

Mark chapter 6 begins with Jesus returning to his hometown of Nazareth and ends with Jesus walking on water towards his disciples who are in a boat in a storm.

1. Jesus immediately insists that his disciples get into a boat and go ahead of him to 'the other side'. Why do you suppose Jesus wishes to be alone at this time? When the disciples hear Jesus say that they were go to 'the other side', what do think they imagine the 'other side' to be like?
2. Mark uses the word 'boat' eighteen times in this Gospel. 'Boat' is often used in the gospels as an image for the church. What lesson/s do you imagine the disciples learning from this account of being in a 'boat'?
3. Read Matthew 14:22-33 and John 6:15-21. What differences do you notice between these different accounts? What could be the reasons or intentions for these differences?
4. When Jesus calms a storm at sea, as he does here, what Old Testament stories do you suppose come to mind for readers in the first century? What stories come to mind for you as a 21st century reader? What storms are you facing?
5. The Gospel of Mark records Jesus' intention to pass them by. Why do you suppose Jesus meant to do so? Where do you imagine Jesus was heading? What about the disciples' distress may have caused Jesus to change course?

Questions for families with children:

1. In this story Jesus' disciples are in a boat in a big storm. When Jesus comes to them, they were afraid. What frightens them?
2. Think of a time you were afraid. How might you ask Jesus to help you have courage?

Weekly Bible Readings:

March 2 – Psalm 77:17-20 (read in worship on Sunday)

March 3 – Mark 4:35-41 The Wind and Wave Obey Jesus

March 4 – Mark 7:1-8

March 5 – Mark 7:8-13

March 6 – Mark 7:14-23

March 7 – Mark 7:24-37

Passage for Sunday, March 8 Mark 7:24-30