
STORM

Week 1: Community.



Have you ever been in a storm? You become sick. Lose a loved one. There are cutbacks at work and you lose your job. Your marriage is in shambles. Your kids act out. You wonder in the midst of it all... where are you God?!? Everyone goes through a storm. You might be in one now. During this series, we are learning how God leads us to the other side of the storm.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been the greatest storm in your life? Take the time and care to discuss people's storms.
2. **Read Acts 27:1-20.**

Over the next four weeks, we will be studying Paul's journey to Rome. The Scripture that we've just read details a storm that arises along the way. Notice the number of different ships that Paul travels on in 27:1-12. What might this say to us about the nature of Paul's journey toward Rome?

Why do you think that Paul is given a position of leadership and influence in the decision of where and when to sail (even though he's a prisoner)? After deciding not to harbor for the winter, the ship Paul is traveling on, is struck by a storm. Already exhausted, they are now battered by the storm. What action does the crew take over a three day period?

3. **Re-read Acts 27:20.** After abandoning their own supplies, now they have nothing to be self-sustaining. Discuss as a group how storms teach us the value in relying upon God and one another rather than our own ability or material possessions.

Throughout the passage, there is an importance of community. List as a group the different instances of community in the passage. Why is having community while on the journey important? How has the community of the Church, your small group, etc., helped you?

4. As 2018 begins, encourage, pray for, and decide to be present in one another's storms. How will your group create space so people can share, receive prayer and encouragement, and be accountable this year? Develop a group system that will be part of your life as a group together.

BE THE REVOLUTION

When the storm arises, we need one another.

RENOVATING THE HEART

When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned (*Acts 27:20*).