

Hey Crossroad's Youth & families,

I hope that you are all safe and well during this time. There have certainly been many adjustments for all of us to navigate through because of coronavirus, but God is faithful as always. Life may have adjusted in certain ways over the last couple of weeks, and it may take more intentionality in some ways for us to all maintain a sense of community as a youth group, and church, but I encourage all of you to be supportive of one another and show the love of Christ to family, friends, and neighbors where ever possible. There are some people that may be afraid and struggling right now, because they don't know Christ or the peace that he gives us. I challenge you all to be an example of Christ to them and all of those around you. Trust God and his faithfulness through the challenge of Covid-19, remembering that he is sovereign. That means nothing is greater or stronger than he is! I encourage each of you to take time to connect with your families and talk about the faithfulness of God in your lives. Pray together and use this time as an opportunity for devotion.

When we are faced with uncertainty, it can be easy to allow thoughts of fear and questions about what might happen to consume our minds and distract us from our faith and holding on to the peace that Christ offers us. In these moments, it is beneficial to think back and remember the faithfulness of God throughout our lives. It is in the confidence that we have in our Father, that is evidenced by his continual faithfulness, that we are able to have peace in the storms of this life.

Remember Jesus on the boat in the Sea of Galilee with his disciples when the storm was raging? The disciples were consumed with fear and thoughts of the unknown about what the storm would do or what would happen to them. What was Jesus doing? He was sleeping! Yes, he was likely tired from the days ministry and simply needed to rest, but I don't believe that his exhaustion was the reason he was able to sleep in the storm. I believe it came down to his trust and security in the faithfulness of his Father. He was able to sleep during the storm in the peace that only came from God. We can see this in his words to the disciples when they woke him because they were afraid. The disciples said to him "Lord, save us! We are going to drown!" Jesus before ever addressing the storm, spoke to them and said, "**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**". It was only after addressing where the disciple's faith was that Jesus then stood up and calmed the storm. Why was it so important that Jesus address the issue of the disciple's faith first, when they were so afraid? I believe it was because the disciples were all putting their faith in what they could physically see with their eyes. In essence, they were putting their faith in the storm that was raging around them, and in the boat they were sailing on. That reality probably looked pretty rough in the moment. They were in the middle of a sea caught in a storm that could have capsized or sunk them. Without God there was probably a lot of reason to fear. Jesus wanted them to look past the wind and the waves to trust in the One who made them, to have faith in God who is above every challenge and storm we will face in this life. Yes, Jesus was likely tired from the day's ministry, but I also believe that his nap was an object lesson for the disciples and for us about learning to trust in our Father so that we too can find peace and rest in the midst of the storm.

My prayer for each of you is that you will be able to rest in the midst of what is happening around our world during this time, and that we will be a church and a youth group of faith, speaking truth into the lives of those around us. I pray that the Holy Spirit will be with each of

you and that through this time we will all grow closer to Christ in our faith. I pray for the safety and wellbeing of your families, and for God's wisdom and grace to be with all of you.

Psalm 28:6-9

Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trust in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

I hope that these verses bless you all, and I encourage you to use them as a family to talk about and challenge each other on where you are placing your faith right now. Rely on Gods eternal faithfulness to carry and shepherd us. Be Blessed!