

THE DISCIPLES ENCOUNTER JESUS

BIG IDEA

Personal storms increase the inevitability of us having an encounter with Jesus, so let Jesus teach each of us through life's storms.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the following verses: Mark 4:35-41

OPENER

What is the worst life storm you have ever been through (spiritually, physically, or emotionally)? Talk about your faith during the storm.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you ever get upset when it looks like Jesus is sleeping and ignoring the situation that has “swamped” you and threatens to drown you? Share your experience.
2. Why do you think the disciples waited until the boat was sinking to awaken Jesus (see vs. 38)? How quickly do you turn to Jesus when you find yourself in a storm?
3. Why do you think the disciples were still “terrified” after Jesus had calmed the storm? The disciples seemed surprised that He possessed the authority to stop the storm; what did they come to understand?
4. Jesus, the Teacher, gave the disciples a “pop quiz” on the boat. Was the test about the storm or the depth of their faith? Have you ever realized your faith was too small when you were in a difficult situation and your boat was swamped? Explain.
5. Have you experienced the unexpected and seen it as a set-back only to realize later that God was providing, protecting and carrying you through? Explain how God worked through the storm and the struggle to get you where you need to be.

TAKEAWAY

Each of us need to remember:

- Storms are unpredictable and can be inescapable.
- Often storms are unexplainable and unpleasant.
- Jesus doesn't promise us protection from every storm, but He does promise His presence.
- All storms provide teachable moments with Jesus.

REFERENCES

- Mark 4:35-41
- Matthew 8:23-27
- Luke 8:22-25
- Psalm 4:8
- Psalm 3:5
- Hebrews 3:12
- James 1:2-4
- II Corinthians 12:9-11
- Mark 9:24

DIGGING DEEPER

1. After what the disciples perceived as a brush with death, Jesus did not comfort, but instead He scolded them. Why was He so hard on them? Is there a clue in the scripture reference that indicates they were not in danger during the terrible storm? (see vs. 35)
2. If the disciples had reacted to the storm by demonstrating their faith, how would they have responded? Discuss.
3. Talk about the following statements:
 - a. The disciples experienced the storm because of their obedience to Jesus.
 - b. On the boat, Jesus demonstrated He was fully man and fully God.
 - c. Our greatest danger in life is not the wind and waves; it is our unbelief.