LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You that You see us in every storm and that You never waste what we are walking through. As we discuss this message, help us hear Your voice, abide in Jesus, and recognize the people You've placed around us for encouragement and support. Give us courage to share honestly, receive comfort, and discover how You may want to use our stories to point others to Your goodness. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

What is an unexpected experience or unplanned detour that turned out to be one of the most memorable or meaningful moments in your life?

SERMON OVERVIEW

Drawing from Acts 27, Pastor Joseph Antley uses Paul's shipwreck to deliver a powerful message about navigating life's storms with faith and purpose. In looking at the harrowing account of Paul and his shipmates caught in a violent, weeks-long storm at sea, we are invited to ask: what if the storms of life are not signs that something has gone wrong, but invitations to something deeper? The passage captures something painfully familiar: the darkness, the loss of control, the feeling that God has gone silent. Yet woven through this story is a profound truth that challenges the way we think about hardship. God does not cause every storm, but he never wastes one. We are walked through what it looks like to remain anchored to God even when everything around us is falling apart, when the temptation to grab the lifeboat and take matters into our own hands feels overwhelming. The Greek word 'mino,' meaning to remain or abide, becomes a rallying cry for how we survive the waiting. When we cannot see what is ahead, we can still hear. And that is precisely when God speaks, not with a plan, but with a promise. This message calls us to resist the lie that a good life is one free of turbulence, and instead embrace the kind of life where only God gets the glory as we become witnesses to God's faithfulness on the other side of every storm.

SCAN FOR SERMON CLIP

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READ SCRIPTURE

ACTS 27, ACTS 28:1-10, 2 TIMOTHY 4:11,
2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4, JOHN 15:4-5, PSALM 119:50

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) Paul's friendship with Luke reminds us that God often provides people to walk alongside us through life's storms, even if only for a season. Who has been a "Luke" in your life, and what did their presence mean to you?

2) In the middle of the storm, God gave Paul a promise rather than a detailed plan, offering both comfort and courage. When have God's promises sustained you through uncertainty, and what helps you hear His voice when life feels dark or out of control?

3) What is one area where you may be tempted to take control or compromise because you are growing tired of waiting on God?

GROW
SPIRITUALLY

4) In 2 Timothy 4:11, Paul writes, “Only Luke is with me.” How does this verse deepen your understanding of steadfast friendship during hardship and storms?

5) In 2 Corinthians 1:3–4, Paul says God comforts us so that we can comfort others. How does this passage help explain how God can use our past storms to give purpose to our present lives?

6) Pastor Joseph connects Paul’s obedience in waiting on the boat to our call to abide in Christ. What does abiding in Jesus look like in your everyday life, and what spiritual practices or commitments help you stay connected to Him through difficult seasons?

LIVE
GENEROUSLY

7) Pastor Joseph closes with the challenge that “a good life is the one that only God can get the glory for.” What would you need to surrender or stop controlling in order to live a life where God's power is more visible than your own ability to manage circumstances? What step can you take to practically do so this week?

8) We weren’t meant to go through life’s storms on our own, is there a burden or struggle you have been carrying alone that you need to share with a trusted believer or small group?

9) Who is someone in your life currently going through a storm, and how could you intentionally show up for them this week? How could you use the story of a past storm in your life to encourage, serve, or witness to them?

TAKE
ACTION

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement,
I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

_____

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

PRAY
TOGETHER

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that’s weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

ENGAGE
TOGETHER

Christmas Compassion: Christmas Compassion is about serving and loving our neighbors during the holiday season, especially those who are most in need. Our Local Missions Team aims to connect you with local opportunities to share your time, talents, and gifts in service to our community and for God’s glory. Explore the many ways you can serve and give this year, and consider picking up a gift tag at your local campus. “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” — Matthew 25:40