Community Group Discussion Questions

“Faith over Fear” Matthew 14:22-33 Sept. 15, 2018

Getting Started
There are STORM’s we all face within us and around us, that relentlessly pound on us, causing us to feel that the firm foundation beneath our feet is unstable and unreliable. However, your firm foundation is not outside of the storm, but within it, allowing you to rise above it.

What was the worst weather storm you ever experienced?

What was the worst life storm you ever experienced?

Going Deeper

Teaching Points: Fear paralyzes us from fully experiencing the supernatural presence and provision of God in our lives, but it is important for you to know that:

1. There is a **Plan in the Storm**: “Immediate” **Sovereignty!** (Vs. 22-24)
   a. No Explanation: “he made the disciples get into the boat” (Vs. 22)
   b. No Destination: “go before him to the other side” (Vs. 22)
   c. No Hesitation: he was there alone, (Vs. 23)
   d. No Realization: but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

Key Verse: John 6:15: *Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*

What is your first reaction to a STORM in your life? Describe how that would change if you believed God was sovereign?
2. There is a Peace in the Storm: “Immediate” Sufficiency!
(Vs. 25-27)

a. Comfort in His Will: “in the fourth watch of the night he came to them” (Vs. 25)
b. Comfort in His Ways: “walking on the sea” (Vs. 25)
c. Comfort in His Words: But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” (Vs. 27)

Jesus let them row for a very long time, to the point where they were exhausted, and then He appeared. One wise person said, ‘God is seldom early, but He is never late.’ Why do you think God sometimes lets us struggle before He shows Himself?

3. There is a Promise in the Storm: “Immediate” Surety!
(Vs. 28-32)

a. Won’t tell you no: “beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” (Vs. 30)
b. Won’t let you go: “Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him” (Vs. 31)
c. Won’t walk alone: “when they got into the boat” (Vs.32)

Key Thought: “I would rather be wet in failure, then dry in fear”

Jesus won’t tell you ‘No,’ let you go, and you won’t walk alone. Even after Peter faltered and got a little wet, Jesus not only saved him, but got into the boat with him. How do you think Jesus feels when you step out in bold trust?
4. There is Praise in the Storm: “Immediate” Supremacy!
(Vs. 32-33)

a. Wind Stopped: “the wind ceased” (Vs. 32)
b. Waves Parted: immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going (John 6:21)
c. Worship Started: And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” (Vs. 33)
Takeaway: “What is over your head is always beneath His feet”!

All of our lives, we get small scratches, cuts, and abrasions on our skin, whether it’s a skinned knee, a shaving cut, or a bug bite. Do you ever stop and think about the fact that those things always heal, and that a week later you don’t even remember it? How about praising God for His supremacy over the storms in our life? When was the last time you stopped and praised Him because He has been so very faithful to you in so many storms? Take some time as a group to praise Him out loud.

Prayer Requests