

PCC

3.20.22

Catch Up

Spend some time catching up as a group. Use the following question as a guide:

1. What's something you're looking forward to this next week?

Before diving in to the main discussion, spend some time in prayer together as a group.

Pray for each other, and for the discussion ahead.

Now transition to the main discussion by answering this question:

2. Thinking back on Sunday's teaching, what stood out as being particularly comforting, challenging, or confusing?

Dive In

Have someone read [Matthew 8:23-27](#) and then discuss the following questions:

3. What stands out to you from this story about Jesus? What significance do you think this story would have had on a first century Jewish reader?

- Matthew's point of this story is to contrast the faith of the disciples with the authority of Jesus. Jesus sleeping, the disciples' anxiety, Jesus' reprimand, and the disciples' response at the end of the story.

4. Jesus doesn't reprimand the disciples' lack of faith, but rather their ineffective faith — what's the difference? What might genuine faith have looked like in this situation?

- The disciples came to Jesus in panic, and without appealing to his authority.
- Matthew's version of this story is aimed at followers of Jesus, imploring them to exercise wholistic faith.
- True faith in Jesus comes from a clear picture of who he is as well as what he can do.

5. In what ways can you relate to the disciples who come to Jesus yet fear the storm? What impact does fear often have on the way you approach God?

Now read [Matthew 8:28-34](#) and discuss the following questions:

6. Why do you think this story is significant for Matthew's gospel? Why does he follow the calming of the sea with this story?

- Matthew wants to highlight again the authority of Jesus over all of creation, even the demonic, and even with just a word.

7. Why do you think the people of the town begged Jesus to leave their region?

- Pigs would have been raised for food in this particular Gentile region, so the people may have simply been upset that Jesus took away their herd.
- Matthew also wants to make a point: you can't simply witness Jesus, you have to also respond to him.
- The people made a response to Jesus by rejecting him for either pragmatic reasons, reasons of uncertainty and doubt, or simply due to the fact that they did not want Jesus to disrupt their comfort and status quo.

8. This story highlights the fact that true healing often requires Jesus to confront both our woundedness and wickedness — in what areas of your life are you hesitant to allow Jesus to confront?

Finally, read [Matthew 9:1-8](#) and discuss the following questions:

9. Why do the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy?

- The scribes believed Jesus was dishonoring God by taking upon himself the prerogative to forgive sins, which only God can do.

10. What is significant about Jesus' forgiving the man as well as healing him spiritually?

- First, the physical healing reveals that Jesus is God and has the authority to forgive.
- Second, the physical healing reveals Jesus' concern with our whole person. Not only is Jesus about to forgive and heal, but he is also willing.

11. How often do you doubt God's willingness to forgive and heal you? How often do you take God's willingness for granted?