



LIFE GROUPS

GOD MEETS US HERE (STORMS) | WEEK TWO

KEY SCRIPTURES

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When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you. So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.'
Acts 27:20-25 NIV

... everyone deserted me. ... But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength ... **2 Timothy 4:16-17 NIV**

I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. **Psalms 16:8 NLT**

GROWING TOGETHER

START TALKING. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's the funniest memory you have of reacting to bad weather as a child?
- "If weather were a roommate, which one would you love living with, and which one would you kick out after a week?"

START THINKING. Read **Acts 27:20-25** and discuss the following questions.

- Have you ever felt like the sailors in v.20, "all hope of being saved was lost"? What helped you hold on?
- Paul says in v.23, "An angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me." How does it encourage you to know that God sends His presence in tangible ways during storms?
- Compare this storm in Acts 27 with the storm in Mark 4:35-41, when Jesus calmed the sea. What do both stories reveal about God's character?

START SHARING. Choose a question to create openness.

- Paul declared, "Take heart... for I have faith in God" (v.25). What does "taking heart" look like in your life right now?
- What "anchors" (practices, habits, truths) help you hold on to Jesus during your storms?
- Paul encouraged everyone on the ship with hope, even when the situation looked hopeless. How can we encourage others today who are in the middle of their "storm"?
- How can remembering that "Jesus is always with us in the storm" change the way we pray about difficulties?

*God is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in times of
trouble. So we will not be afraid,
even if the earth is shaken and
mountains fall into the ocean depths;
even if the seas roar and rage, and
the hills are shaken by the violence.*

Psalm 46:1-3 GNT

*He got up, rebuked the wind and
said to the waves, "Peace, Be
still!" Then the wind died down and
it was completely calm.*

Mark 4:30 NIV

QUOTE

*"Angels are appointed to watch over
every soul, and if we would but trust
in God, we might be at rest."*

GC, 630

START DOING: Commit to a step of action this week.

- Who do you know who is going through a storm? How can you show them God's love this week?
- Recall a stormy season in your life. Consider writing it out, and look for the ways God was with you all along. Then, thank Him for it in prayer and worship this week.
- How can our group/church become a place where people feel the presence of Jesus in the middle of their storms?

START PRAYING. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, we thank You that no storm is too strong for Your presence. Just as You stood by Paul in the midst of the raging sea, You stand with us when life feels overwhelming. When fear rises and hope seems lost, remind us that You are our anchor and our refuge. Give us the courage to "take heart," to trust Your promises, and to encourage others who are struggling. May our storms become testimonies of Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.