

Opening Questions:

What is the most surprising question a kid has ever asked you?

These words were written by by Christian theologian Dallas Willard in a book published in the late 90s:

- "Currently the minds and souls of Christians and non-Christians are constantly hammered by the innumerable fists of an 'information society' and an inescapably media-saturated social consciousness set squarely against the reality of the kingdom of God. Without necessarily intending it, these forces almost irresistibly direct our feelings, imagery, thinking, and belief against the world of Jesus and his Father and against the profound needs and hungers of the human soul."

Do you sense the reality of what Willard describes here as "these forces" directing our feelings, imagery, thinking, and belief against the world Jesus too? If so, can you give an example?

What impact does this struggle have on shaping a faith-based imagination in our children and how do we deal with it as Christians?

Read Mark 5:1-5:42

Which of these three faith stories resonates with you the most? Why? What other insights about this passage do you have?

In the sermon, Pastor Silverio talked about Deuteronomy 11:1-7 and said that we answer questions like "how big is God" by talking to our children about what we've seen God do in our own lives and in Scripture. One is one story you would use to answer this question and why?

In the last few verses of Mark 4, Jesus calms a storm and then reprimands his disciples for their lack of faith. Their willingness to share this "faith failure" story is the reason we have this now have this story recorded in the Bible. Do you a "faith failure" story that reminds you that God is big? Share it with the group.

Can you recall a story that had a deep impact on your faith? In what ways did that story encourage you to take a next step in faith? What was that "step"?

Next Steps 2023

- What are some of your next steps in faith for 2023? Share any updates with your group.
- When you complete a next step, tell us about it using the QR code below.

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.
- Guided prayer: God, give us the courage to tell stories of the ways that we have seen you move, especially to our children. Open our eyes that we may become even more aware of your presence and your power. We give you thanks for all the children you have entrusted to our family and to our church. Help us to lead them closer to you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

