

Questions for reflection & discussion

Summarize the message in your own words.

- What stood out for you?

Read Mark 4

Mark 4 has a number of seed parables in it:

- sower and the seed (**1-20**)
- growing seed (**26-29**)
this is one of my favourite parables. I so like this line *“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.”*
- mustard seed (**30-32**)
- a parable about a lamp & a measuring spoon (**21-25**)

The passage we are looking at is about the storms that we face in life.

We can look at the storms that come our way & how we sometimes respond to them in fear & how Jesus is there with us in the storm

- Did you notice that the disciples fear increases after the storm?

But there is a spiritual warfare aspect that takes place in light of the kingdom of God

We live in a war-torn world of pain, hurt, violence and death. This is not how God intended creation to look.

The Good News is God has sent his Son, Jesus, to defeat the powers of death, and to begin reconciling and redeeming the world unto God.

When Jesus rebukes the storm here in **Mark 4:35-41**, he is giving us a foretaste of the ultimate victory and restoration that is to come.

5 biblical facts

1. God’s ideal creation is a non-violent creation
 2. Nature is cursed
 3. Satan holds the power of death
 4. Demonic origin of disease
 5. The whole creation needs saving
- How do you respond to these?
 - Which one(s) struck you the most?
 - Which one(s) are you still thinking through?

3 application points

1. Don’t go looking for the hand of God in natural disasters
 2. Live with a warfare mindset
 3. You are doing spiritual warfare whenever you fight the evil effects of nature
- How do you respond to these?
 - Which one(s) struck you the most?
 - Which one(s) are you still thinking through?

Further exploration

- How has Christ reconciled and redeemed the world?
- In your own words, what does spiritual warfare mean?
- How can we have peace in the midst of the “storms” in our lives?
- In what ways has God blessed or gifted you to share Christ’s love and peace in doing spiritual warfare?

REFLECTING ON & LIVING IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Looking over this chapter of Mark, how does Jesus model for us different ways of announcing – proclaiming – living in the kingdom of God?
- How has this passage expanded your view of what God can do and is doing, to teach, heal and defeat the forces of evil?

Review the post [Into The Text MARK 4](https://www.occweb.org/) on [occweb.org/](https://www.occweb.org/). There’s a lot to think about in this part of Mark 4

- Listen again to the song *“We Seek Your Kingdom”* This song affirms that no sphere of life is exempt from Christ’s redemptive work. It’s a powerful reminder that God is interested and active in all areas of society, spurring us to seek transformation wherever we are – in our workplaces, homes, communities, and beyond.

Pray the Lord’s | Disciples | Kingdom prayer

- Praying big ‘macro’ prayers, that God’s kingdom would be increasingly evident in our society and institutions, our nation and our world.
- Pray ‘micro’ prayers for one another, that you would know his presence with you as you seek God’s kingdom on your frontline this week.