

Life Group Homework

For the week of September 8, 2019

MY STORY

1. What was your favorite thing about this summer?
2. What are you hoping to get out of this study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 8:23-27 (NLT)

²³ Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples.

²⁴ Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

²⁶ Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. ²⁷ The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!"

The Storm

4. What is a storm?
5. If a storm is defined as "a disturbed or agitated state," have you ever been in one? Most of us have experienced a storm or two in life. Have you ever tried to navigate a storm on your own?

This is what the disciples did. The sea was a common place to them. They had navigated storms before and so they tried to navigate this one the same way—on their own. But yesterday's methods weren't working . . . and fear and panic began to set in. We aren't that different; it seems a common thing we do to try to rescue ourselves with our own best efforts. We also have a tendency to turn to fear and panic when a storm comes out of nowhere. Here's the antidote for fear—we need to know who Jesus is.

6. Often in the storm our faith comes into question. How should our faith cause us to respond to the storm?

We can't control what we face, but we are fully in control of how we respond. Our antidote for fear is "knowing who He is."

Sometimes God asks us to follow Him to a new place. That is what He said to the disciples: "Let's cross to the other side" (Luke 8:22). I imagine they thought going with Him would bring about smooth waters, not a turbulent storm.

7. Has God ever asked you to move? Have you ever followed Him to the other side, but instead of finding ease and peace you encountered a storm?
8. Our faith is the anchor when life is spinning out of control. After the storm subsided, did you find that He was always with you?

Looking at this story in Scripture, I can't help but wonder how the disciples felt when they finally woke Jesus and He rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and then the storm stopped, and the sea was calm. I think that was an "aha" moment. They knew He was a prophet, but I believe this action where even nature was under His command caused them to realize that He was really the "Son of God."

9. Can you share about a moment when you realized who Jesus really is? How has that truth changed your life? Isn't it amazing that we have the privilege of being in a relationship with Him?

TAKING IT HOME

10. How would our lives look different if we really realized who was in our boat?

2 Corinthians 4:8 NLT

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not given to despair."

Ephesians 3:17-18 NLT

"Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is."

11. What steps can you take to live into His provision, protection and presence?
12. Is there a storm that is currently brewing that you need to invite Him to speak to?

We can choose to live into the power we have been given because of our relationship with Jesus. So instead of trying to handle the storm on our boat, let's invite Jesus in. He is waiting to be invited into the storm with us. He has more power than you know and is waiting to show it to you—even the wind and waves obey Him!

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Our challenge for the month of September is to make ourselves more available to the whispers of God.

13. Who's in your boat that you can give permission to speak into your life?
14. What are you going to do this week to KNOW HIM better?

The Storm

PASTOR JENNIFER ALLESIO (8:30am & 11:30am)

PASTOR JUSTIN ORR (10:00am & 6:00pm)

September 8, 2019

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Thread/Main Point: You need to know who He is.

Points:

- Your faith is more powerful than you know.
- Our response to the storm reflects our faith.
- Who is in your boat with you?

Challenge:

- What are you going to do this week so that you can know Him better?
- Who is in your boat that you can give permission to speak into your life?