



ANCHORED

FIRM IN THE FACE OF THE
UNCONTROLLABLE

bible study book



**BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM
April Holidays 2020**

**Anchored
Firm in the face of the uncontrollable.**

Study #	Title	Passage
Study 1	Anchored firm in the face of the storm.	Mark 4:35-41
Study 2	Anchored firm in the face of evil powers.	Mark 5:1-20
Study 3	Anchored firm in the face of sickness and death.	Mark 5:21-43

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4) Why do the disciples wake Jesus and think it right to speak rudely to him? What does this show about their faith?

5) How does Jesus respond to the storm and what does this tell us about how Jesus understood himself and his ministry? Read Psalm 89:9 and Psalm 107:23-32 and Colossians 1:15-17.

6) What is lacking in the disciples response to the storm, which brings a rebuke from Jesus? Why should Jesus have expected a different response?

7) Mark leaves a question for his readers to consider. What is the answer he would have hoped for and what is our answer to this miracle?

8) If God's saving power is seen in the world in the person of Jesus why don't we see this in the world that so often appears out of control? Think back to some of the responses to our opening question. How do we understand the natural calamities of fire, flood, drought, earthquakes etc, which cause so much harm and damage in the world?

Study 2:

Anchored firm in the face of evil powers

Mark 5:1-20

Talk

Why is demon possession one of the features of the gospel accounts and yet so little mentioned in our daily experience?

Read Mark 5:1-20

- 1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

- 2) Where does this encounter take place and what is the significance that there is a large herd of pigs?

- 3) (i) From the description of the man in v.1-5 what do we learn about the impact of demon possession on him both socially and personally?

- (ii) How does this show the breakdown of God's purposes in creation?

- 4) Why is the strength of the man and the impossibility to control him emphasised in preparation for the account of his meeting with Jesus? See Mark 3:23-27

5) What does the evil spirit recognise about who Jesus is and what authority he has?

6) Why did Jesus give permission for the evil spirits to enter into the pigs? What does the fate of the pigs tell us?

7) How does the chaotic life of the man possessed and the calm of his restoration mirror Jesus calming the storm?

8) Why do the people want Jesus to leave? Why does Jesus tell the man to stay behind?

9) What encouragements can we give to people whose lives are chaotic for whatever reason in the here and now and ultimately?

Study 3:

Anchored firm in the face of sickness and death

Mark 5:21-43

Talk

The context for this study is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all our lives. How have we tried to understand this in the light of the sovereignty of God?

Read Mark 5:21-43

- 1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

- 2) Who is Jairus and what is his place in his community? What circumstance makes this powerful person powerless?

- 3) What confidence does Jairus have in Jesus and how would this have been strengthened by seeing Jesus' encounter with the woman?

- 4) Why does Jesus say that the child is not dead but sleeping and why do the professional mourners react to his statement by laughing?

- 5) What authority does Jesus demonstrate and how does this anticipate the age of God's kingdom? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 and Revelation 21:1-4

6) What is the sickness that causes the woman to seek out Jesus but in an anonymous way? Why does Jesus expose her action as he does?

7) Why does Jesus bring the woman's healing into the open but gave orders not to speak about the girl's resuscitation?

8) Discuss. "Like death, sickness is a disorder in creation because of sin."

9) Why does Mark stress the point that God is acting to restore everything to its rightful and proper place and that God's people will ultimately know wholeness in God's kingdom?

10) Look back to the "Talk" section and review your thoughts in the light of this study.