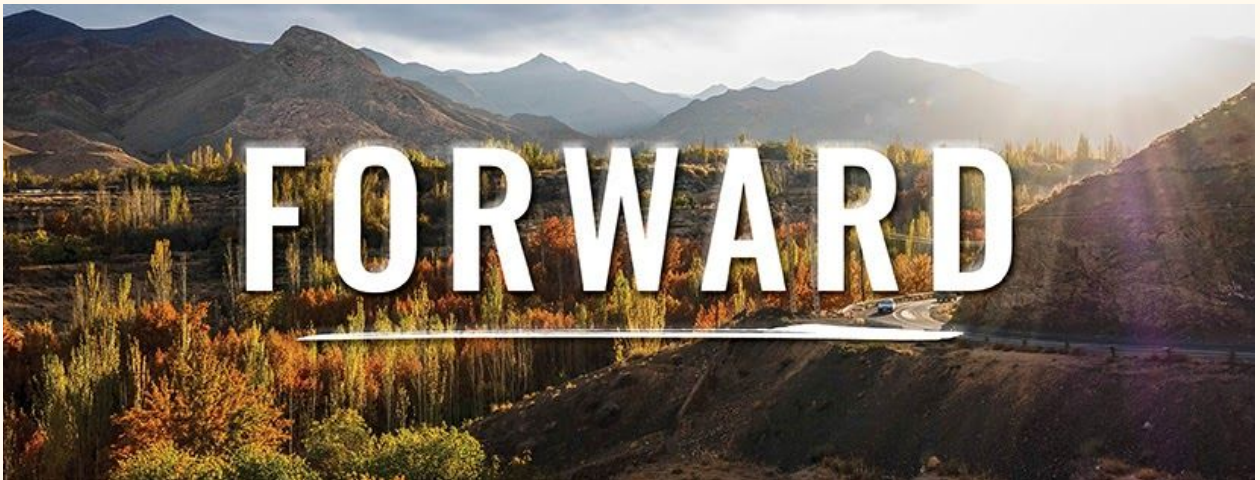

Ignite

“God of rescue and restoration, thank You for Your great and beautiful mission in the world. Here we are, Lord, fill us with Your Spirit and send us. Amen.”



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: *The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.*

Forward 1: Jesus is in Our Storms

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat.

There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Introduction

We bid farewell to 2020 and ushered in 2021 in an unusually quiet tone. Many of us are still reeling from the anxieties and fears experienced in 2020. Our days ahead are continuously uncertain, and no one is spared. The culminating voices of doom and gloom can set us on a downward spiral where all hope seems lost. Yet, if we turn our focus to God, we can still find peace. The scriptures are filled with God’s promises to

bring blessings of peace, hope and purpose. We are empowered and affirmed that God is with us and no fear shall cripple us (refer [Hebrews 13:5-6](#)). With this affirmation, the uncertain days become a unique time for us to experience God; to learn to grow, to step up and step out, and keep going. We draw confidence to go forward knowing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (refer [Hebrews 13:8](#)). Therefore, in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in, we can always depend on the same faithful God to carry us through.

Big Idea: Christ is more than enough

Jesus calms the storm [Mark 4:35-41](#)

That day, after a long day of preaching, Jesus and his disciples boarded a boat and a storm came suddenly upon them. The disciples were worried they would drown and were disturbed that Jesus continued to sleep comfortably, unaffected by the storm. They woke Jesus up and asked him if he was not concerned that they would drown. Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and all was still. He then asked his disciples why they were afraid, and where their faith was. His disciples were terrified at the prospect of who Jesus really is - one who is more than a teacher, who can calm the wind and waves.

In a way, this narrative illustrates our relationship with God in the face of uncertainties (our storms, e.g. illness, emotional challenges, finances, business, career, family, ministry). We find it easy to follow God when things are going well as in any typical day. But when storms come, we are gripped by fear and our faith diminishes. We grow restless, anxious, and fearful, as we could not see God in the storm. We find ourselves just like the disciples, asking God "Don't you care if we drown?" At times, we may struggle to understand how our loving God could send us into storms?

Jesus calming the storm was indeed an act of miracle. But, it is not the miracle that we should be focusing on, rather the fact that Jesus was calm in the storm. Jesus was absolutely secured in his Father's will that he found peace in God. He knew he was to die at Calvary, so Jesus is confident in God that his time has not come for him to perish. Jesus's relationship with God was so profound that his faith was not shaken in the midst of a raging storm.

We too, can learn to trust God like Jesus. Our relationship with God begins with trusting Jesus and knowing that Jesus is more than just a teacher, He is the Son of God. Keep our eyes on Jesus, not on the storm, and through Jesus, our faith grows. With faith, we no longer struggle to trust God. We can understand that our loving God cares enough for us that He lets us grow through the crisis and challenges, so that we can be more like Him. We glory in our sufferings as sufferings produce perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope (refer [Romans 5:3-4](#)).

Conclusion

Christ is definitely more than enough. He is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (refer [Hebrews 12:1-3](#)). But, unless we come to know Christ as the Lord, we would not be able to ride out any storm. Focus on Christ the Lord, know who He is, do things His way and be willing to surrender and follow Him. This will ultimately allow us to grow deeper to be wider and higher; the Jesus's way for growth and sustainability.

SERMON REFLECTION

The year 2021 was welcomed with great uncertainty. The somber start to the year was very much tainted by the unforgettable year in 2020, for many of us at various levels. The events in 2020 were unprecedented, with outcomes demanding a lifestyle change. We hold our breath, anticipating what the new year in 2021 holds for us. Would there be improvements to the economy, businesses, career developments, financial growths, health, family life, social and recreational activities? Or will these “storms” continue to rage? How do we go forward in 2021?

Thankfully, we do not have to face the new year alone. God is with us! He is in the storm with us; to give us His peace and everlasting hope. Therefore, let us all turn our focus to Jesus Christ our Lord, for Christ is more than enough for us. In His infinite wisdom and overflowing mercy, His grace is sufficient for us and is made perfect in our weaknesses. Trust in Jesus, who is the same in all seasons, to deliver us. Have faith that the challenges we go through are valuable lessons in growing spiritually. Choose to stubbornly cling unto Jesus amidst trials and tribulations. Be still and calm, and the peace of God will give clarity to us when we are faced with challenges. Know that God is sovereign, and He allows us to grow through the experience so that we become more like Him.

In short, God understands our anxieties and fears. And the good news is He does not leave us to struggle alone. He will never leave nor forsake us. He wants us to have the trust and confidence to ride out the storms with Him. Such trust and faith can only be developed when we know Him and follow His ways. Would we be willing to surrender our all to Him? Choose to know Christ as the Lord, and His will, and willingly surrender and follow Him. In doing so, may we find “Blessed”, “Thankful”, and “Grateful” (for His faithfulness, mercy and love) be ascribed to the year 2021.

Forgive us Father, for heading into the new year with our faint-hearts. We have been overwhelmed by anxieties that we have failed to seek peace from You. May we look to You in our times of need, and draw strength, wisdom and hope from You, to face our personal storms with confidence. Teach us to trust in You always, having faith that we are in good hands. You are truly more than enough for us in these trying times. May You help us to listen attentively to Your voice and the promises of Your blessings, amidst the storms. Amen.

Contributed by Adeline Ting (PJN2)



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Questions / Activities

- Describe the year 2020 for you in 3 words. *[Note to facilitator: This is to help identify how the year has been as there may be high or low points in the year.]*
- What are some of the new skills you learnt or acquired in 2020? *[Note to facilitator: This is to help members to reflect on some of the positivity in the year and to get to know each other better]*

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- What kind of storm did you encounter in the last one year?

Suggested Questions linked to main point:

- How does this narrative in Mark 4 help you confront the storms in your life? What was it about this story that got your attention and gave you comfort?
- Share your story about any storm you may have gone through, or are going through, when you encountered the peace of Christ. Or you may be in one right now and don't see a way out. Share this as a prayer with your CG.
- What does "Christ is more than enough" mean to you for 2021?

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

1. One of Jesus's disciples asked "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" Were there instances in your life that you find yourself asking a similar question? Share your thoughts.
2. Jesus was asleep when the storm came upon them. He demonstrated a formidable trust in God, knowing fully that in God's plan, he will not be harmed by the storm. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation, unshaken by events around you because of your trust in God? Share your experience.
3. Fear and anxiety are valid emotions that make us human. Discuss what are some of the better ways to respond to fear and anxieties.
4. To trust that Christ is more than enough, requires complete surrender and trust in God. On a scale of 1 (extremely difficult) to 10 (absolute surrender), where are you at :

- (i) surrendering, and
- (ii) trusting God?

How can you learn to surrender and trust in His timing / sovereign plan?



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

Story of the week...

"I was a new believer then. Somehow, I knew in my heart of hearts that to grow as a follower of Christ, it would be crucial for me to belong to a cell group ("CG"). I was really spiritually hungry then, and attending church on Sundays alone was not enough for me - I needed to be in the company of fellow believers during mid-week too!..."

- May Ng, PJN6

*Read the rest of May's story on dumc.my/blog!

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

- Maya Angelou

If you or your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word or any other story that speaks of His goodness or of IMPACTNow, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

As we begin the year 2021 by giving praise to God, let us focus our prayer for:

- **Personal Revival** - Spiritual breakthrough for ourselves and all our CG members.
 - **Corporate Revival** - Spiritual breakthrough for all the churches in the world.
 - **National Revival** – Sovereign will of God to be done in our nation.
 - **Those in need** - Providence of God to the citizens of Malaysia affected by the recent flood and financial impact in their lives.
 - **The lost** - Christ revealed to them through visions, dreams and acts of love by God's people.
 - **Those hurting** – Healing, comfort and peace for people and families who are going through hardship due to covid pandemic.
-



OTHER RESOURCES

Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!



Waiting in the Dark: Why We Need Advent T...

1 hour

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Prayer & Spirituality

Video Clip



Breathe: Being with God in Silence

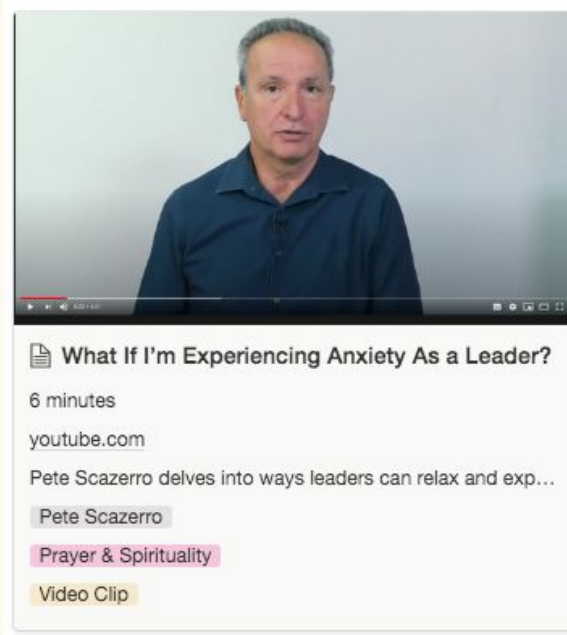
15 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

This 15 minute experience was created to provide a guide...

Prayer & Spirituality

Video Clip



OTHER RESOURCES

Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!



DUMC STORIES

Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!

