Does Jesus Care?
Mark 4:35-39

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Life can suddenly come crashing down, causing us to __________ whether the Lord cares. In times of ________, we ask, does Jesus really care about us? We have no doubts that the Bible will give us the ________, so we keep on looking to it for the answers. Our goal is to ________ God because we love Him and we want to be close to Him.

Longing to be close to God is ____________, and especially when you’re hurting. The sons of Korah, in Psalm 42, describe the heartache of ____________ for God. “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul __________ for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while ___________ say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’ ”

When tough times come, many times people feel God is ____________. They wonder if the Lord is __________ and if He cares. They ________ for God’s help and comfort. Does Jesus care when our hearts are broken with the loss of a loved one, when the bills pile up, when the children are hungry, or when we can’t seem to get well? Does God hear our ____________?

Nothing, however, ___________ the notice of God. Luke 12:6 says that not even a __________ can fall to the ground apart from God’s knowledge. God not only sees what happens outwardly, He also sees the troubles inside your ___________. He knows all about you because He ________ you. There’s never been a single __________ in your life when God hasn’t wanted to be close to you and bless you.


Frightening, life-threatening storms happen ____________ on the Sea of Galilee. In this storm Jesus is ____________, with “his head on a cushion.” The disciples cry out “Master, don’t you ________ that we’re perishing?” We all ask questions like this when we’re frightened and we need an ____________. We see the world’s agonies and we ____________ if God is paying attention. We need ________ from someone bigger than we are and we need it now.

Jesus didn’t answer their question. Instead, He rebuked the storm and He made the water ________. Then Jesus asked His disciples, “How is it that you have no ________?” The real question is not whether Jesus cares, but whether we _________. Of course, Jesus cares. Mark describes how the Lord Jesus delivered Legion, a demon-possessed man, who lived like a beast (Mark 5:1-20). Later in the chapter, Jesus healed a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and then He raised the daughter of Jairus.

Someone objects, “But why doesn’t God ________ every problem? Why does the Lord seem asleep and uncaring?” Are you assuming that if God doesn’t ________ all our problems that He doesn’t care about us? Some folks want God to keep us ________ from struggles or difficulties. It’s tempting to question God’s ________ when we face challenges or disappointments. We think if God really loves us, He’ll ________ us from any and every problem.
Is a painless world, free from any problem, really the ______ world for us? Oh, it may be convenient and it may even be comfortable, but is it best for our ____________, for our growth as individuals? Doesn’t the person who has no problems and has everything his way often get _______ and think the world revolves around him? Don’t challenges ______ us into people of character?

**Read what the Bible says in James 1:2-4.** We may see our trials and struggles the ______ way. We may not realize that God permits them because He sees a greater ______ with them than without them. Struggles help us to become the __________ people that God desires. So let’s rejoice in our trials because God uses them to _______ us into His people.

James 1:12 says, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under _______; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” It doesn’t say, “Blessed is the man who has ___ troubles,” but “blessed is a man who perseveres under trial.” He’s the man who won’t _______ on God when things get rough. Because he loves God even in tough times, God will ___________ him with a crown of life.

The Lord demonstrates that He cares in _______ ways. You might ask, “Well how?” First, He shows He understands suffering in that He himself suffered for our _______. He Himself endured the punishment that was rightfully _______. First Peter 2:24 says, “That He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _______ to sin and _______ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

God loved His Son, Jesus, but He didn’t _______ the crucifixion. Jesus prayed with ______ in the Garden to let this cup pass, but God sacrificed His Son because He loved you and me, just as He loved His Son. Jesus also prayed, “Your will be done.” Atoning for sin was _______ important to Jesus than freedom from suffering. Have you considered how _______ our Father suffered in sacrificing His Son? No one has grieved more over human evil than God has. No one has suffered more than Jesus who bore the cross for our sins. He showed unmistakably how much He loved us. This loving God asks us to _________ Him when we cry out for help.

**Read what 1 Peter 2:21-23 says.** This is what the disciples in the boat needed to do, and what we need to do: and that is to entrust our _______ to God! First Peter 5:7 urges us to cast “all our anxiety on Him, because He _______ for you.”

God inspired Paul to write the book of Romans at a time when the Roman Christians began __________ great persecution. Paul asked, “Who shall _______ us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we’re being killed all the daylong; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered’” (Romans 8:35-36). Paul answers this question in verses 37 to 39, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who _______ us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the _______ of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Their problems did not separate them from the love of God and my friend, your _________ won’t separate you from His love either. God didn’t stop the apostles from being __________, Stephen from being __________, or James from the __________. God didn’t keep
Paul from imprisonment or remove his ________ in the flesh. Yet, not one of these men ever ________ God’s love. They knew God would never put more on them than they could ________.  

God isn’t hiding when our ________ come. He’s faithful! You can ________ Him! Nothing that you’ll encounter today, tomorrow, or at any time will ever be ________ than what God and you together can handle. He doesn’t ________ all our problems; but God does give us the ________ to bear those burdens and challenges. When that problem gets so big that we can’t handle it ________, God steps in so we’ll never get overcome by it. Remember the promise of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you ________. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your ________. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”  

God sometimes uses the physical struggles that we face to keep us from doing ourselves spiritual ________. God gave the apostle Paul some tremendous, miraculous revelations to ________ him in his ministry. But God didn’t want Paul to ________ himself, and so He gave him that “thorn in the flesh” to torment him and keep him from exalting himself (2 Corinthians 12:7). Paul prayed ________ times for the Lord to take away his “thorn in the flesh”; but God refused and said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for ________ is perfected in weakness.”  

Paul had to understand that this thorn was not going away. Was he bitter? No! He ________ something valuable: God’s power is perfected in weakness. Read what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Struggles remind us of our need for God and how God can powerfully work in our lives.  

God’s grace is indeed sufficient. Suffering may torment your ________, but it can’t take away your _________. Suffering may open up for you an opportunity to see the great power of God to ________ you sustain yourself even in times of great weakness. Jesus does indeed ________. Just as Jesus ________ with Mary and Martha at the death of Lazarus, so He weeps with us. The Lord knows when we hurt and He provides _________.  

Some continue to ask, “Why doesn’t the Lord just stop all evil ________?” If the Lord stopped all evil, wouldn’t that evil also ________ you? If we ask God to stop all evil, we need to ________ the evil things that we do. Your sin ________; it hurts God; it hurts you; and it hurts other people. The Lord loves you enough to show you a ________ way and asks you to ________ your life by repenting.  

Repentance is not some punishment, but it’s how we _________. The Lord knows that there’s a ________ person inside of you, wanting to come out. He knows that your repentance will not only bless your ________ but bless all the people that you touch. When you come to Christ and you stop that sin, you bless people that you formerly ________. He graciously gives us ________ to repent; He’s patient. Second Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”  

Jesus loved us enough to give us a righteous ________ to follow. He showed us how to ________ and how to be forgiven. He gave us his Word to ________ our lives, and He answers our _________. He says, “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask Him anything according to His ________ He hears us. And we know that He ________ us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15).
Times of crisis call for the ________ in people. Bravery, heroism, love, self-sacrifice—all of these things flourish in times of crisis. People who exhibit such traits are cherished and are honored as having gone “above and beyond the call of duty.” Was this not the very point Christ made: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his ________”? (John 15:13).

The most important question is not “why did this happen to me?” but rather “what shall I do ________?” Some reject and abandon God when ________ comes their way. Some turn inward in self-pity. Others exercise their faith and find that God has ________ forgotten them. They entrust their souls to Him and find His promise is true: “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Not everything that happens to us is ________, but let’s not assume that the only way God can care for us is to ________ our troubles. God also shows His care and His power by taking the hardest things in our lives and using them for ________, to bless us and to bless others. God has the power to ________; and we have no idea all the harm from which He has protected us already. But God also has the power to take things at their ________ and make good out of them.

So, instead of blaming God for our pains, let’s look to Him for _________. Struggles remind us that God never intended this world to be our ________. We’re pilgrims, and our lives here are brief. Paul said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be ________ with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18). So, we too must learn to see with the ________ of faith and trust. The last chapter of our lives has not yet been _________. When Jesus comes again, He will bless and comfort His own.

Jesus cares about you. He wants you to be his friend. He cares about your physical welfare, your finances, your family, your soul, and your future. More than anything, He cares about your _________. The Lord Jesus knows all about you, the ________ and the ________. He even knows the number of ________ on your head. In spite of it all, He loves you and cares greatly about every detail of your life.

Sometimes we concentrate so much on our longing for God to ________ that we forget God is longing for a relationship with us. The Lord deeply desires that we ________ ________ to Him. When we forget Him or get caught up in ________, He yearns for His people to come back to Him. The Lord Jesus died on the cross for sinful people, yearning to have a relationship with them.

Do you have a close, loving relationship with God? Does the Lord see you as someone who is truly ________ to Him? In your quiet moments as you look into your ________, do you see yourself as a friend to God?

If you haven’t given yourself to the Lord, today is the right day to come to Him. Come to the Lord in ________, trusting in Him and in His Word. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. In repentance, make Jesus your Lord; and let Him ________ your life. Having done these things, be ________ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. In baptism, the Lord will cleanse you from sin (Acts 22:16); He’ll cause you to be born again (John 3:5); and He’ll give you newness of life (Romans 6:4). In baptism, the Lord will add you to His church (Acts 2:47).

When you become a Christian, you’ll find the strength and the grace to deal with all of life’s struggles. God cares enough to give us the strength to bear what He does not take away. Trust Him! Trust Him!