

the story

GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

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“ Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.”

~ MARK 4:1 (NIV)

No ordinary _____ .

Jesus taught _____ .

“ He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 'Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.' Then Jesus said, 'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.' ”

~ MARK 4:2-9 (NIV)

“ Then Jesus said to them, 'Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop - some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.' ”

~ MARK 4:13-20 (NIV)

Jesus taught _____ .

“ This, then, is how you should pray:
'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.' ”

~ MATTHEW 6:9-10 (NIV)

“ Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”

~ MATTHEW 6:11-13 (NIV)

No ordinary _____ .

Jesus taught _____ .

“ Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.'

'Come,' he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' "

~ MATTHEW 14:22-31 (NIV)

“ And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.' "

~ MATTHEW 14:32-33 (NIV)

So WHAT?

What is Jesus _____ ?

“ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”

~ MATTHEW 7:28-29 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |     Google TV

- 1- Who was your favorite teacher growing up and why? Who was your worst teacher, why?
- 2- Tell of a time when you read something in the Bible, heard a sermon, or had God bring a truth to your heart that you initially felt like rejecting or disobeying. What helped you finally come to a place where you accepted or embraced the truth?
- 3- Read Mark 4:2-9 and Mark 4:13-20. How can these four things get in the way of people receiving God's truth and embracing his message?
- 4- Read Matthew 6:9-13. Jesus taught his followers how to pray, the so called "Lord's Prayer." This prayer wasn't given to be mindlessly repeated, but used as a model for how to pray for the things in our lives. Go through each line and tell how it relates to your life right now.
- 5- Jesus also taught through real life experiences. What spiritual experiences have shaped your faith?

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