



BIG IDEA

“There’s a refining that happens in the storms of life, a purifying that seems to happen only during storms of life. Whether the storm be literal or figurative, God often uses storms to help clarify for us what it means to follow him; he uses storms to sift us like wheat. God uses storms not to break us, for that’s never his intent but to bend and mold us so that we endure.”

THOUGHTS FROM THE SERMON

1. How were you impacted by the message this week?
2. What is the worst storm you have encountered personally?
Read: Acts 27:4, 7-12, 14-16, 18, Mark 6:45-51a
3. What storm are you facing now? How does God use the storms of life? What does Jesus call us to do in the midst of any storm?
4. We learned that both obedience and disobedience can lead to storms. How have you seen this in your life?
Read: Acts 27:20, Acts 27:30b, Acts 28:3-4, Amos 5:18-20
5. Why can it be easy to lose heart during the storms of life? Why would it have been understandable if Paul had lost hope after all he had gone through?
6. How is the hope that we have today different from the hopelessness Amos speaks of? What hope are we to have in our stormy days?
Read: Acts 27:21-26, Acts 27:31-32, Acts 27:33-36
7. What was Paul’s attitude during the storm? What was his message to those who were with him in the storm?
8. What would be your message to someone who is facing or in the midst of a storm?

NOTES

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

1. How were you personally challenged this week?
2. How have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others this week?
3. What have you learned about God's sovereignty during the storms in your life?
4. How will you personally apply what you learned from the sermon to your life?

DEEPER

Pray: This week, pray for those people you know who are facing storms in their life.

Read: Acts 27:4, 7-12, 14-16, 18, Mark 6:45-51a, Acts 27:20, Acts 27:30b, Acts 28:3-4, Amos 5:18-20, Acts 27:21-26, Acts 27:31-32, Acts 27:33-36. Take time to reflect on these passages and write down your thoughts. Visit gatewayepc.org/news to read and review the sermon manuscript.

Write: Write down your thoughts and insights from the sermon this week. Keeping a journal is just one more tool that you can use to track what God is showing you in your walk with him.

Sing: Listen to the worship songs from Sunday throughout the week. Look up the lyrics to each song and spend some time reading them.

Memorize: As a Life Group, pick a few verses from the sermon and memorize them this week. (Acts 27:4, 7-12, 14-16, 18, Mark 6:45-51a, Acts 27:20, Acts 27:30b, Acts 28:3-4, Amos 5:18-20, Acts 27:21-26, Acts 27:31-32, Acts 27:33-36)

Love: How can your group pray and encourage you in and out of the storms of your life?