

LIBERATED

— A MESSAGE OF FREEDOM —

LIBERATED, PART 2: LIBERATED FROM THE STORM

Storms can be beautiful and scary. Storms bring problems but they don't last forever. Some storms are avoidable, most are not. Storms are a part of life. God is with us in the storm

BIG IDEA: Don't let the storm blind you from the One who is beside you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the scariest storm that you've ever been in? What made it so bad? How did you make it through?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 27:13-21

When a light wind began blowing from the south, the sailors thought they could make it. So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. But the weather changed abruptly, and a wind of typhoon strength (called a "northeaster") burst across the island and blew us out to sea. The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale. We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda,[d] where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were afraid of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast, so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were driven before the wind. The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard. The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone. No 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.

Acts 27:13-21 (NLT)

3. What does Acts 27 teach you about God? About our relationship with Him?
4. During the message Carlo taught us four lessons we can learn from Paul in Acts 27:
 - Avoid the avoidable storms.
 - Stormproof your life.
 - Get rid of what you don't need.
 - Stay in the boat!
5. Share an example of a storm you went through that could have been avoidable. What could you have done differently in order to avoid it? What are some examples of avoidable storms? Are you sailing towards any right now? If so, what do you need to do to avoid it?
6. Why is it important to stormproof your life, even if you're not currently in a storm? What are some of the ways you can prepare for the storms that are unavoidable?
7. How can you tell the difference between the things you need and the things you don't need? What are you carrying with you in your storm that you don't really need?
8. Why is it important to commit to do this before a storm comes? How is this contrary to what our culture teaches? Are you currently tempted to abandon ship?
9. What was your biggest takeaway from this weekend's message?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What do you feel God is asking you to do in response to the weekend message? In other words, what's your next step? What do you need to start doing this week in order to prepare for the storms that are sure to come? Spend some time in prayer for those in your group currently going through a storm.