

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: August 17th, 2025

Talk title: Jesus calms the storm

Passage: Luke 8: 22-25

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Discussion Questions

1. The Story Itself

The disciples' raw fear and Jesus' calm presence raise the question, "*Who is this?*"

Question: When you hear this story, do you most identify with the disciples' fear or with Jesus' calm—and why?

2. Christ Asleep = The Inner Place of Peace

The early Church Fathers saw Christ's sleep as pointing to the deep inner stillness available to us in him.

Question: What helps you connect with that inner stillness of Christ in your own life, especially in times of "storms"?

3. Christ Asleep = Neglect of the Spiritual Life

Another reading is that Christ sleeps because the disciples had let their faith fade—just as we can neglect prayer, Scripture, or worship.

Question: Have you ever noticed storms in your life feeling more overwhelming when your spiritual practices have slipped? How did you reawaken your faith?

4. Christ Asleep = Death and Resurrection

The Fathers also saw this story as pointing to Jesus' descent into death and his victory over it in the resurrection.

Question: How does the resurrection of Jesus give you courage in the face of life's hardest storms—even death itself?

5. Moving from Little Fear to Great Fear

The turning point in the story isn't the calm sea, but the disciples' awe: "*Who is this?*"

Question: What does it mean for us today to move from the little fear of panic to the great fear of awe before Christ?

6. Conclusion & Application

The good news of this passage is simple but profound: the boat cannot sink, because Jesus is in it.

Question: How can we encourage one another, as a small group and as a church, to live with that confidence—that whatever storm comes, Christ is with us?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

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