



Design: Storms | March 28, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Kids love storms... thunderstorms in the summer, snow days in the winter. But as we go through life, we start walking through a different kind of storm. A kind of storm that's definitely not as much fun.

Key Verse

Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Discussion

Many of us have memories as kids of watching storms roll in, protected by the security of the screened in porch. We'd root for snow days, watching the snowfall from the comfort of our warm living rooms. The reality that we learn as we grow up, however, is that storms in our own lives are very different than watching a fresh snowfall. Divorce, abandonment, financial ruin, sickness, death and heartbreak... these are just a few examples.

1. What is (or was) your favorite kind of nature storm? Why?
2. Have you seen and experienced storms in your life? Describe one and how it's impacted you.

Sometimes, one major event in our life can create "ripple storms" and affect us our entire lives. They are something we may always face. We are told in the Bible that Jesus has the ability to calm our storms. He demonstrates this by not only showing his power over nature, but also the ultimate storm, death. On Easter, we celebrate this power and remember that Jesus conquered death.

3. Has a major event in your life caused "ripple storms?" Explain.
4. Do you believe Jesus has the power to calm the storms in your life? Why or why not?

In Matthew 8:23-27, Jesus calms a storm while he is in a boat with his disciples. In the passage, we read that he's actually sleeping when his disciples wake him up in the middle of a storm; terrified they are going to drown. After he calms the storm, the disciples are amazed that Jesus has control over something no one else does, nature. The awesome reality about putting our faith in Jesus is that there's nothing we can face in life that Jesus can't calm. Even the very real stuff we deal with every day.

5. Does the fact that Jesus has the power to control nature give you peace about his ability to calm the storms in your life? Why or why not?
6. What storm in your life (present or ongoing) do you need to trust that Jesus can calm?

What's Next?

This week, as we look toward Easter and celebrate Jesus' victory over death, consider your own faith journey. First, recognize that we all have storms in our lives. They are part of living in a broken world. But if you want to grow in your faith, think about what storms or struggles you need to trust Jesus with.

This week, ask him to calm the storms in your life and trust that he has the power to do it.