STUDIES



CORNERSTONE

“THROUGH THE STORM, HE IS LORD”

- TRUST AND HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULTY.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13
JAMES 1:2-4
HEBREWS 4:16, 12:1-3
MATTHEW 8:23-27

Like the disciples, we have all experienced difficult or challenging times in our lives and maybe you are in the midst of a “storm” right now. Problems can overwhelm us, swallowing us completely and fear can easily take a hold of us. The thing we must never forget, though, is that Jesus is with us in that storm. We are not alone.

Not only are we not alone, the person we are with is our Lord, Jesus Christ! The only possible outcome is victory through Jesus. What a confidence that brings as we move through times of challenge. Jesus is no stranger to storms. He personally experienced a storm through his crucifixion and conquered it, rising from the dead on the third day. This awesome power is with you in your storm! He is a storm specialist. When facing a storm, we need not be afraid. Heb 4:16 tells us that God will help us in our time of need; all we need to do is approach Him confidently.

We may want to avoid storms but it is through them that we grow. Faith is tested and it becomes something solid that cannot be easily shaken. This will produce a developed, mature character and take us to new levels within ourselves and our ability to lead others. With this mindset we can welcome challenges! We can place our trust and hope in Jesus during a storm, walking boldly forward without fear as He will provide a way and take us through it, which will allow us to truly consider it a joy for no matter what we are in the midst of, Jesus is Lord.

CONNECTION AND ACTION

Q: Do you generally enjoy or dislike challenges? What about change?

Q: “My anchor holds within the veil” - Discuss how you have worked through previous times of challenge or difficulty.

Q: Describe a time when God broke through in a storm in your life?

Q: In what areas of your life would you like to see God move?

Q: “When darkness seems to hide His face” – What challenges do life’s storms pose to our trust in God? Why? How can we protect ourselves from these?

NOTES

BIBLE AND BELIEF

Read Matthew 8:23-27

Q: What does Paul mean when he says “we watered but God caused the growth”?

Q: What does Paul mean when he says “our competency comes from God”?

Q: What perspective on “grace” and “work” is Paul providing in 1 Cor 15:10?

Q: What can we learn from these scriptures about the way in which God’s strength and our efforts work together?

Read Psalm 107:23-32.

Do you think the disciples in the boat would have thought of this scripture when Jesus calmed the storm? What would their reactions have been if they had?

Q: Can you think of other examples in the gospels of what can happen when God is in charge?

Q: Can you think of examples of how we can put God in charge of our lives?

Q: Give an example of what happened when you put God in charge in your life.

NOTES

GROWING LEADERSHIP

Q: What can we, as leaders, contribute to a ministry team member who is going through a storm-season?

Q: What can we do as leaders to build a strong support network in our connect group or team so that members will help each other through a storm?

Q: How can we keep Jesus as the centre in good seasons, as well as in storm seasons?

Q: What can you as a leader do to help people in your connect group or team develop a strong relationship with God?

NOTES

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU WOULD DISCOVER THE AUTHOR OF LOVE... THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HIS LIFE AND DEATH REPRESENT THE GREATEST GIFT OF LOVE THE WORLD WILL EVER SEE... "THIS IS REAL LOVE – NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS." 1 JOHN 4:10 (NLT)... GOD PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE SENDING HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED ON THE CROSS IN OUR PLACE AND ROSE AGAIN TO PROVE HIS VICTORY, RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND EMPOWER US FOR LIFE. IT IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THAT WE CAN KNOW AND BE RECONCILED WITH GOD... ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BELIEVE IN HIM AND ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS PRAYING A PRAYER... ASKING JESUS TO MEET YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE... IT IS A BRAND NEW START OF LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD... IF YOU ARE NOT SURE THAT YOU PERSONALLY KNOW THE LORD JESUS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE THIS YOUR PRAYER TODAY **// Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Thank You for Your amazing love. I repent of my sins and thank You for Your forgiveness. Please come into my life and give me a fresh start. I believe in You and accept You as my Lord and Saviour. I am now a Christian – a follower of Jesus Christ and You now live in me. Help me to live my life for You from this day forward. Amen. //** IF YOU HAVE PRAYED THIS PRAYER TODAY, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE WRITE TO US AT HILLSONG CHURCH, PO BOX 1195, CASTLE HILL, NSW 1765, AUSTRALIA OR EMAIL US AT

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HILLSONG MUSIC PUBLISHING, PO BOX 1195, CASTLE HILL NSW 1765 AUSTRALIA
T: +61 2 8853 5284 / F: +61 2 8846 4625 / E: publishing@hillsong.com / W: hillsongpublishing.com