

Strong In The Storm

Personal Storms

Mark 6:50

Pre-Camp Devotional #1

Mark 6:45-49

Start off by reading Mark 6:45-48a

Ask them: When you think about times you were on a boat, what are some of the things that go through your mind?

(Answers I am looking for are: recreational things like fishing or water skiing... include yourself in this by telling a story or example. This is just to hook them into the devotional.)

Say to them: Now imagine while you are out on the boat with your family (skiing fishing or whatever they said) that all of a sudden out of nowhere comes really strong wind and great big waves. (Have them actually take a minute or so and actually imagine that.)

Ask them: How would you feel in that situation?

What would you do? (Stress that their motor boats do not have the power to get them to shore...meaning they are at the mercy of the storm.)

(These answers do not have to be anything specific.)

Say to them: In situations like this we always look to the person who is our leader, parent, or guardian. They are where we find comfort and strength.

Ask them: What would you do if your leader, parent or guardian were not there for you during the storm? (These answers do not have to be anything specific.)

Say to them: This is what Jesus' disciples were facing when they were in the storm. The waves were splashing all around, and the winds were furious. At that moment they were really scared, and just wanted their leader to be with them.

Say to them: When we think about storms we usually think about thunder, lighting, and wind. But there are other storms that we experience and we need to be aware of them.

Play this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFTy0ci2CNo>

Look at this video in advance. The content strongly presents teens talking about storms they are dealing with. You need to determine whether this will fit based on the emotional state of your youth.

Ask them: Have you ever talked with any friends or family members that were struggling with the storms the youth in this video were struggling with?

Ask them: What about you? What about the storms in your life? How did you deal with them?

(Ask if anyone could share more about feeling like that, and jot down his or her answers for later on.)

Ask them: What are some other storms that people in general, or people you know go through in life?

(I am looking things like: Divorce, Break-ups, Bad Grades, Death...)

Read: Mark 6:45-48a again and read the rest of 48-49.

Ask them: What happens in the part of the story that we did not read before? (Re-read it if they do not respond.)

Ask them: Can you think of a time that things went from bad to worse? Or could you imagine how things could have gotten worse during a storm you have faced?

(If they cannot think of something use their examples from before, and ask them to think how the situations could have

gotten worse. Encourage them to be creative. Also share from your experiences.)

Say to them: Sometimes we think that if we call out to God, the storms in our lives will just stop or that the storms in others' lives will just stop. This is not true. Sometimes the storms seem to get worse. God uses storms to help us grow closer to Him.

Ask them: The theme this summer at Life Builders is *Strong in the Storm*. What are some ways that you can be strong in the storm? (This question is to get them thinking about how to draw close to God in the storms of their lives. This question and the next one will be answered during the week.)

Ask them: What are some ways that you can help others going through storms? (Most students will answer with things like pray for them, and find a Bible verse that will help them. These are great answers, but what I am trying to help them think about is what loving someone through the storm looks like.)

End In Prayer.