**GETTING THROUGH THE STORMS IN LIFE**

**John 6:16-21**

**There are two ways you end up in a storm in life:**

1. **Disobey God**
	1. *“Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the Lord’s presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the Lord’s presence. 4 But the Lord threw a great wind onto the sea, and such a great storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart.”* (Jonah 1:3-4)
2. **Obey God**
	1. *“And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, 4 endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.”* (Romans 5:3-4)

**FOLLOWING GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SOMETIMES LEADS US INTO STORMS IN LIFE**

* *““When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them.18 A high wind arose, and the sea began to churn.”* (John 6:16-18)
* *“Immediately [Jesus] made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida.”* (Mark 6:45)
* **It is in the storms of life that we learn, and are reassured, that God never fails.**

**BECAUSE JESUS IS ‘\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’ WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR IN THE STORMS OF LIFE**

* *“After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid. 20 But he said to them, ‘It is I. Don’t be afraid.’”* (John 6:19-20)
* **(Vs. 20) *egō eimi* translated “It is I” - Literally = “I am”**
* *“I am the bread of life.”* (John 6:35)
* **Fixing our faith on Jesus enables us to overcome fear in the midst of difficult circumstances.**

**WHEN WE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ JESUS INTO OUR LIVES OUR STORMS ARE SUBJECT TO HIS SUPERNATURAL POWER**

* *“Then they were willing to take him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading.” (John 6:21)*
* **Sometimes the very thing keeping us from getting to where we need to go, is our unwillingness to invite Jesus into the situation.**
* *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.’”* (2 Corinthians 12:9)
* *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”* (Hebrews 1:3)
* Jesus - *“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.”* (Matthew 28:18)
* **As believers, we have access to the One who holds all power over every circumstance, and His name is Jesus!**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE BREAKER:** If your house is on fire, and everyone is safe, you have 30 seconds to run through the house and collect three or four articles you want to save. What would you grab? Why?

**Start Thinking:**

* What does John 6:16-21?
* Why did Jesus walk on the water rather than just going with them in the boat to begin with?
* In what way does this “Sign” or miracle parallel Moses and the Israelites?

**Dig Deeper:**

* Describe the difference between approaching Jesus to get something from Him and approaching Jesus to get to Him.
* What goes through your mind when you think about some storms in life happening as a result of being obedient to God?
* How do you typically immediately respond when faced with a difficult situation? How should we respond?
* The disciples were struggling rowing in the storm, and were initially afraid when they saw Jesus, but they invited Jesus into the boat and “immediately” they were at their destination. In what ways might you be struggling to do something on your own that you need to invite Jesus into the “boat”?
* What is your big takeaway from this message?

**Pray:**

* Share prayer requests and pray for each other.
* Pray for our community to be open to the Gospel.
* Pray for our church, and leadership.
* Pray for our government leaders, and local leaders.
* Pray about anything else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.