

God With Us In the Storms

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"
Matthew 1:23 NLT

The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone. ²¹No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, "Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss. ²²But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. ²³For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, ²⁴and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' ²⁵So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. Acts 27:20-25 NLT

The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death. 2 Timothy 4:16-17 NLT

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

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33 NLT

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. ²So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. ³Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge! Psalms 46:1-3 NLT

Key Point

Never let the presence of a storm cause you to doubt the presence of God!

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Were you afraid of storms as a kid?
- What's your favorite kind of weather? What's your least favorite?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What do you think God has been saying to you through this series?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:16-17. What can you learn from Paul's words to Timothy?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What's a major storm you've experienced in your life? How has it changed the way you relate with God?
- Do you need to forgive yourself or others for causing a storm? What step can you take toward forgiveness?
- Pastor Lane said, "Peace isn't the found in the absence of a storm. Peace is found in the presence of a good God." What are some ways you try to find false peace? How will you seek God's presence instead?
- What did you learn in a storm that God can use to help someone else through their own storm?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, forgive us for the times we've doubted You in a storm. Jesus, thank You for being in the boat with us. You are with us. You are our safety, strength, comfort, source, redeemer, sustainer, provider, and salvation. We put our hope and trust in You alone. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out 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.