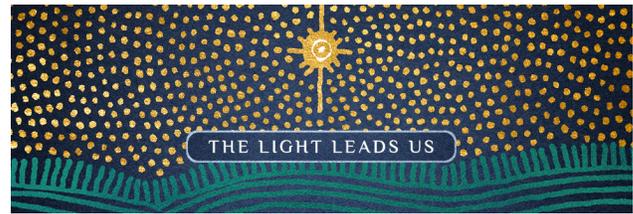


Weekly Message Study Guide

ChristChurch.us/SmallGroups



Date _____ Speaker _____

FROM INSTABILITY TO PEACE | The Light Leads Us | Week 5 | December 27

John 1:4-5; John 8:12; Ps 9:10; John 16:33; John 14:27; Mark 4:35-41 & Mark 5:1-5; Mark 5:14-20

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

CONTEXT | This week we begin to turn the page on 2020. Each of us has good reason to see it behind us. It has been a tumultuous year, full of unexpected turns and stops. It has been unpredictable and UNSTABLE.

- What has made this year unstable for you?
- What has helped to generate peace in your life in the midst of the instability?

Darkness Does Not Overcome Light | Read John 1:4-5. We know the physical reality in our head. A match lit in a dark room is not overcome by the darkness of the room, rather the thing you notice in the room is the LIGHT. That's the physical understanding.

- What other kinds of darkness can we find ourselves in?
- Is uncertainty or instability a form of "darkness" that you have experienced? Talk about how that felt? What was dark about it?
- What is the "light" that you desired in the situation? What would offer you certainty or stability for you in that situation?

Jesus Goes to Sleep | In Mark 4:35-41 we have the story of Jesus falling asleep in the boat in the midst of a storm. The disciples were distraught. They woke Jesus up and Jesus calmed the storm.

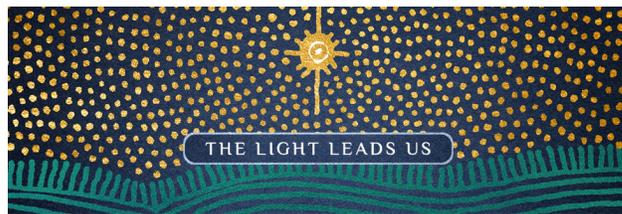
- In the storm what was the "instability" for the disciples?
- Imagine yourself in the boat—what do you want? What would provide re-assurance to you?
- In vs. 41 what was the disciple's response? Now what is the "instability?"
- Have you ever felt as if Jesus is "asleep" in the midst of the storm in your life? Share how you have navigated those tensions.

The Same Unstable Situation--Different Responses | Tish Harrison Warren was quoted "...his sleep displayed an unwavering trust in his Father..."

- How do you respond to that statement?
- What does God ask of us in times of crisis? Surely, it's not wrong to participate, work toward a solution, do our best to solve the problem. What is your trust in times of crisis?

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Jesus Comes Across the Sea | Read Mark 5:1-20. This remarkable story asks a huge question of “why?” It looks like Jesus went across the lake, had the encounter with the demonic and the townsfolk and then came back. We heard this presented as a metaphor for God’s pursuit of us. He says “He went for that guy!”

- How has Jesus come for you in this Covid instability? Where have you been saved from shipwreck, or seen inner voices calmed within you?
- Maybe you’re still waiting for that. What would it look like? What would you ask for? How can you be present before God and rest (sleep) in the midst of the storm as you trust?
- In the face of healing out of chaos we see the demonic one healed and proclaiming what Jesus had done for him. And what are the townspeople doing?

Control or Trust | We have seen instability and very different responses. The disciples in the boat and Jesus. The healed demonic on the other side and the townspeople.

- In the midst of instability and doubt, the darkness of life, where do you go? Where do you find rest?
- Do you need to be in control to trust? What gives you peace?
- There is one that comes for us—intentionally—and he will be with us in our instability. Draw near to the God who moves us from a place of instability to a place of peace. Pray together for that wonderful reality.

PRACTICE OF THE WEEK | Memorize. Believe. Rest in the truth of what Jesus tell us.

John 16:33 • I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”