

## **“When Trials Come”**

**Matthew 14:22-33**

1. A trial is a challenging circumstance allowed by God to refine our character. What is a trial that you are currently in (or have been in recently)?
2. What are some common questions or responses to God in the midst of a trial? What are some of the dangers of letting the “Why?” question drag on indefinitely or become an accusation against God? What’s the difference between basing our theology on our circumstance and basing our circumstance on our theology?
3. The disciples were in a major storm. What does it tell you about Jesus that “he came to them” in the storm (v.25)? What other options did Jesus have? Often we want Jesus to meet our need, but He goes one step further and meets us in our need. Do you truly believe that you will never be in a place / situation where God is not with you (see Psalm 23:4, Isaiah 41:10, Hebrews 13:5-6)? How have you experienced God’s presence in the midst of a trial?
4. What does it tell you about Jesus that He came to them “walking on the sea” (v.25)? Beyond having comfort in God’s presence, we can have confidence that He’s in control. How does this truth relate you your trial(s)?
5. What did Jesus say to his disciples in verse 27? When Jesus said “It is I” he was declaring that “I AM” is here – reminding them of His faithfulness in the past. What are specific ways you seen God’s faithfulness, love, mercy, presence, goodness, etc. in your life? What’s the value of recording these stories in a journal or on your computer? What’s the value of sharing these stories verbally with your family (i.e. Thanksgiving is coming in a few weeks)? How does dwelling on God’s provisions in the past replace today’s worries, anxieties, and fears?
6. How many times is the word “immediately” used in this passage? When did Jesus not act “immediately”? Why does God not always act “immediately”? What are some things you have learned by waiting on the Lord?
7. What did Jesus do in verse 31 (focus on what He did, not only on what He said)? Jesus doesn’t always deliver us from a trial, but he delivers us through a trial. How does the image of Jesus reaching out and embracing Peter relate to how Jesus responds to you today?
8. How does this story end (v.33)? Why is it important to worship God not only in the good times, but in the midst of our trials? Can you honestly declare that God is all-good and God is all-powerful today?

Memorize: Isaiah 41:10