

Wednesday: Storms



Objective: Life isn't perfect. Hard times, sad times, and storms in life will come. Satan is real, and he wants to tear us down. Thanks to Jesus, we are able to find joy on the other side of the storms of life. He brings life from death and can bring redemption to our lives. He went through the ultimate storm, the cross, and he came out triumphant!

Big Question(s): What do we do when storms come our way? How do we respond? Are we leaning into Jesus when

times aren't so good? How do we find deep rooted joy in the storms?

Theme Verse: "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

Main Story/Text: Mark 4:35-41 → Jesus Calms the Storm

Main Points[1]:

1. In the midst of our brokenness, hurt, trial, etc., Jesus is still walking alongside of us, hurting with us.

We suffer every day as a result of sin entering this world. When we are struggling, when we do face the storms of life, God steps in and carries us along the way. When he does this, he lets us taste his strength, grace, and love in new ways - His attributes are magnified! Our pain becomes God's megaphone to the world around us, meaning our pain gives us a platform to share with others how good God still is. Our pain produces a ministry of comfort that we walk in - that His grace to us is meant to be displayed in all its glory and not hidden by our silence. Jesus holds us in his hand, creating peace and comfort on the darkest of days. He is our ultimate protector!

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-10
- Isaiah 43:2

2. God's plan is to redeem our hardship.[2]

Being a follower of Jesus isn't easy, in fact it's harder. God has always known that there will be suffering and trial in our lives. But how will you deal with it? When we look to the pain of our wounds, we see ourselves as wounded, but when we look to the pain of the cross, we see the wounds of Jesus. By his wounds we are healed forever in the name of our Healer! When we suffer as Christians, God takes our suffering and the message of the Gospel we proclaim to use it to save the lost! We are weak when He is strong!

- John 16:33
- Hebrews 4:14-16
- 1 Peter 4:12-18

3. Our storms will be worse if we take our eyes off of Jesus - he can root us in joy!

The enemy longs to steal, kill, and destroy our identity in Christ by convincing us our pain will define our past, disparage our present, and darken our future. Peter started to sink because he let his eyes become fixated on something instead of Jesus. We can overcome the enemy (Satan, not people)! Jesus overcame by means of His sacrifice. It was His death that made it possible for people to come to know the Father, and we can then begin to find our identity in the One who suffered for us instead of in our own suffering. This life is so bitter when we take our eyes off Jesus. Because of His life, death, and resurrection, we can find joy in all circumstances!

- Matthew 14:22-36

Apply It: (could be part of the Bible study, or evening devotional activity)

- 1. What are the different storms in your life?[3] How did God use it to strengthen your faith?**
- 2. How have your eyes been taken off Jesus in the midst of the storms?**
- 3. How is He using your suffering for his glory?**
- 4. How can we continue to see Jesus above the evil one?**