

Title: ENCOUNTER ON THE SEA

Text: Mark 4:35-41

Parables of Faith

A Test of Faith (vv. 35-38)

A Failure of Faith (vv. 39-41)

Lessons from Failure

Jesus is Strong

Jesus is Loving

Followers Fail

CONVERSATION STARTER

- Do you have any phobias? How do you think these phobias developed? What are some of the different ways people deal with fear?
- Read Psalm 62:1-12. What do you think it means to find your rest in God? What images does the Psalmist use to talk about God? Why might these images be helpful for trusting in God? How do God's strength and love complement one another?
- Read Mark 4:35-41. Do you think the disciples' fear was warranted? Why do you think Jesus rebuked his disciples? How did the disciples' fear betray a lack of faith? Why might the disciples have been terrified when Jesus calmed the storm?
- Read the prayer below. How does this prayer frame the way we respond to God in our fear? This prayer begins with thanksgiving. How might thanksgiving to God change our perspective on the things we fear? What does this prayer counsel us to fear? We encourage you to make this your prayer throughout the coming week.
- In what areas are you tempted to believe that Jesus doesn't care? Have there been situations that have helped you grow in your trust of God? What were they? How are we to respond if God doesn't calm our storms?

EXCERPT FROM: "Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Epiphany," from *Book of Common Prayer*

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who cares for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.