

Parent Passage Guide

Mark 4:35–5:20

Note to Parents

- **Encouragement:** We know leading these conversations can feel intimidating, but simply opening the Word together is a profound win for your family.
 - **Context:** In Mark 4 and 5, Jesus demonstrates His sovereign authority over two massive threats—a life-threatening storm and a destructive legion of demons. These miracles reveal Jesus not just as a teacher, but as the divine "Stronger Man" who has the power to restore peace and sanity to the most chaotic, terrifying situations.
 - **Practical Tip:** When reading this passage, emphasize the dramatic contrast between the intense panic at the beginning of both stories and the profound calm Jesus brings by the end.
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For Younger Children (Under 12)

The Big Picture: Jesus shows us that He is stronger than anything that scares us, whether it is a huge storm on a lake or invisible forces of evil. Even when everything around us feels wild and out of control, Jesus has the power to bring peace and make things right.

The Bottom Line: Because Jesus is stronger than the greatest storms and the darkest evils, we can trust Him when we are afraid.

Read & Understand:

- When the scary storm hit, Jesus was completely calm and sleeping; what does that tell us about who is really in charge when things go wrong?
- The man in the graveyard was acting wild and hurting himself, but Jesus made him completely peaceful. Why do you think Jesus' power is stronger than anything bad in the world?
- Jesus told the man to go home and tell his family what happened. If you had to tell a friend on the playground one amazing thing about Jesus, what would it be?

Daily Application: Next time you feel panicked or afraid this week—like if you are scared of the dark or worried about a hard test—take a deep breath and say, "Jesus, You are stronger than this," to remind yourself that He is in control.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for being stronger than any storm or scary thing in the world. Please help us to trust You when we feel out of control or afraid. Help us to share how good You are with our friends and family. Amen.

For Teenagers (Ages 12-16)

The Real-World Connection: Our culture constantly surrounds you with chaos—whether it's the intense anxiety of social media expectations, cancel culture, or the pressure to fit in. Just like Jesus stepped into a raging storm and a man's destructive isolation to bring absolute peace, He has the authority to bring calm and sanity to the loudest, most chaotic parts of your life.

Discussion Points:

- The disciples panicked because Jesus was sleeping during the storm. When things go wrong in your own life or friend group, do you ever feel like God is ignoring you or just "asleep"?

- The townspeople were more upset about losing their economic investment (the herd of pigs) than they were happy about the man being healed and restored. Where do you see people in our culture valuing money, status, or popularity over someone's actual well-being?
- Jesus told the healed man to stay in his hometown and talk about what God did, even though the man wanted to leave. How hard is it to be a witness for Jesus right where you are, rather than waiting for some "perfect" situation?

The Challenge: Identify one specific area of your life right now that feels like a "storm" (a conflict, a stressor, or an overwhelming expectation from peers). Actively pause this week to surrender it to Jesus, asking Him to bring His authority and peace into that specific situation.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for Jesus' peace over the specific anxieties and "storms" each of you are facing at school or work.
- Ask God for the courage to talk about Jesus with your current friend group, just as the healed man did in his hometown.
- Pray for peers who feel isolated or out of control, asking God to restore them and show them His love.