

Resources on the Sunday Readings – Trinity 3

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

Picture Reflection



Big questions Mark 4:35-41

On that day, in the boat in the storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus' friends were scared...Jesus was asleep when his friends asked him perhaps the biggest faith question, 'do you not care that we are perishing?'

It is when we are most challenged in our lives that we turn to God for help...we long to be heard in the storms of our lives.

- Sit with this image for a minute or two...what do you see? Imagine you are that person in front of a computer screen in a zoom meeting...
- Reflect on the problems you may have encountered when you have tried to get your question heard and the screen is full of people... how do you make your voice heard...how did you ask your questions?
- Zoom has been a blessing in some respects, but not everyone during the pandemic has had access to a computer....what feelings must they have experienced? Have we spent time reflecting on their challenges to communicate?

- Other situations in life make it difficult to be heard...when might people find it hard to 'cry out'?
- How might we help ourselves and others to ask big questions and listen for God's answers?

Prayer:

Lord, we come this morning with concerns in our hearts and questions in our minds, with troubles in our lives and fears for our world. We come trusting that you share our concerns, that you hear our questions, embrace our troubles and know our fears. We come trusting that you never abandon us for you are a God of love. Amen

BIBLE READING: Mark 4: 35 - end

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.'³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.³⁷A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.⁴⁰He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Jesus has been teaching the crowds all day from the boat and now he tells the disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake of Galilee. It was not uncommon for sudden storms to whip up and this one is fierce as the disciples, who are experienced fishermen, are frightened. In the Old Testament the sea symbolised chaos and confusion and here Jesus' words 'Peace! Be still!' are almost like he is rebuking a demon. The disciples are filled with amazement and ponder who Jesus is. Who do you think Jesus is the author of the gospel is asking his readers?

- This reading is about water and wind, elements which are significant in the Bible. What stories from the Old and New Testaments feature water and/or wind? Do they have any similarities with this story? How might this help our understanding of this story?
- What does this story tell us about who Jesus is?
- During this great storm when the disciples feel in danger, we are told Jesus is asleep. Is this significant? Why?
- Have a think about the questions in this story. Instead of waking Jesus and asking him to help, the disciples say 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' What do you make of this question? Jesus later says to them 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' What do you make of this?
- What 'storms' rage in your life? How do you keep trust in God's ultimate power?