



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK SEVEN

We all face storms in life. Some seem to last for a short time, and some storms seem to linger. What we learn from Luke 8:22-25 is that Jesus is willing to step in and demonstrate his power over the wind and the waves. We just have to invite him into our boat. May each day of study and prayer lead you to once again invite Jesus to the helm of your life.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 8:22-25 (ESV)

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out,²³ and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.²⁴ And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.²⁵ He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

- How do you picture this scene? There were most likely multiple boats carrying the disciples and Jesus. Jesus got in a boat (verse 22), but when the storm came they were filling with water (verse 23). Sudden windstorms are not uncommon on the Sea of Galilee, but this one must have been exceptional. Yet, Jesus was able to nap after an exhausting run of teaching, performing miracles and crowd management. His ability to nap also pointed to his complete confidence in the authority over nature that had been given to him. **Why panic when you can do something about it? Why panic when the one who can do something about it is in the boat with you? Is there something that you are overly concerned about today?**

- *Jesus, you have authority over wind and waves. Help me trust in your power over the turmoil in my own life. Amen.*

TUESDAY: PSALM 107. 23-32 (NIV)

*Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.*

²⁴ *They saw the works of the Lord,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.*

²⁵ *For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.*

²⁶ *They mounted up to the heavens and went down
to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.*

²⁷ *They reeled and staggered like drunkards;
they were at their wits' end.*

²⁸ *Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.*

²⁹ *He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.*

³⁰ *They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.*

³¹ *Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing
love*

and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

³² *Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.*

- The Psalmist takes us on a wild ride on a stormy sea. Like the disciples in Luke 8, these sea-farers were in great distress in a storm and greatly relieved when the storm turned into a whisper. **Have you ever witnessed a storm that seemed to shift directions or vanish all together? What could that feel like? Are there situations you are facing that feel like storms are raging against you? Whether or not the storm is current or has passed, can you give thanks to God for his wonderful deeds?**
- *Lord God, Ruler over the waves and the wind. Rule over my heart today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 9.18-20 (NIV)

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

¹⁹ *They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."*

²⁰ *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

- Here, in the next chapter of Luke, Peter is asked who he says Jesus is. The question is connected to the one the disciples asked in the boat that was on suddenly-stilled waters in Luke 8. They had asked, *"Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"* Now Jesus turns the question to Peter. Having seen Jesus do some pretty amazing things, Peter has a chance now to reflect and respond. **Where have you seen Jesus at work doing amazing things? Who do you say that he is?**
- *God, thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus. I believe that he is the Messiah, the One who saves us from sin and death. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ACTS 10.34-38 (NIV)

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

- Followers of Jesus need to have an answer to the question, “Who do you say that I am?” But our answer will be refined over time. The more we know and experience Jesus, the better our answer will be. Here, Peter shares about Jesus in a way that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, led to many lives being changed. **Do you believe that your words about Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit can change lives?**
- *God, send your Holy Spirit to both inspire and empower my testimony about Jesus so that the world might be changed for your glory. Amen.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 6.16-21 (NIV)

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened.²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.”²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

- In this account from John, Jesus entered a similar situation as we read in Luke 8. This time, Jesus comes to the disciples in distress by walking on the water. The disciples had to be willing to let Jesus into the boat. Once they knew it was him (and they knew it was him in part because he said these familiar words, *Don’t be afraid*) they let him in the boat. Of course, Jesus could have just forced his way in, but he knew it was important for the disciples to invite him in. **Is there a chance that Jesus is standing before you or someone you know just waiting to be allowed to take the helm?**
- *Jesus, you have come to me in my darkest moments. Today I let you take the helm. You are the captain of my life. Lead me to still waters. Guide me to the places you need me to go. Amen.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 16.32-33 (NIV)

³² “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- Jesus told his disciples that there would be trouble. Storms will come. What you thought was solid ground will wash away. But Jesus will not leave us alone in those or any other times. He has overcome the world. He has power to silence the strongest of storms. But in the middle of the trouble, it can be hard to see the big picture. **Does it feel like Jesus is asleep in your moment of crisis? Who in your life will help to remind you that Jesus has overcome the world?**

- *Lord, thank you for promising me the peace that comes from knowing that Jesus has overcome the worst that this world can throw at me. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Re-read Luke 8.22-25. Consider reading it in multiple translations. Then share your experiences of similar storms.

Relate: What is the worst storm you have ever experienced? Describe.

Reflect: What steps did you take for safety in the storm (if any)?

Rejoice: Where did God show up in the course of the storm or recovery? (even if you didn't notice at the time) Pray or sing your praise to God for God's mercy and restoration.