

Guardrails

Week 3 - Brian Kangas
"Brace for Impact"

Icebreaker: What's your favorite pun?

Topics for Discussion:

- Life is full of storms. This is as true today as it will be tomorrow and 100 years ago. Share some areas in life where you have been put through the ringer, or where you just seem to have been sideswiped.
 - How did you get through? Were there any special activities or people that helped you deal with the aftermath?
 - What was your walk with Jesus like before the event? What about during and after?
- Read **Luke 8: 22-25**
 - What stands out to you about Jesus in this passage? His disciples?
 - What about the environment/world?
 - Are there any notable postures that we could mimic in our storms? Are there any activities that didn't help at all?
- Read **Matthew 14: 22-33**
 - What stands out to you about Jesus in this passage? His disciples?
 - What about the environment/world?
 - Is there a common theme between these two accounts? Are there any significant differences in the reactions? Similarities?
- Jesus mentions failing faith in both passages. What should we take away from these passages regarding faith in the midst of our storms?

Things to Consider:

- You can't prevent the storms of life. Even Jesus walked into (and napped into) storms. But his posture and reactions to them were markedly different than the reactions of those who followed him.
 - We are called to faith in Jesus with no caveats. There are no free passes or areas where our lack of faith is "okay".
 - That doesn't mean we aren't forgiven or that God doesn't understand when we doubt, but he always wants the best for and from us.
- Think of some ways that you can engage and grow your faith so that when the storms come you rely upon it, rather than run from it.

- The disciples did one thing right: they went to Jesus. The problem was how they approached him and what it took to get them there.
- Discuss some ways that you can encourage each other in your faith in Jesus. Build habits!

Going Deeper:

- Our faith is unique to the world's concept of faith. The world looks at faith as a "wish for something that may or may not happen". Our faith in Christ is not a hope in a wish. It is a belief in a promise.
 - Our hope is in a guarantee, proven through time that God is faithful to his promises. Lean into Jesus. Recognize Him as both the path and the treasure the path points to!

Prayer: As we saw on Sunday, there are tragedies all around us. The storms, it seems, never cease. And yet, there is hope, light, and joy, even in the places you would never expect. God is good, all the time. Praise him with your prayers and your askings.