

When life gets chaotic and stormy, people often loose _____!

- ❖ Discouragement
- ❖ Defeat
- ❖ Despair
- ❖ Disillusionment
- ❖ Depression
- ❖ Disappointment

They begin to wonder if anyone can _____ or if anyone _____ or _____ (Mark 4:38).

During the stormy situations of life, this is when we need to drop down “*the Anchor of Hope*” into the deep waters.

FOUR ANCHORS FOR THE STORMS OF LIFE

ANCHOR #1: God is _____.
(Mark 4:38; Isaiah 43:2-3, 5)

ANCHOR #2: God _____.
(Mark 4:38; 1 John 4:9)

ANCHOR #3: God _____.
(Mark 4:38-39; Psalm 116:1-6)

ANCHOR #4: God is in _____.
(Mark 4:38-41).

As creator of the universe, God is able to calm any storm that may threaten to destroy our lives. When Jesus lived on earth, He displayed complete and total control over nature, diseases, demons and all of creation.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What are you facing today? Is there a situation or circumstance that seems hopeless to you? Whatever life pitches to you, rest assured that God is _____ with you. He _____ for you. He _____ for you to ask for help and He is in _____. He is the God who gives _____ in the midst of life’s storms!

Romans 15:13: “*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Sunday (December 12th) is the finale of our DEEPER series and the final week of Small Groups until they resume in January. While we will have a message outline, we will not have discussion questions. Perhaps next week would be a good time to have a potluck or some other sort of event with each other.

Christmas Eve services are going to take place from 3:30-4:30 and 5-6 pm. Why not invite someone you know to attend SMC with you?

PRAYER TIME: Are you going through a storm in your life? If so, identify it and then take some time to pray for each other.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did Jesus know that the storm was about to come upon the boat? What indicators do you have in the text that would support your conclusion?
2. If Jesus planned that the disciples would encounter the storm, *why* would he do such a thing?
3. If Jesus planned that the disciples would encounter the storm, how might this affect the way you think about the storms you encounter?
4. How do the *Four Anchors For the Storms of Life* give you help in going through your present storm?
5. Take a look at the following passages regarding life's storms and talk about how they apply to your present situation in life (James 1:2-5; 1 Peter 1:3-9).

HOPE IN THE STORMS OF LIFE Pastor Cory Anderson / 12.05.10 / SMC

INTRODUCTION:

Mark 4:35-41: “That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Life: Going from _____ to _____
(Mark 4:37; Matthew 8:24; Luke 8:23).

Sometimes we are _____ with the unexpected – a storm that hits without warning.