

CONNECTING WITH
GOD
Together

SESSION FOUR
READING THE BIBLE
DISCUSSION GUIDE

What do you think are some things that keep people from reading the Bible regularly?

In the study we talked about a 1-2-3 approach to Reading the Bible. Let's practice that right now. Look up Mark 4:35-41. Let's start with 1 – Observations:

- What literary type is the passage?
- Discuss “journalistic” questions such as: *Who is in the passage? What are they doing and saying? Why are they doing what they're doing and saying what they're saying? When is all of this taking place? What has happened leading up to this point?*
- What is the atmosphere or mood of the passage?

With your observations in mind, let's move on to 2 – Interpretation:

- If you have a study Bible, look at the beginning of Mark and read the Book Overview, Theme, Features, or similar portions of what your Study Bible says about Mark.
- Once seeing the overall purpose and intention of Mark, best you can try to put yourself in the shoes of the people who would be hearing this message for the first time. *What might someone have thought about Jesus after hearing this story for the first time?*
- What do you think Mark was trying to communicate about Jesus in this passage?

Now that we've spent some time with interpretation, let's finish up with 3 – Application. Given your interpretation of Mark 4:35-41, how could you apply the passage in your own life?

- Is there a universal principle evident in this passage?
- What current situation in your life provides an opportunity for you to apply that principle?

Do you feel more confident about reading the Bible than you did before this session? Why or why not?

THIS WEEK

Start reading in the book of John. Most Bibles have sections with headings already laid out in them. Take one section each day and apply the 1-2-3 method. Observe, Interpret, and Apply as you go along. If you have any questions, write them down. You may want to keep a journal as you go. It will be very useful for you to help focus and to go back and see scriptures you have interacted with. If you are able, get someone to do this with you. Decide to meet up at least once a week and discuss what has stood out to you as you are

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