

## "Who Cares?"

Week 2 – About My STRUGGLES

### warm-up

#### Group Ice Breaker: MIRROR IMAGE

Ask two volunteers to stand face-to-face. Give them a brief sequence of actions (think, "Simon Says") to perform while trying to exactly mimic one another. Then ask them to turn back-to-back and do the same. Discuss your observations.

### word & application

#### 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 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. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "**Teacher, don't you care that we're 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!"

#### Hebrews 11:6

"And it is **impossible to please God without faith**. Anyone who wants to come to him **must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.**"

**Discussion & Application: Explore these points and questions through in-depth conversation.**

"FAITH" = 'pistis' (Greek): "confident trust" within the context of a meaningful relationship.

"REWARD" = 'apodidōmi' (Greek): "to deliver, pay, give back, restore" within a positive context

It's interesting that Jesus contrasts the disciples' feelings of fear with the idea of "faith." He could have said, "Do you still have no courage, bravery, strength, confidence, boldness, etc." But he didn't. He specifically implies that our faith (reliance on and trust in God) is the antidote for fear. And the writer of Hebrews also lets us know that we please God by relying on and trusting Him to reward and restore us. This indicates a desire from God for us to draw close to Him, not out of fear of punishment, but out of a craving for provision.

#### Discussion Questions:

- If we are honest with ourselves, do we tend to seek God because we are afraid of the outcome if we don't; or are we motivated by what He can and promises to accomplish in our lives?
- Do we feel a sense of false guilt when we seek God for provision in our lives?
- At our core, do we believe God wants us to live a life of pious service, or a life of abundant provision?
- How can a belief that God wants a life of abundant provision, safety, security, favor, etc., translate into a powerful force for reaching others with this good news?
- In what ways is God already providing abundance in our lives? How can we leverage this to draw people to Him?

### prayer

Share recent "God moments." Pray over requests. Pray that we can accept God's desire to care for, provide for, protect and help us. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal times and areas where God is providing, and for revelation for us to leverage these areas and moments to draw people to Him.