

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Happy New Year | How will we see the things that this year brings? | Pastor Fawn Cobler | January 12th, 2020

INTRODUCTION

In my own ability what I **SEE** is not a true reflection of what the truth is.

Is there a lens through which we can **VIEW** the struggle that will help us to **WALK THROUGH** the struggle and still say: **I will not be shaken!**

The First Storm (After He fed the 5000)

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Mathew 14:22-33 ESV)

It was their **obedience** to Jesus that led them into the storm.

JESUS told them to get into the boat. Jesus gives us a new lens through which we see the storms of our lives

The Second Storm

23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." 26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" (Matthew 8:23-27 ESV)

SEE: Jesus stretches and strengthens their faith little by little

- Storm 1: Jesus sends them out ahead of Him, and then follows
- Storm 2: Jesus is with them in the boat

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

We can see the growth that is happening in the disciples!

- Storm 1: They are not afraid until they see what they thought was a “ghost”
- Storm 2: They were TERRIFIED by the wind and sea.

Why is that significant?

After the 1st time they had learned -- If Jesus says, He will get us there

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (**James 1:2-4 NIV**)

Signs that our faith is growing:

- Jesus becomes more precious to us
- We become less impressed with ourselves
- We are more intent on becoming like Jesus
- Our hearts are more restful because His promises have been proven
- We expand our love for people AND zeal to see the Kingdom of God advanced

A Christian is never in a state of completion, but always in a state of becoming.-Martin Luther

God created the world out of nothing, and so long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.

The Storm: Provides revelation

- Storm 1: Marvel at Him-- “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”
- Storm 2: Worship Him -- “Truly you are the Son of God.”

They knew Him before, but they came to know Him better

Whom have I in heaven but You, and there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (**Psalms 73:25-26 ESV**)

We will go from marveling Him...to worshipping Him

JESUS: Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Mathew 28)

Examples of when Jesus said “I am with you”

- Abraham - Don't be afraid I am with you
- Moses - Don't be afraid I am with you
- Joshua - Be strong and courageous, Don't be afraid I am with you
- Prophet Isaiah - Don't be afraid I am with you
- Jeremiah - When your enemy comes against you he will fail I am with you
- Haggai - When you do God's work don't get discouraged I am with you

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

The reason we are to be fearful in the midst of the storm is: HE IS WITH US.

Jesus is always near. But...The storm reminds us that He's there and pulls our hearts toward Him.

How can we become closer to Jesus? We must:

- Practice recognizing His voice
- Pursue His nearness by reading the Bible
- Make Him our highest priority in our daily walk

WORSHIP Him - We need to reset our heart and renew our mind

The following questions are what we should ask ourselves during the storms when they occur this year.

- Is He producing something in me?
- Is He revealing Himself to me?
- Am I drawing closer to Him?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we know that we are becoming closer to Jesus?
2. How can we increase our Faith in Jesus?
3. How can we become fearless when we are in the eye of the storm?
4. How can we walk in His presence daily?