

Sunday, June 20, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Mark 4:35-41 and 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
“Enduring the Storms”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) in pairs or groups of three, have participants share where they have seen God at work in the last week (or month, if needed).

Context Mark 4:35-41. Calming the storm and demonstrating his power over the forces of nature, sets Jesus apart from other healers and miracle workers. In the world of the Bible, it is only God who has power over nature. Nevertheless, the disciples still don't understand how this reveals Jesus as the Son of God. Interestingly, the description of Jesus asleep in the boat as the storm rages, being importuned by the others in the boat is reminiscent of the story of Jonah. In that earlier story, the other sailors ask Jonah to help them, but here the disciples don't ask Jesus – maybe because they don't think he can?

Context 2 Corinthians 6:1-13. In this part of his correspondence with the Corinthian Christians, Paul is trying to “mend fences” with them: previously he had been offended by one of their number who had been highly critical of him; and he had in turn offended and hurt some of them when he didn't come to visit them as he had promised. He gives the account here of just how much he has endured, and is willing to endure on their behalf, how he has given himself totally for them as a proof of his commitment to them. He asks in return that they (re)open their hearts to him.

Read Mark 4:35-41 and 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Mark 4:35-41 and 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- If participants are willing, invite them to tell of the last “storm” or difficult season they encountered in their lives.
- What is the disciples' question to Jesus in Mark 4:38? Why might this have been particularly hurtful to Jesus?
- Why might Jesus be using the same phrases against the wind and sea (in v. 39) that Jesus uses when casting out demons (see Mark 1:25 as one example)?

- After everything the disciples had seen to this point of being with Jesus, why was their reaction what it was in verse 41? What does that imply about Jesus?
- Why might it be important that Paul can speak about “now” being the day of salvation while also listing potential storms (1 Corinthians 6:4-5)? [It proves that experiencing salvation does not diminish the fact that we will all have to endure trials.]
- Why is it important that Paul is addressing this to the entire community (and using the plural of the word ‘you’)?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Almighty God, you not only calm the storms that we find ourselves in, but you are also “in the boat” with us. When we doubt; when we are fearful; when we are tempted to disbelieve, strengthen our belief. Help us to trust in the power of your grace. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.