

### WARM-UP

- If you could master any skill, what would it be and why?
- How do you usually react to a command from your parents or spouse? Why?
- Who do you usually run to for help? What made you choose this person?

**WORD** *<sup>22</sup>One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, <sup>23</sup>and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. <sup>24</sup>And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. **LUKE 8:22-24***

All of us—even those who follow Christ—encounter seemingly impossible storms and trials. He warned us against this, but also gave us an assurance: He *has overcome the world* (John 16:33). Yet, we still often find ourselves anxious and afraid when troubles come, asking: *Why am I suffering even when I follow God? Is it my fault? Does He know this is happening? Can He help me through this?* In the midst of the disciples' troubles and anxiety in this story, we see that Jesus is powerful and in control.

## 1 | Jesus led the disciples.

*<sup>22</sup>One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, <sup>23</sup>and as they sailed he fell asleep. . . .* **LUKE 8:22-23**

Jesus had given a word, and the disciples obeyed Him. They seemed ready to obey Him, wherever He would lead, whether it was a crowd of people or an unexpected place. After all, they knew that this is the best position to see God's miraculous power at work. How have you learned to obey Jesus at His word?

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## 2 | Jesus led them to a difficult situation.

*<sup>23</sup>. . . And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. <sup>24</sup>And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" . . .* **LUKE 8:23-24**

Because they had obeyed Jesus, they probably did not think they would need a miracle. The seasoned fishermen were caught by surprise by the storm. They had obeyed and yet were looking for a way to survive. Even today, torrents come in our obedience. Following Christ does not guarantee a storm-free life. Moreover, God may lead us to go through storms so that we may learn to depend on Him. That's why we need to anchor ourselves on Jesus and His word. When God's word gets challenged in your life, how have you learned to respond?

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### 3

## Jesus led them to experience His power and authority.

<sup>24</sup>. . . And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup>He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" **LUKE 8:24-25**

The disciples' reaction to the storm was valid. They were in danger, after all. But Jesus was with them. He had done various miracles before their eyes, even proving His power over nature (Luke 5:5-6). In their culture, they knew that God controls the winds and waves. This storm then posed no challenge to Jesus, but the disciples, in their panic, may have forgotten about that. Jesus calmed the storm and waves simply by His word, and then asked them, "*Where is your faith?*" Seeing this miracle, they were left in awe and safely arrived on the other side of the lake (Luke 8:26). Recall a time when God miraculously carried you through a difficult situation.

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Jesus showed the disciples that in Him, they could have peace even in the midst of storms. The same is true for us. When we encounter challenges and seemingly impossible situations, we can have peace in Christ. He has overcome the world (John 16:33). Despite the looming troubles, let us look to Jesus. He is our peace.

## APPLICATION

- Are there promises or commands from God that are being challenged in your life? How do you think you should respond to Him, in light of what you learned today?
- Though storms are inevitable in life, God is in control over nature and all of creation. Who can you encourage with this truth? Declare God's peace and power in this person's life.
- What are some practical things you can do to remind yourself and others about God's peace amidst anxiety and uncertainty? How can you encourage today's truth to someone this week?

## PRAYER

- Pray John 16:33 over your life every day this week. Thank God for He Himself is our peace and He is continually at work in our lives.
- Surrender your anxieties and worries to God. Pray that you will always be reminded of His word and of the hope we have in Him, because nothing is beyond His power and control.
- Ask God to strengthen your faith in His word as you face trials. Pray that your life will be a testament to God's love and power to the people around you, especially those who are in need of a miracle.



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