord, help us to shrug off those human reactions and only focus on Jesus as he safely guides us through. Thank you for always being there for us, and for loving us unconditionally.

## Getting Started

- What's the biggest real-life storm or natural disaster that you've ever been in or been really close to?
- What were you feeling as you observed or survived the phenomenon you described?

## Digging Deeper

1. Are there any storms in your life right now? How are you getting through it (really)?
2. How have you typically reacted to storms in the past? Is it the same now? If not, how is it different, and what effect is that having?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:7. Considering the refinement example here, why do you think that it's so important that we go through storms?
4. In James 1:2-4, we are again told how trials and storms grow us. In what ways have you grown through your storms?
5. If you're going through a storm right now, in what ways do you think God is trying to grow you this time?
6. How can we better prepare now for the next storm in our lives?

## Living Jesus

Through the storm in Mark chapter 4, Jesus was there asleep in the boat the whole time until the disciples woke him up. He was tired, but even in his humanity, he was not worried about the storm. When the disciples awoke him, he scolded them and asked why they had so little faith. Even with Jesus – the Messiah, who had done so many amazing things before them, they still lost faith. When Jesus was preparing to go to the cross, he never once tried to solve the problem on his own. He never panicked or lost faith. He turned to his father in Heaven and sought all of his answers from him. Even though he was not looking forward to what was coming, he trusted God's plan the whole time. Now comes the point where you must decide what your response will be. Will you turn to anger and be mad at life's circumstances? Will you panic and try to run from the storm? Will you try to control it, powerless and over-confident? Or, will you prepare now as best you can, and learn to look forward in anticipation because you know that you and Jesus will weather the storms together?

## What's Your Story?

However you choose to weather life's storms, it *will* change you. Whether that change is for the better, or for worse, is up to you. How are your storms changing you?

Share how God is working in your life at [SevernRunner.info/stories](http://SevernRunner.info/stories).