

4. Read the following passages from the Psalms. How does Jesus calming the storm reveal that Jesus is not simply a different kind of human being?

Psalm 89: <sup>9</sup> You rule over the surging sea;  
when its waves mount up, you still them.

Psalm 107: <sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper;  
the waves of the sea were hushed.

5. Why is Jesus's response to the disciples more of an invitation than simply a rebuke?

6. Jo Saxton, in a sermon on this passage, shares how she was struggling with her faith when she was 18 years old, and someone said to her: "God's hold on you is stronger than your hold on him, and he has no intention of letting you go." How does this encourage you when you find your faith faltering in a storm?

### Meeting Jesus

"God's Provision in the Storms"

Matthew 8:23-27

Meeting Jesus is a transformative encounter that \_\_\_\_\_ us in a new and exciting direction.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_ that only God is supposed to have.

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ in the storms.

The irony of the circumstances of finding themselves in a storm, a storm where the disciples think they're going to die, is that they're simply \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

We need to rid ourselves of the idea that following Jesus makes life \_\_\_\_\_.

When we go through storms like this, it's not just the ordeal of the storm; it's the ordeal of wondering \_\_\_\_\_ God isn't doing anything about it. It's a sense that God may not even care.

Psalm 7:6; 35:23; 80:2; 44:23

The prayer book of God's people includes prayers that \_\_\_\_\_ God of sleeping on the job. Yet there is also the conviction that God never sleeps.

We need to keep reminding each other that Jesus is in the storms of our lives, even if we don't quite \_\_\_\_\_ it.

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



2. Jesus is God \_\_\_\_\_ the storms.

Psalm 89: <sup>9</sup> You rule over the surging sea when its waves mount up, you still them.

Psalm 107: <sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper;  
the waves of the sea were hushed.

3. Jesus, who is \_\_\_\_\_ over the storms, is in our storms.

The big lesson for us begins with a question, "\_\_\_\_\_, why are you so afraid?"

What \_\_\_\_\_ of question is this?

It's a \_\_\_\_\_ question.

What's Jesus hoping they learn after they \_\_\_\_\_ on their fear of dying in the storm?

He wants them to come to a \_\_\_\_\_... "Of course, why was I afraid? And, really, why am I ever afraid as long as I have Jesus with me."

Jesus is offering an \_\_\_\_\_ to grow our faith and experience greater peace in the storms.

Jesus isn't trying to \_\_\_\_\_ you into greater faith. It's like Jesus is saying, "Next storm, think about me being with you, and see me pull back the curtain. While your goals and plans might be disappointed or thwarted, my goals, plans, and purposes will never be disappointed. And this is good news because I have included YOU, my disciples, in my plans."

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Recount a storm that actually frightened you with its intensity. (If you can't think of one, share about a time you feared for your life.)
3. Read Matthew 4:23-27. In spite of all the disciples have seen Jesus do so far, why might a storm like this cause a faith deficit?