



Luke 8 - Lord of Storms

Life Group Study: Lord Of The Storms

Luke 8:22-25

Opening Questions

(Choose 2 or 3 of the following questions, or create your own icebreaker and opening questions that tie into the passage.)

- 1) When you are fifty years old, what do you hope to be doing with your life (work, family, etc.)?
- 2) If you knew you could not fail, and money was no problem, what one thing would you like to do in the next five or ten years?
- 3) Print off some of the following statements on a sheet of paper for each person in your life group. Have them fill in the blanks, and then go around the room asking people to share their answers.

If I knew I couldn't fail, I'd try...

One lesson I've learned the hard way is...

Some of the best advice I was given is...

One unfulfilled dream of mine is...

You would know me better if you knew that I...

More than anything, I would like to be remembered as a person who...

Given one day to do anything I'd like, with no economic constraints, I would choose to...

- 4) The Hot Seat: Each week have one student sit in the "hot seat." For 5 to 10 minutes the group may ask that person any question they want, keeping in mind three guidelines: Do not intentionally try to embarrass the person (although embarrassing moments can be used about!); the person in the hot seat cannot plead the fifth; no one may ask a question that involves naming another person in an embarrassing way. (Example questions: What was your most embarrassing moment? When were you happiest in life? How did you feel the first time you asked for or were asked on a date?)
- 5) Describe the worst storm/weather event you've been a part of?

Read Passage: Luke 8:22-25

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Observation Questions:

- 1) Several of Jesus's disciples were fishermen by trade. How do you think they felt when Jesus directed them to cross the lake (Sea of Galilee)?
- 2) N. T. Wright says the following: *"Apart from fishermen, the Jews were not a seafaring people. The sea had come to symbolize, for them, the dark power of evil, threatening to destroy God's good creation, God's people, God's purposes."* If we believe that Jesus is both incredibly intentional and sovereign, what do you think he was up to in directing his disciples to cross the lake? Do you think he went to sleep on purpose?
- 3) If you were one of the disciples, how would you have felt when you realized that Jesus was sleeping through the storm? Ignored? Angry? Incredulous?
- 4) Jesus asks the disciples, "Where is your faith?" What kind of faith is he asking about? Faith in what or in whom? Was it fair for Jesus to expect his disciples to foresee his ability to control the weather?
- 5) The disciples respond by asking about Jesus, "Who is this?" How does their response to the storm demonstrate their lack of understanding about Jesus's identity?
- 6) Why do you think the disciples were afraid after the storm had been calmed? If you had been there, would you have been more afraid of the storm or of Jesus at that point? Why?
- 7) Why do you think Luke included this story in his Gospel? What do you think he wanted to communicate to us about Jesus?

Application Questions:

- 1) Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." It was his idea to take the boat across the Sea of Galilee. Still, the disciples found themselves unable to trust Him to get them across once the going got rough. Have you ever been through an unexpected 'storm' which caused you to forget that God has promised to take care of you?
- 2) When you see all of the pain that takes place in the world - wars, racism, injustice, natural disasters, etc. - do you ever feel like Jesus is asleep in the boat? How do you reconcile God's apparent inactivity with His promise to take care of us?
- 3) What do you think it means to have a healthy fear of Jesus? How can healthy fear free us to be more risky in our faith?
- 4) What's one area of your life right now in which you need to be reminded that Jesus is in your boat? What does it look like to have faith in him?
- 5) Tim Keller, in *King's Cross*, writes: **"There are two options. You could argue that this world is just the result of a monumental 'storm' - you're here by accident, through blind, violent forces of nature - and when you die you'll turn to dust. And when the sun goes out, there won't be anyone around to remember anything that you've done, so in the end whether you're a cruel person or loving person makes no lasting difference at all. However, if Jesus is who he says he is, there's another way to look at life. If he's Lord of the storm, then no matter what shape the word is in - or your life is in - you will find Jesus provides all the healing, all the rest, all the power you could possibly want."**

How would your faith and life change if you believed this more fully?