

## **May 5 – Luke 8:22-25 – Leader’s Guide**

Read **Luke 8:22-25**

1. The story of Jesus quieting the storm is often used as a spiritual lesson to teach that Jesus can also quiet the storms of life. But that lesson skips over a significant teaching about who Jesus is in the story. The story reveals Jesus as more than just a man but God Himself. How does the story portray Jesus as God? (Consider Old Testament imagery and ancient Jewish concepts).

*The waters represented chaos, disorder, and anti-creation. With a word, Jesus calms the waters. This image goes back to Genesis when God brought order to the waters and darkness with His word. The waters also represented the nations of the world as unhinged from the revealed laws of God given to Israel. With a word, Jesus brings order to the violence and disputes of the nations. The waters also represented the home of evil spirits and monsters. With a word, Jesus rebuked the elements and has command over the spiritual forces and powers of the invisible realms. All these three depictions cast Jesus in the divine light of the Old Testament, as the God of Israel in the ancient scriptures.*

2. If Jesus is God, we must take Him at His word. The first words Jesus told His disciples is that they will go across to the other side. How do you sense Jesus saying the same words to you right now, and how can you know it's true?

*Allow for personal sharing. Invite others to share experiences of hearing from God, sensing God in and through circumstances, visions, feelings, words, Bible passages, interactions with people, whatever they may be. This is an opportunity to take seriously in our lives the active participation of the Holy Spirit who has not stopped speaking to us and encouraging us.*

3. If Jesus is God, we can cry out to Him. Jesus' disciples woke Him up from His nap and cried for dear life. In the same way, we can cry out to Jesus at our deepest need. How can we foster, not just personally, but as a group and community of Christians, the posture of desperate prayer?

*Allow for personal sharing. The question hopes to address the church culture of not praying enough together as a Christian community. We can inhabit a safe space for others to entrust and share their needs and concerns with us, and we offer to pray for them at the very spot if they are comfortable. If not, we commit them in prayer in our time. We rightly offer to anyone practical solutions to address immediate needs, but we also rightly offer immediate prayer as our first response on top of the handout of money, encouragement, resources, or a listening ear.*

4. If Jesus is God, we must fear Him. Fearing Jesus is not being terrorized by Him, but it is to be in awe of Him. How have you recently experienced a

renewed sense of wonder, marvel, and awe of Jesus? If not recently, what does the experience of "fearing Jesus" look like in your life?

*Allow for personal sharing. The question does not assume or has an expectation that every Christian has a charismatic or powerful experience with Jesus. However, let others share how they can be invited to have a renewed sense and perspective on the Jesus they claim to follow, so we can share in the active, living, and enthusiastic pursuit of the living Christ.*