

TALKING POINTS

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3. LEARN TO TRUST WHEN IT'S TOUGH

MARK 4:35-41

1. The disciples were nurtured by Jesus; they were learning basic truths - vital for future service. The need for learning runs right through the New Testament. See how Timothy nurtured new Christians in Thessalonica (1 Thess.3:2-4). What was his role - and why?

What things would you want to emphasise in teaching new followers of Jesus?

2. The experience on the Lake helped the disciples to trust Jesus in desperate situations. See how unshaken Peter and John remain in Acts 4:1-21 when the Jewish leaders let loose a storm of opposition on them. What characteristics show that they are very different from the frightened men they proved to be in the storm on the Lake? What had they learned and experienced which can be of help to us? Think about the significance of Acts 4:2,8,12,13,18-20.
3. Most of us know what it is like, as Christians, to be afraid - when we're in a dangerous situation (as the disciples were) or when people attack or ridicule us for being Christians. Share experiences which have made you afraid. What are the common fears of Christians? In what ways can they be overcome?
4. What things sometimes tempt us to doubt Jesus' care and ability to help us? How can we deal with that kind of difficulty?
5. If Jesus is able to rescue us at all times, why does He sometimes allow His followers to be involved in tragic accidents or even martyrdom?
6. We've seen how Jesus encouraged His disciples (section 3 on the outline). Share how Jesus has encouraged you or someone you know of to go on trusting Him.