



A CHURCH THAT WINS

A Courageous Church

MAIN THING

A Courageous Church Goes to the Hard Places of This World

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:35-41, John 1:12, Palms 18:6, Psalms 34:19

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had to do something that was harder than you anticipated? A job? A project? Dealing with people? How did that turn out? How did you make it work?

OPENING THOUGHT

Many places in this world are uncomfortable or dangerous. Involving yourself in foster care is uncomfortable. Going to visit a prison is uncomfortable or dangerous. Doing overseas mission work in different countries is dangerous. Yet, that's where the Church is specifically called to go. Jesus went to the hard places, and so must we. We will know we are successful when, each year, we have an increasing number of foster/adoptive families, increasing numbers of leaders serving in the hard places, people being led by the Holy Spirit to do what is uncomfortable and go where no one else wants to go.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Read Mark 4:35-41. Why is it important for a Christian to understand what we just read? What does it say about the craziness of daily life? What is Christ's attitude toward the storm? According to this scripture, what do we need to have in circumstances like this?
3. Do we believe that God will do what He says? What does Psalm 34:19 say about that? What keeps us from really believing this deep down? Do we doubt? Do we think our troubles are bigger than God? How do we get to the place where we are trusting God to, not only, bless us, but also follow through on all of His promises?

LIFE APPLICATION

What are you doing right now that's outside of your comfort zone? Are you doing anything that's pushing you past what you thought you could do for the kingdom? God is calling all of us to go to the hard places. He's asking all of us to get past our headspace and follow His lead. Are you doing that today? If not, how do you change that?

CHALLENGE

Is your group actively serving in ministry as a group? Remember, community groups aren't just Bible studies. They're groups that are living out the mission of the Church; to Make Reproducing Gospel Communities Here, Near, and Far. How does your group actively participate in this mission? If you aren't, take some time to figure out how you can serve as well as study.