

# Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends  
5 Questions that Matter: Do I Matter? August 4 2019

## The Big Idea

You matter to God! At times we have probably all wondered if we really matter and ask ourselves if God really cares about us. We can seem so small and insignificant compared to the greatness and majesty of the Almighty God. The Bible is clear, however, that we are significant in the eyes of God. He left heaven and subjected himself to the agony and shame of the cross for us. He came to give us abundant life, which begins the day we receive him as our Lord and Savior. When tempted to give in to the thought that God does not care, we should remind ourselves of his

## Where we are in the Bible

We first find ourselves in Mark Chapter 4:35-41 and in a boat at night with the disciples and Jesus in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. Sailing is not smooth; however, as a storm has arisen, and the disciples are crying out to Jesus for help as they try to save the boat from sinking and themselves from drowning. And where is Jesus? Asleep on a cushion in the rear of the boat!

The question they ask Jesus is one that we all probably have asked God at one time or another - "Don't you care...?"

## Other scriptures to consider

Jonah 1:1-16  
Romans 5:6-8  
Matthew 18:10-16  
John 3:16  
Romans 8:35-39

## Finding a bit of ourselves

- In the message you heard several quotes from individuals with severe doubts as to whether God cares about them and their lives. How about you? Have there been times in your life when you felt you did not matter to God? What were the circumstances that brought you to that point?
- Are you ever annoyed when it looks like God is sleeping and ignoring the situation that has "swamped" you and threatens to drown you? How do you express your frustrations?
- It is clear from the reaction of the disciples in Mark 4:41 that they were blown away by Jesus' demonstration of his power over the wind and seas. Reflect on a time in your life when God blew away your concept of Him by a display of His power.

## Where do we go from here?

- It is interesting that instead of speaking words of comfort to the disciples, Jesus is rather harsh in criticizing their lack of faith. How do you think the disciples would have responded to the storm if they had possessed faith? In what areas of your life are you tempted to respond with fear rather than faith?
- We see a similar scenario to the story in Mark 4 in the book of Jonah as a boat is being tossed around in dangerous storm. But instead of Jonah sleeping, it is Jesus who is taking a nap! What other differences do you see in these passages? Was the predicament that Jonah found himself in evidence that God did not care about him?
- The message included this quote from Mother Theresa *"In light of heaven, the worst suffering on earth will be seen to be no more serious than one night in an inconvenient hotel."* Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
- I Peter 5:7 says to cast our cares on God because he cares for us. After reflecting on this story and hearing the message, how would you answer someone who might approach you with this statement *"I've given up on God because He doesn't seem to care about me"*?



## Prayer focus

As you go to prayer, consider how you will react the next time you are tempted to believe God does not care about you. Consider praying...

- To always be in the center of his perfect will for you.
- For Jesus to reveal himself to you in the midst of the storms of life.
- For increased faith to serve him no matter what obstacles and challenges lie before you.

