

Death and Resurrection of the Messiah Bringing God's Shalom to a World in Chaos

Session 1: When Storms Come

Memory Verse:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)*

THINK ABOUT IT

Each of us faces difficulties—financial setbacks, serious illness, catastrophic loss of our home or business, loss of significant relationships, legal problems—all of which we could label as “storms of life.” Which “storms” in life frighten you most deeply? To what extent do you believe evil forces may be involved in some of those storms?

DVD TEACHING NOTES

Perceptions of water

The disciples' catch

The disciples' terrifying night

Peter's courage

DISCUSSION

1. Refer to the map of the Sea of Galilee. Note the location of Capernaum (the departure point for Jesus' disciples), Bethsaida (their destination) and Gennesaret (their final landing place). Like the disciples, we may at times set off in the direction we think God wants us to go but end up in a place we never expected Him to take us. Describe a time when you did your best to follow Jesus toward a specific goal but ended up in a very different situation. What did you learn about God and your walk with Him?
2. Why do you think Jesus allowed His disciples to row against the threatening waves for hours without providing relief from their frightening situation and difficult labor? What might we learn from this?
3. What do you think the disciples were thinking as they struggled against the wind and waves?
4. What did Peter and the rest of the disciples doubt and fear, and how did these emotions affect their faith?
5. Read and discuss Mark 10:46-52; John 9:1-7, 24; Matthew 8:5-13. These stories highlight people who took steps of courage and faith in their walk with God. For each, answer these questions:
 - What courageous steps did they take?
 - What were their attitudes as they stepped forward?
 - What faith-shaking obstacles did they have to overcome?
 - Where did their step of faith lead?

FAITH LESSON

1. What situations and circumstances in life frighten you, and how do you respond?
2. What courageous step(s) might God be calling you to take today?