

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Is this over yet? Are we there yet? Are we really starting Lent... AGAIN? Some days we may still feel lost in the wilderness of last Lent or virtual everything, going around in circles, or just plain stuck. And the yet the season of Lent invites us into an intentional time of journeying with God, even finding God, in the busyness of life. It is a time of holy preparation that can bring new life and renewal as we seek God's presence in the midst of it all. Join us this Lent as we journey with Christ through his own time of preparation from his wilderness temptation to the cross. We will stop along the familiar "places" of his ministry to find ourselves in the same places of invitation and longing, and discover how Christ accomplishes, not exactly what we expect, but always what we need. What is the way through? How do we take the next step? By placing our trust in God and in God alone.

Message Synopsis

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." This is a promise of God from scripture and one we see played out time and time again in our own lives with Jesus. And yet, when another storm comes, how quick are we to turn to a place of deep fear and lack of faith? Too often we expect that following Jesus means the storms won't come our way. But the truth is they will, and the promise is that Jesus will be with us when they do. Our fear can be transformed into awe and the storm calmed only when we recognize the presence of God Almighty with us. What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey him? This is the Lord of all creation, the one with the power to calm the storms and sea, and the one who can be trusted upon new horizons and unknown shores.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 8:18-27, Isaiah 43

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. Are you going through a stormy season right now? What does it feel like? What are you waiting for God to do in your life (specifically)?
2. Have you ever felt like the scribe at the beginning of this story, eager to follow Jesus into uncharted and unknown territory? Are you feeling that way today? If not, what happened that changed your perspective?
3. How have the storms of your life grown your faith? Have they taken you from zeal to zeal and glory to glory? Or have they been a discouragement to you and reinforced doubt and despair? Why do you think that is?
4. How has Christian community helped you in the midst of your storms? How does "being in the boat with Jesus" give you peace in times of fear and desperation (or doesn't it)?

5. One of the greatest witnesses to our faith is the way we walk through storms. It's how people see that we're different, and they become curious about our source of peace and confidence. Have you ever witnessed this unusual grace in someone you know? How did it impact your life? Has anyone ever asked you for the source of your strength in hard times? What happened?
6. What is your takeaway from this week's message? How are you going to apply it to your life? What are you going to see or do differently as a result?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: "Experience the Sea of Galilee" (4 min)

(located in the "Renovation Home Groups" channel)

[RightNow Media :: Illustration :: Experience the Sea of Galilee](#)

1. Take a moment to watch this video and imagine yourself in these stories with Jesus. What sticks out to you about this place? What do you realize about the stories because of their setting that you didn't realize before?
2. If you've been to the Sea of Galilee in person, take a moment to share about it with your group. What did it mean to you? How did it feel? What did you learn from your experience?
3. Our storms in life are so often unexpected. Sometimes we can see the clouds rolling in, but other times they take us by surprise, just like the storm in Matthew 8. Share about an experience when you were caught by surprise, and your calm turned to desperation. What did it feel like? How did it resolve? Did you come through that time with more faith or more doubt? Why?
4. How do the stories presented in this video relate to each other (besides their setting)?
5. Have you had any "walking on water" moments, like Peter, where your faith turned to doubt in the midst something epic? If so, why did you doubt, and how did Jesus rescue you from that situation (if he did)? Have you tried anything like that again? If so, was your faith stronger, or were you more hesitant the second time?

Family-Related Questions:

1. Our children face storms almost every day. At times in their lives, they look to us to bring them calm and safety and comfort. But other times, they face these storms privately, quietly, and alone. It can also be easy for us who are on the other side of those challenges to dismiss their storms as shallow, vain, or unimportant. So how can you get in the boat with them? How can you relate to their desperation (their feelings, more than their circumstances)? And how can you prepare them to find peace and safety and trust in the right places?
2. One of the greatest witnesses of our faith is the way we walk through storms. Our children watch us, and they learn from us, especially in times when we're overwhelmed, desperate, challenged, and afraid. Do you let your children see you (the real you) when you face challenges? Or do you hide your difficulties from them (or push them away)? What do they witness? What can you do differently in the midst of your own challenges to help your children learn and prepare well for the storms they will face in the future?