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Leader Guide

The Lord of the Storm

February 6, 2022

Main Passage: John 6:16-21

Theological Theme

Jesus of Nazareth is God. He was with God in the beginning, and He was God. All things were made for Him and through Him. As the creator God, He has complete power over all of creation.

Introduction

- ? What are some ways people cope with difficult or even traumatic events in life?
- ? What are some things that have helped you heal after going through trials or tribulations?

In today's passage, John reported that Jesus walked on top of the water. How can this be? For those who have ears to hear and are being drawn by the Father, the answer is clear. Jesus of Nazareth truly is the Messiah. But this passage of Scripture isn't only about Jesus. We also read of how the disciples went down into the sea as the sky darkened. We sense their fear and anxiety as the sea became rough and the wind began to blow strongly. We can relate to their complete shock and dismay when they saw the Man walking toward them across the waves. Jesus Christ is the Lord of the storm, even when we must face the storm itself. Let's consider the disciples' experience, the nature of Christ, and the disciples' response.

1. The Outward Reality (John 6:16-18)

Most people know the sense of anxiety and dread that rears up when potential bad news is on the horizon. For example, you receive a text message that says, "Hey, this person from work is really upset with you." Or the mechanic says, "This is going to be at least \$1,000 to fix." Or the doctor says, "We are

going to need to do more tests.” We all know this feeling. It is a punch to the gut, a tightening of the chest, and a knot in the stomach. Some people call it worry or stress, but if we want to get to the heart of the matter, it is *fear*.

2. The Love of Christ (John 6:19)

Jesus came to them on the water, and He spoke to them in verse 20. Jesus Christ brought peace to His disciples in the storm. From the very beginning, we see that God is the initiator of a relationship with people by expressions of love. For example, God created Adam and Eve and they responded to that act of love by loving Him back. Also, when Adam and Eve sinned, God sought them out even though they were hiding. We also see that God went to Cain to warn him against sin. God is the initiator. As John wrote, “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

3. The Appropriate Response (John 6:20-21)

By including Jesus’s words to the disciples, John suggested that we are correct to view Him as identical with the God of the Old Testament. The use of the Greek phrase *ego eimi* (translated “I am”) in this passage probably alludes to the way God described Himself as the “I AM” in the Old Testament (see Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 41:4; 43:10-11; 48:12). The phrase *ego eimi* appears in the verses as they are found in the Septuagint—the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Bible of the apostles and early church. Jesus used the “I am” phrase several times in John. Thus, both this passage and others in John’s Gospel are highly charged in their teaching about Jesus’s deity.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?