



12.06.09 – Mark 6:45-56 (A Better Moses Part II)

Materials Needed: 2 movable objects that operate with batteries (i.e. toy, flashlight, etc.). One set of batteries should have just enough ‘juice’ to make the object operate very slowly. The second set of batteries should be fully charged and should allow the object to operate normally

* Read ahead to question #2 and fill in the blanks with appropriate object names.

Opening Activity

- Have the kids sit in a circle and have 2 kids volunteer to operate the battery-operated objects.
- Have the kids talk about how the objects work differently depending on how well the batteries power the object.
- Ask the kids if the poorly powered object would work better if you could recharge its batteries.

Discussion

As we’ll see tonight, the disciples’ and Jesus’ lives operate similarly to the objects that we played with a few minutes ago. God created us to be in ‘relationship’ with him and for us to depend on Him. While God did not create us with a need for batteries, he created us with a soul that needs Him. Instead of recharging our batteries, we have to recharge our souls constantly so that we can function our best. We ‘recharge’ ourselves constantly and depend on Jesus through *prayer*.

Let’s dive into tonight’s passage to begin.

Read Mark 6:45 – 52

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Discussion

Have you ever been really tired? What did you do? Can you imagine how tired the disciples were after they saw Jesus’ miracle and helped him feed 5,000+ people? (Remember our discussion from last week?) This is why Jesus made his disciples get into their boat immediately and begin their voyage across the Sea of Galilee. They needed a break from all the people.

Question One: Why did Jesus stay behind on land while the disciples began their journey without him? *So that Jesus could be alone to pray.*

Question Two: Why did Jesus pray? *This is how he was able to communicate with his Father, God. As he prayed, he was able to be close to God, ask for strength and guidance for everything he was doing and recharge. Even though Jesus is God, He does this to remind us how we are to live, in CONSTANT recognition that we NEED God all the time (Remember how the _____ with the bad batteries didn’t work so well? Well, if you were to charge them back up, they’d make the _____ work again.) Prayer, in a sense, can do the same thing for us and lots more. (Note: The purpose of prayer is to glorify God and to ask for his help to accomplish*



His will on earth. 'Recharging' our soul is only a small part of this, but something we must do to have the strength to go on.)

It seems strange that Jesus had to pray. I mean, He was (and is God), right? Yes, but he still chose to pray to God, His Father. Like we mentioned before, God created us to be in 'relationship' with Him. This means that He longs for us to know Him and talk with Him, a lot like we would to our mom or dad or friend. Since Jesus was fully God and fully man, He prayed to God just as we need to. He didn't do it because He was weak, but because He was strong. He understood that humans need God's strength and power in order to live the life God calls us to live.

Jesus shows us an example of how He prayed and how He wants us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13.

Question Three: Why were the disciples afraid? *The disciples were in the middle of a storm and they'd used all of their strength to row, but hadn't gotten very far because the wind was so strong. Not only were they terrified of the storm, but they probably feared they'd drowned because they didn't have enough strength to make it back to shore. To top it off, all of a sudden a figure of a man walked toward their boat and they thought it was a ghost. Yikes! I would have been scared too!*

Question Four: How did Jesus calm the disciples' fear? *The sound of Jesus' voice calmed them and His very presence made the wind cease!*

How did this happen? Remember how we keep saying that Jesus *is* God. Well, if God had the power to 'speak' the world into existence, as we see in Genesis 1, then that same power that God demonstrated as He created the world is *inside* Jesus too. Jesus then used that power to walk on the water, stop the wind, and calm the disciples' fears! Wow!

Did you know that this same power is alive in us if we just believe in Jesus? How awesome is that!

Question Six: If Jesus has the power to walk on water, stop the wind and calm the disciples' fear, how can Jesus calm our fear? *As we pray and tell Jesus about our fears, He will calm them; we just have to believe that Jesus can do what He says He can do! This is how we trust in Jesus!*

Psalm 37:5 reminds us of this truth: "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act."

Psalm 71:5 teaches us that we can even do this while we're young: "For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth."

Wrapping Up

Let's take some time to share some of the things that we're afraid of and talk about how we can take those concerns to Jesus. Remind the kids that when we bring these things to Jesus, He promises to hear us (Jeremiah 29:12-13)! Then, let's close our time together in prayer and pray for the things that we're afraid of and ask Jesus for the strength to face those fears and to take the burden of them from us.

Encourage the kids to look back at Matthew 6:9-13 during the week so that they can learn to pray like Jesus.