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Groups Sermon Study Questions

**SURVIVING THE STORM**

*December 3, 2017*

**Message Summary**

Although everyone has scars, you don't have to live wounded. It is possible to experience hope and joy again by staying on the ship of faith—trusting God in our darkest storms. And we can move from wounded to wonderful as we sit at the feet of Jesus and experience his presence in stillness and praise. God can heal our wounds and help us experience a wonderful life, even if it means taking us to His providential destination for us on the broken pieces of our lives.

**Consider This:**

1. Everyone loves stories of the underdog overcoming. What are some of your favorite stories of underdogs overcoming—people moving from wounded to wonderful?
2. In these stories, what are some common character qualities that the hero and heroine have or actions he or she takes that moves them from wounded to wonderful?

*In Acts 27:9-10, Paul warned the decision committee that it was too dangerous to sail. They rejected his advice and sailed anyway—taking Paul with them (V 11).*

**Read Acts 27:21-26, 30-32-36.**

3. What do these verses tell us about Paul's character, his trust in God and his willingness to forgive?

4. What were the result of Paul's faith, attitude, and actions in verses 36 and 44?

5. Have you ever had to bear the consequences of a group decision that you were against? How did you respond? How should you respond according to Paul's example (see also Ephesians 4:15, 32)?

6. Read Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 119:74 and Micah 7:7. What effect will patient waiting upon the Lord and the promises in his word have on believers? For those who observe the believer's patience? On God's response to the patient person?

*Through wounds, God can give us a bigger experience of Christ (1 Peter 4:12-13) and often something new, a way and an enabling to minister to other people. Joseph was rejected by his family and wrongfully sold into slavery, and there, jailed for a crime he didn't commit.*

7. According to Genesis 39:20-21 and 50:20 how did God work well through these terrible events in Joseph's life? How many people in Joseph's family were saved because of his faithfulness through tragedy (Exodus 1:5)?

8. 2,000 years later, the Apostle Paul too was wrongly jailed. According to Philippians 1:12-14, what could he say about that wound? What was his attitude (v 18)?

9. John 12:24 Jesus said, that when a person lays down his or her life for Christ either literally or figuratively it bears tremendous Kingdom fruit in this life and in the one to come. Consider your wounds. Has God enabled you to use your experience to minister to other people struggling with the same thing? How might he use your wounds to further his Kingdom in the future?

### **Moving Forward**

In Christ, You have a secure future! By faith believe that God will bring healing in this life and restoration in the life to come. And, often through wounds, God brings something new, a way and an enabling to minister to other people.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. What could you do to comfort another this week?
2. Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58 this week.
3. Extra credit: Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6