



Growth Group Discussion Questions

Series: **FACTS NOT FEARS**

Lesson: In the Eye of the Storm

Primary Scriptures: Job 40:6-14; Isaiah 43:2-3

Lesson 9 - Week of May 31, 2020

DISCUSSION

Think for a moment about the magnitude of a hurricane. A hurricane is a tropical storm that can span over 600 miles in diameter. Its devastating winds begin to be clocked at 74 miles per hour and may exceed 150 miles per hour. Some immensely powerful hurricanes can reach nine miles into the atmosphere. The center of these storms is a space of about 20 miles in diameter where everything is perfectly calm. Surrounded by roaring winds and heavy rains, the eye of the storm is a site of serenity and tranquility. If you are in the *eye of the storm*, you had to suffer through some heavy rain, flooding, and heavy winds. And moving away from the eye of the storm will likely be equally as devastating. As the saying goes, "In life, you're either heading into a storm, going through a storm or coming out of a storm."

The storms of life are bound to hit all of us at some point. The strong winds of adversity and the heavy rains of affliction show no respect for a person's age or circumstances. Yet amid these trials, God offers a place of peace and safety. When you feel like a hurricane is blowing through your life, whether it be a hurricane (or pandemic) of debt, depression, disease, devastation or deprivation, then we must look to God who is able to provide a place of rest for our souls.

Wherever you are in the world, you are faced with storms, physical and spiritual, that threaten to overwhelm your faith. Just as in the eye of the hurricane there is calmness, Jesus wants to give each of us that calm and peace as we walk through the storms in our lives. This peace comes as we walk in obedience to His will, knowing that we are covered by His protection. He doesn't promise freedom from the storms, but He does promise that **when** we "pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. **When** you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God" (Isaiah 43:2-3). In other words, your trials will not destroy you, but they will make you better for His glory. The scriptures are clear that this is not an "if" but a "when" for facing storms.

For example, in chapter six of the book of Daniel, we find that Daniel was cast into the lions' den. This is a perfect example of being in the eye of a storm. While confined in a den of lions, he was surrounded by a group of hungry felines that would have liked nothing better than to rip him to pieces. They were probably salivating at what appeared to be delicious prey. Keep in mind that even though the lions' mouths were shut, they still had their claws. Yet, through the intervention of God's angels, Daniel had nothing to worry about. Although this was a terrifying situation, he experienced God's perfect peace and calm. In our various storms, our adversaries may have the resources to inflict pain on us, but God is able to intervene on our behalf. Stay prayed up!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As we continue this fourth lesson of Facts NOT Fears, we find that God responded to Job from the eye of the storm. Job 40:6-14 (MSG) reads, ⁶⁻⁷God addressed Job next from the eye of the storm, and this is what he said: "I have some more questions for you, and I want straight answers. ⁸⁻¹⁴"Do

you presume to tell me what I'm doing wrong? Are you calling me a sinner so you can be a saint? Do you have an arm like my arm? Can you shout in thunder the way I can? Go ahead, show your stuff. Let's see what you're made of, what you can do. Unleash your outrage. Target the arrogant and lay them flat. Target the arrogant and bring them to their knees. Stop the wicked in their tracks—make mincemeat of them! Dig a mass grave and dump them in it—faceless corpses in an unmarked grave. I'll gladly step aside and hand things over to you—you can surely save yourself with no help from me!"

When we go through suffering, we must remember that there is no part of our suffering that is bigger or more powerful than God. He IS the eye of the storm and our perfect peace. But in order to get to Him, we must remain obedient and be able to endure the storms of this life.

Fact #1: God is still protecting you in the midst of suffering.

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 ESV

Fact #2: There won't be an "if" but there will be a "when."

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." Isaiah 43:2 ESV

Fact #3: We may be crushed but we won't be broken.

"When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken." Psalm 34:17-20 ESV

Questions:

1. With COVID-19 being at the center of our daily thoughts and routines, it probably feels like you are in the middle of a storm. For some, finances are fading away; jobs are scarce; and health is failing. For all of us, there's the daily news of doom and gloom. Have you ever considered that God has you protected in the eye of the storm? Provide an explanation for your answer.
2. It is relatively easy to trust God when things are going the way we want them to go. It's also easy to believe that God is in charge when we can comprehend things that are happening in the world. Since many of us don't fully understand why things are occurring the way that they are today, do you wonder if God has left you? Please explain your answer.
3. In order to stay in God's presence during your storms, what are some of your daily routines that assist you with maintaining your focus on His will and remaining obedient?