

Conversation Starters

- What is the greatest challenge you have experienced?
- Have you had any challenges this week?

Discuss

Jesus' next question that can lead us to life-change is illustrated through a time when he walks on water in the middle of a storm that his disciples were in the midst of. His question: “Why did you doubt me?”

Storms are the greatest gut-check in any relationship. There is no such thing as a storm free life. When it comes to a relationship with God, the same holds true. Storms will still happen.

- Do you expect a relationship with God to be storm-free?
- How do you view God during a storm?

Sometimes during a storm, we may feel like God shows up late and does not answer when we want him to. This can cause us to lose our trust in him and neglect our relationship with him or even look for something or someone else to believe in. Waiting is hard, but waiting is the exercising of trust, which strengthens our relationship with him.

Night fell...the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them. (Matthew 14:23-25 NLT)

- Has any storm in your life led you to giving up on God?
- Do you find it hard to be patient with God during a storm?
- Have you ever put your faith in something or someone other than God?

Other times during a storm we can focus so much on our problems or cling to something else besides Jesus, and simply miss how he is revealing himself and directing us. We miss out on living up to our full potential and the life he wants for us. Like most of the disciples, we refuse to “get out of the boat” or something else we hold on to. Or like Peter, we let doubt creep in and lose focus.

...So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?” (Matthew 14:29-31 NLT)

- What is your “boat” that you refuse to get out of to go to Jesus?
- Have you ever felt like you missed an opportunity God was calling you to?
- What would you do for God if you had no doubt?

Next Steps

Recall any storms you have experienced in life in the past, or even right now. Consider anything that may be holding you from taking next steps in your relationship with God or what one could look like. What would happen if you chose to trust God even though you could not or do not understand? Spend some time praying about that this week. Write out one next step you could take after reflecting.

Possible next step:

Foundations 101

When: Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: North Charlotte Campus, [8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269](https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/1184312-2019-01-28-foundations-101/)

Register: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/1184312-2019-01-28-foundations-101/>

Further Reflection

See Matthew 14:22-33 (NLT) and Romans 8:24-25 (The Message).

Pray

God, we all have storms in life. We all have heartaches, challenges, and decisions to make. You are much greater than any of them. Thank you for being someone that we can turn to and rely on during all of those times. Help us to see you in our storms and trust you during them for how we should respond.