

## **Wednesday Bible Study 2019: Storms**

**Memory Verse:** John 16:33 (to the tune of The Bare Necessities)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!” -John 16:33

### **Skit Questions:**

1. What were the storms that each of the characters were facing?
2. How were the characters handling their struggles?
3. How should they have handled them?
4. How was Donkey showing Christ to Shrek and the other characters?
5. When you're going through a storm, who helps you?

### **Attention Grabber:** *Ice Breakers*

- Do you like thunderstorms? Why or why not?
- Do any of you have a storm stories?

### **Theme Related Activity: Fear in a hat**

On scraps of paper, have everyone in the group write down one fear they have about anything at all. Then, place the papers in a hat, pull one out, and read it to the group. Explore how others in the group may have similar fears, how the group can help to overcome that fear, or how faith may help calm the fear presented.

Or (**for younger campers**)

Draw their fear and then give them the option to explain their artwork. Explore how others in the group may have similar fears, how the group can help to overcome that fear, or how faith may help assuage the fear presented.

### **Bible Study Core:**

- Turn to Mark 4:35-41
- **Questions:**
  1. How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples on the boat?
  2. What does Jesus being able to calm the storm show the disciples?
  3. What do we do when storms come our way?
    - a. How do we respond?
    - b. How should we respond?
  4. What are some different “storms” we may face in life?
  5. What should we remember when we feel scared?
  6. Are there any fears that are too big for Jesus? Explain
  7. Can Jesus calm your fears? How do you think He does that?

8. What happens when we take our eyes off of Jesus in times of trouble? (Matthew 14:22-36)
9. What's God's promise to us when we are going through hard times? (Isaiah 43:2)
10. How can God redeem our "storms"/hard times and use them for his glory?
11. How can God use these hard times to strengthen our faith?
12. Why do we have to go through struggles and suffering? (1 Peter 4:12-18, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 8:18-20)
13. **(older campers)** How do we find deep-rooted joy in storms (bad things, tough times come our way)?

### Writing/Journaling

- Reflect on a time in your life that has been hard and write how it changed you and/or helped you to grow. How did Jesus bring glory through this struggle? Did you look to God during this struggle?

### If Time Activities

***Footprints in the Sand*** Take some time to read and reflect on this famous poem. If you are by a beach, make some footprints in the sand. There are also many options for pulling it up on YouTube where it is set to music with graphics as well.

One night I dreamed a dream.  
 As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
 Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
 For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
 One belonging to me and one to my Lord.  
 After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
 I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
 I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
 especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
 there was only one set of footprints.  
 This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.  
 "Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
 You'd walk with me all the way.  
 But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,  
 there was only one set of footprints.  
 I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."  
 He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you  
 Never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
 When you saw only one set of footprints,  
 It was then that I carried you."

1. Has there ever been a time where you felt like God left you in times of trouble?
2. Has there ever been a time where you felt God carrying you through struggles?
3. Can we trust God when he's carrying us? Why or why not?

**Imaginative Prayer:** Close your eyes and imagine the scene I'm about to describe

You are on a boat in the middle of a sea. You and 11 other disciples are chatting about nothing, and minding your own business.

When out of nowhere the light wind that was blowing picks up into a furious rage of wind that stings your face.

Lighting crackles and snaps like a whip in your ear as clouds cover the sun. And The sky around you turns a dark shade of blue.

Quicker than you can think your years of experience as a fisherman seems worthless because the waves are overwhelming the boat. Growing larger and larger until they become walls of water taller than the boat.

(Think to yourself. How might you be feeling in this situation?)

Frightened you rush down below. The violent rainfall burns your skin where it is not covered by your clothes.

You reach Jesus hardly keeping from being tossed by the violent rocking of the boat.

(Again, think to yourself. How are you feeling? What might you say to Jesus here? )

At the top of your lungs you yell "Teacher! Don't you care if we drown?!" Jesus's eyes sleepy and calm flutter open.

Now jumping around him in frustration, hoping to get Jesus to quicken his pace as he meanders up the steps of the boat as it heaves from one side to the other.

After what feels like a lifetime Jesus reaches the side of the boat and softly speaks the words "Quiet! Be still!" His command immediately obeyed by the sea.

(Think about how you're feeling right now. How does God's power over the wind and waves make you feel about problems in your life?)

You incredulously (in disbelief) stare at him wondering who this man could be that "even the wind and waves obey him"

(How do the wind and waves in this story represent the problems in your life? Does God have the same control over the "storms" of your life that he does in this story?)