

DEFATH

Week Five: Faith to Calm a Storm - Study Guide

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April 26, 2014

We all like to have some sort of control in life, and yet, things happen that we simply cannot control. Events happen in our lives that make us need to depend on Someone greater. Through this study we will discover how we can put our faith in Christ to take care of us even when life feels out of control. Instead of asking why things happen, we will look at what we can do to gain a greater trust that God has our lives in His hands.

Where Am I Today

- 1) Sometimes life can feel as if we are out of control. What are some times and situations when your life seemed completely out of control? What did you do?

Into the Bible

- 2) The disciples found themselves in a situation that was completely out of their control, and where they needed Jesus to step in to help them. Read **Luke 8:22-25**. How does Luke show Jesus as both human and God at the same time? How does this story illustrate our need to rely on Jesus in the midst of life's storms?

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- 3) Life isn't about being free from having things happen that are out of our control. Knowing why things happen isn't as important as understanding Who to turn to and what to do when they do happen. Read **James 1:2-8**. What description does James give us for the person who doubts, and why is faith so important? What should we do when we don't have all the answers?

How Does This Apply?

- 4) We might have moments that leave us wondering whether God has control, not only over our life, but over everything else as well. When we focus only on the things that we can't control, we lose sight of the One who is in control. God never promised that our lives would be free from struggles, but He did promise that He'd be present in them. When have you asked for God's help in the midst of a difficult situation? What impact did it have on your faith?
- 5) Sometimes we'd rather manage our circumstances by placing our faith in ourselves rather than in God. It's only when we come to unmanageable situations that we tend to ask God to take control and begin trusting Him with our lives. Why is it so difficult to place our faith in God, rather than in our circumstances or other people? Why do we normally exhaust all of our other resources before we turn to God?
- 6) The source of our greatest strength is the Holy Spirit. He's in control even when our lives feel out of control. Relying on His control frees us to trust Him and to see Him bring calm to the storms that come our way. What are some area(s) in your life where you need to give control over to God? How easy or difficult has the journey been thus far?

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Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) When it comes to knowing God and how He works, many things are mysterious. So often, the reason we want control of our lives is timing. We tend to think God's timing is off because we think He should answer us on our time. Last week, we took a look at some Scripture that would help us tell others about the good news of Jesus. This week let's take another look at one of those verses, along with one other, and see how Jesus' death wasn't a day early or a moment late. Read **Romans 5:6-8** and **Galatians 4:4**. What does Paul say about the timing of Jesus' death? Is there something mysterious about God's timing? Why or why not?