

God Statement: Jesus is Near

Read in your Bible: Matthew 14:22-36; John 6:16-21

Question #1:

1. Place yourself into the story and try to imagine the fiercest storm you've ever witnessed. If you were a disciple in the boat, what may have been running through your mind?

Question #2:

2. Jesus was walking *on* the raging waters. What might this symbolize about Jesus' authority in relation to the storms of life?

Question #3:

3. What storm are you currently facing? (It may be an external storm like your parents going through a divorce or an internal storm like dealing with anxiety, anger, or fear).

Question #4:

4. Place yourself in the boat again but this time imagine the storm to be the one you just mentioned. Now re-read Matthew 14:17 and imagine Jesus is saying that to you. Do you believe He is near even in this storm?

Question #5:

5. Whatever your answer to the last question, take some time to respond to Jesus in a heart of worship. If you doubt that He is near, ask Him to help your unbelief. If you don't find comfort in His promise to be near, ask Him to show you how strong and sovereign He is. Turn the stories of Matthew 14:22-36 and John 6:16-21 into prayer to allow the truth to sink deep into your soul.

Worship Response:

Take some time and simply sit in silence before the Lord. Realize that God has come near to you in the person of Jesus Christ. Get a sheet of paper, a journal, or notebook and write out the ways that you have experienced Jesus' nearness in your life before. Thank him. Then write out a list of where you are looking for his nearness right now. Trust him. God has decisively come close to us in the person of Jesus Christ. He is so faithful. We encourage you to hold onto this list throughout this season and look back to it as your seasons change.

Further Reading:

For additional study, read and pray through Psalm 23, 46, and 91 and see if you can relate it to these two stories.