“Storm” – Family Devotional

March 22, 2020

*Read Matthew 8:23-27*

*Read Psalm 107*

*Read Matthew 14:22-33*

Life is not a consistently calm water. It is not always a smooth sail, a clear sky, and warm breeze. Those moments do come and it is important to cherish them, recognizing their goodness but also their fleeting fragility.

With so many variables, choices, struggles, and unpredictability, we find ourselves staring in the face of a storm. We are surrounded by fear; a small boat on a great, rocking sea. A moment or season of life confronts us, knocking us off course. We feel anxiety, sorrow, grief. We see the water rising. The waves crash with unquenching and destructive power against us. We think the only option is to drown.

But we serve a God who walks on water. One who has dominion over the storms.

He is present. He feels the chilling rain, the push of the winds, and sees the approaching darkness.

He is present. As Jesus did with Peter, we are being called from the boat. We are being called to trust what we believe is impossible, to step onto the water and the waves and to walk forward.

He is present. When we see the walls of waves crash without mercy around us, ready to consume and we give up. We start to sink. But He is there to reach down and lift us up. To protect and to prevent us from losing the battle.

He is present. To remind us to keep our eye on Him, because it is through His love, His Grace, and His power that we conquer the storm.

During a pandemic, He is also present. When we look at the world right now, we may feel like we’re on a small boat rocking in the massive, overpowering waves. It feels like we are preparing to sink into the watery depths. But we cannot forget God’s promises: He is good, His love endures forever, He quiets storms and silences the waves. He has the power to turn deserts into watery springs.

Not only that – He still calls us out on the waves! He promises not only that we will be safe from drowning, but we will be walking firm in the middle of the storm. So, walk firm! Stand tall! Know God is good and His promises remain true!

*Check out discussion questions on the next page!*

Questions for Discussion

*We encourage you to spend some time praying and talking through these questions together as a family!*

1. What are you enjoying about being home together more than usual? What is bothering you about it?
2. What storms are you facing in your life right now? Outside of the coronavirus threat, what else is making you feel afraid and fearful?
3. In the three Scripture passages above, point out all the places where it points out God’s power over nature, storms, and fear. How is this encouraging for you?
4. In Matthew 14, what did Peter cry out when he began to sink? What was Jesus’ response? How is Jesus responding to our current situations?
5. In Matthew 8, when the storm came, how did the disciples cry out to Jesus? How did Jesus respond? What do you think is significant about how similar these moments are?
6. Who have you been able to help or encourage this week? Who else can you be supportive of during this time?
7. Journaling is a really helpful way to process thoughts, and a way you can write down prayers to God. Not everyone finds it effective, but everyone *can* try it and find something of value in it. During this time, which (hopefully) is a once in a lifetime thing, why don’t you try some journaling? What are you thinking right now? What is God telling you? What are you wanting to tell God? You will be grateful in a few years as you look back on this moment, you will be able to read your prayers and thoughts, and what God is telling you right now. Take a few minutes to write down a few things!
8. Just for fun! What are some other things you can do at home together that you haven’t done yet? Here are a few more simple ideas:
	1. Take on a large puzzle together
	2. Create a video together – tell a story, record your thoughts or game sessions, film a dance party, or something else that gets your creative juices flowing!
	3. CELEBRATE… something!! Bake a cake, prepare a nice meal, put up decorations, and just have a party. You could celebrate anything, even something silly!