



**5 Day Devotional:** [Watch- The Gospel In The Storm](#)

## Day 1: When Storms Hit Without Warning

### Devotional

Life rarely gives us advance notice before the storms arrive. One moment we're sailing smoothly, and the next we're battling waves that threaten to overwhelm us. Whether it's a sudden job loss, a health crisis, or relationship turmoil, storms have a way of catching us off guard. But here's what we often miss: storms aren't random accidents in our lives. They serve a purpose we might not immediately understand. When we find ourselves in turbulent waters, our first instinct is often to panic or try to control the situation through our own strength. We exhaust ourselves trying to fix what feels broken, believing that if we just work harder or worry more, we can somehow calm the chaos around us. But storms have a way of revealing a deeper truth about our condition - that we were never really in control to begin with. The illusion of control that we carry in calm seasons gets stripped away when the winds start howling. This isn't meant to discourage us, but to awaken us to a reality we need to embrace: we were designed to depend on someone greater than ourselves.

### Bible Verse

*'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* - Joshua 1:9

### Reflection Question

What illusions of control in your life might God be trying to strip away through current or recent difficulties?

### Prayer

Lord, help me see beyond the chaos of my circumstances to recognize Your presence with me. Give me courage to trust You when I feel overwhelmed and out of control.

### Notes

---

---

---

---

## Day 2: The Danger of Spiritual Sleep

### Devotional

There's something deeply troubling about Jonah's response to the storm raging around him. While seasoned sailors feared for their lives and cried out to their gods, Jonah was fast asleep in the bottom of the boat. This wasn't the peaceful rest of someone trusting God - this was the dangerous numbness of someone running from Him. How often do we find ourselves spiritually asleep when we should be most alert? We can become so accustomed to ignoring God's voice that we sleep through the very storms meant to wake us up. This spiritual numbness doesn't happen overnight. It's the result of repeatedly choosing our way over God's way, gradually dulling our sensitivity to His presence and His warnings. We might even pride ourselves on staying calm while others around us are panicking, not realizing that our calmness comes from disconnection rather than faith. The sailors had to wake Jonah up and ask him to pray - imagine that! The one person on the boat who knew the true God was the most disconnected from Him. Sometimes God allows storms in our lives specifically to wake us from this dangerous spiritual sleep, to shake us out of our complacency and back into relationship with Him.

### Bible Verse

*'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'* - Romans 8:28

### Reflection Question

Are there areas in your life where you've become spiritually numb or asleep to God's voice?

### Prayer

Father, wake me from any spiritual numbness in my life. Help me stay alert to Your voice and responsive to Your leading, even when it's uncomfortable.

### Notes

---

---

---

---

## Day 3: Every Storm Creates a Cry

## Devotional

When the storm intensified and nothing else worked, even the pagan sailors began to cry out desperately for help. There's something about genuine crisis that strips away our pretenses and forces us to acknowledge our need for divine intervention. Every storm, regardless of its source, has this potential - to move us from self-reliance to desperate dependence on God. But here's what's remarkable: our cries in the storm aren't burdens to God; they're invitations He's been waiting for. He doesn't send storms to punish us but often to position us for rescue. When we finally stop trying to manage everything ourselves and cry out for help, we're exactly where God wants us to be. The sailors' cry led them to discover that Jonah's God was the true God who controlled the wind and waves. Sometimes our storms serve not just to wake us up, but to reveal God's power to others who are watching how we respond. Your crisis might be the very thing God uses to demonstrate His faithfulness to someone else who desperately needs to see it. The question isn't whether you'll face storms - you will. The question is whether you'll let those storms drive you to cry out to the One who can actually help, or whether you'll exhaust yourself trying to weather them alone.

## Bible Verse

*'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* - Joshua 1:9

## Reflection Question

What is preventing you from crying out to God in your current struggles instead of trying to handle them on your own?

## Prayer

God, help me see my struggles as opportunities to depend on You more deeply. Give me the humility to cry out for Your help instead of relying on my own strength.

## Notes

---

---

---

---

# Day 4: The Greater Substitute

## Devotional

When Jonah was thrown into the sea, something miraculous happened - the storm immediately calmed. This wasn't just about removing a troublemaker from the boat; it was a picture of substitution that points us to something far greater. Jonah's story foreshadows the ultimate substitute who would come to calm the storm of God's judgment against sin. Jesus is the greater Jonah. Where Jonah ran from God's call, Jesus willingly embraced His mission. Where Jonah was guilty and deserved judgment, Jesus was sinless yet took our guilt upon Himself. Where Jonah nearly died for his own rebellion, Jesus actually died for ours. The storm that should have destroyed us was absorbed by Him instead. This is the heart of the gospel - not that we can calm life's storms

through better behavior or positive thinking, but that Jesus stepped into the ultimate storm so we could have peace with God. When we try to manage our guilt, shame, and brokenness through our own efforts, we're like sailors frantically throwing cargo overboard while the storm rages on. But when we trust in Jesus as our substitute, we discover that the storm has already been calmed at the cross. This doesn't mean life becomes easy, but it means we face every storm knowing that the most important battle has already been won on our behalf.

### **Bible Verse**

*'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'* - Romans 8:28

### **Reflection Question**

In what areas of your life are you still trying to be your own savior instead of trusting in Jesus as your substitute?

### **Prayer**

Jesus, thank You for willingly entering the storm of judgment that I deserved. Help me rest in what You've already accomplished rather than trying to save myself.

### **Notes**

---

---

---

---

## **Day 5: Stop Running, Start Trusting**

### **Devotional**

Jonah's story is ultimately about the futility of running from God and the freedom that comes from surrendering to Him. After being rescued from the fish, Jonah had a choice - continue running or finally trust God's plan. We face the same choice every day. Running from God is exhausting work. It requires constant energy to maintain the illusion that we know better than our Creator, that our plans are superior to His, that we can find fulfillment and peace apart from His will. But running never leads where we think it will. It takes us further from home, deeper into trouble, and farther from the very thing our hearts are searching for. The beautiful truth is that God's pursuit of us is relentless and motivated by love, not anger. He sends storms not to destroy us but to redirect us back to the path of life. When we finally stop running and start trusting, we discover that His plans for us are good, even when they're different from what we expected. Baptism beautifully illustrates this transformation - publicly declaring that we were once running from God but now, because of Jesus, we belong to Him. If you're exhausted from running, if you're sitting in a storm of your own making or circumstances beyond your control, today can be the day you stop running and start trusting the One who loves you enough to pursue you through every storm.

### **Bible Verse**

*'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* - Joshua 1:9

**Reflection Question**

What would it look like for you to stop running from God's will and start trusting His plan for your life today?

**Prayer**

Father, I'm tired of running from You and trying to control my own life. Help me surrender completely to Your will and trust that Your plans for me are good.

**Notes**

---

---

---

---