

When the Storm Hits

Matthew 14:22-32

*"But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take Courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."- **Matthew 14:27***

Main Point: Jesus is with you through the storms of life

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When have you been caught in a storm recently? The kind with thunder and lightening!

Have you ever had damage to your home from a storm? What did you have to fix?

Jesus was no stranger to storms - physical and spiritual. The gospels record Jesus calming the wind and waves more than once and displaying the power of his word and his hand. He had been through of storm of his own as we see prior to the passage today. So what can we learn from Jesus actions during this time and how did the disciples voyage across the see of Galilee mirror our own in life?

Start by reading Matthew 14:22-24. When the storm hits:

1) JESUS KNOWS YOU ARE IN THE STORM.

Was there ever a time when you felt alone in a storm? How did you get through it?

What position had Jesus put the disciples in? Why do you think he sent them into that situation?

How does **Deuteronomy 31:8** bring you comfort in the storms of life? How does it feel to know Jesus has felt sorrow and grief, and been hurt in life? (Matt. 14:13)

2) JESUS IS WITH YOU IN THE STORM. Read v. 25-27.

What time of day was it when Jesus came to the disciples on the water? Why do you think he waited until then?

Do you keep Jesus at arms length, or do you invite him in for an intimate relationship? On a scale of 1 to 10 how close are you? Are you having to run to him, or are you already beside him?

What kind of investment are you making to be close to him? Where do you see the need for improvement so he's not far away when you cry out?

3) **STAND WITH JESUS IN THE STORM. Read v. 28-32.**

Why were Peter's actions so bold? What about standing in the storm is so difficult for you?

What does **1 Peter 5:6-7** tell us about how to stand with Jesus? Do you believe He cares for you? Why or why not?

How are you standing right now with your group members who are facing storms in life? What can you do to bear one another's burdens this week and in the days to come?

Apply It:

Jesus is our anchor and our sure foundation. With him our faith, our joy, and our lives will be unshakeable. Where have you been shaken recently? What burdens you right now and how can you share with your group?

Pray:

Pray for one another in these moments, sharing your struggles and storms. Ask God to give you courage to stand with Jesus in the storm and that your trial would be a triumph for others to see. Pray that God would use you for His glory and His story that you could be part of His redemption in this world.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

July 23-25: VBS 9a-12p

July 26: VGroup Sitters Club Training 7pm in the Student Center

July 28: CPR and First Aid training 9:30am in the Student Center

Aug. 12: VGroup Leader Meeting 11am in the Student Center