

Branches: LIVE

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"Look Up!"

Icebreaker: List 5 mammals. How many of you had the same answers? Different?

What to Expect:

- Storms are coming, no doubt about it. Jesus promises us that we will have trials and difficulties. But He makes us another promise: that He has already overcome that which we will face, and in the midst of our storms, there is **no delay** in His compassion and help.

Texts for Discussion:

- Read and discuss **Philippians 4:8**
- Read and discuss **Deuteronomy 31:6**
- Read and discuss **Matthew 14:22-33**

Going Further:

- When life throws us curve balls, or we find ourselves in the storm, our tendency is to focus on what is not right: to be absorbed by the circumstances and distracted by the problems.
 - Jesus tells us that we will have "storms" no matter what...so our focus should instead be on Him. That way we don't miss what God is doing in the midst of the "hard".
- What are some storms you have encountered or are going through now?
 - Where was/is your focus in those moments? How could you turn it to Jesus if it isn't, or share your experience in focusing on God as an encouragement to others.

Going Deeper:

- One of the ways we can keep our eyes on Jesus is to constantly praise and thank Him for the mercies and blessings we do have. Build a list that you can go to when times get tough that are areas in your life you are thankful to God for.
 - Share your list with the group.

Prayer: Prayer should be an active part of our daily lives. Collect prayer needs and celebrations from each member, and encourage everyone to practice praying each day.