



Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you as you take the next step.

With your Bible or YouVersion.com, read Mark 4:35-40. You might also want to read Matthew and Luke's account of Jesus calming the storm in Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-24.

- What was Jesus doing during the storm? What did the disciples think about Jesus being asleep? How do you react to utter calm, in someone else, when all you feel is fear or panic?
- After the storm, what did Jesus ask the disciples? What did the storm reveal about the disciples' faith? What did they fail to realize about Jesus?
- How should the knowledge of Jesus' presence and sovereignty affect our response to life's storms? How can we experience God's peace in the midst of the storm?

Read more about God's purpose for our storms or trials. 1 Peter 1:6-9; James 1:2 - 4; and 2 Corinthians 1:8-10.

- How are we to view our trials? How can we sincerely rejoice or give thanks when we are going through hard times?
- What purposes for trials are mentioned in these passages? Does understanding the source of the trial or storm make a difference in how you respond? Regardless of the source, what does God promise to do? (See Romans 8:28-29)
- How do the storms of life test, strengthen and purify our faith? What is faith? Why is this so important to God? (See Hebrews 11:1)

Read John 14:27 and 16:33.

- Why do we lack peace in the midst of the storms of life, when we have Christ living in us?
- Are you more apt to ask God to calm the storm (change the externals) or to change you on the inside so that you experience His peace?

Thinking it Through

1. What storm(s) are you currently facing? Is it mildly upsetting, nerve-racking, or life threatening? What/who do you see as the source of the storm? What difference would it make if you viewed this as God's appointment? What are some things God wants us to learn from our trials?
2. Describe how God is sustaining you (or has sustained you in the past) during a difficulty. How quickly do you turn to the Lord when you feel distressed by your circumstances? Do problems tend to make you more aware of God's presence or does God seem distant and uninvolved?
3. Explain how God brought about His purpose through a storm in your life. While in the midst of the storm, what were you tempted to believe about God? What did you learn from it?
4. What will you do this week to prepare for future storms and strengthen your faith in Jesus? What specific ways can you demonstrate your belief that Jesus is present in you and is calming you in the midst of your storm?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Trust Jesus by believing in Him and receiving Him into my life.
Dear God, thank you that Jesus was willing to die so that I could have life abundant. Forgive me, cleanse me and help me each day to live for You. Amen.
- Ask for God's miracle in the storm of _____ in your life.
- Stop doubting and to believe that He is present even when I don't see it.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Psalm 23:4a

Talk It Over with God:

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week and to expand your conversations with others.

- If you are currently going through a storm, ask God to show you His purpose and how, through it, He is training you. Ask Him to help you see through the storm to who He is and what He is doing. Thank Him for the storm and for His indwelling presence.
- Who do you know that is needing God's peace in the midst of a storm? Pray for them. Ask the Lord to calm them with His presence and reveal His purpose. Find out what you can do to support and encourage them during this time.



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