

WARMING UP

1. Our world seems to be constantly overwhelmed by tragedy. What are some of the difficult, even horrific, circumstances going on around us? How do people without Jesus deal with these calamities?

DIGGING IN

2. *Who then is this Jesus? He is purposeful: Follow him (8:22).*
 - Why is it always wise to follow someone who is purposeful about life? Do you know anyone like this personally?
 - How does Jesus demonstrate a purposeful approach here? Do you understand God to be responsive or intentional with respect to trials? How so?
 - What does Revelation 13:8 say about God’s purposeful nature in salvation—both in terms of Jesus as the provider and us as the recipients? How does this impact you?
3. *Who then is this Jesus? He is at peace: Rest in him (8:23).*
 - Pastor Todd said, “Much of our inability to cope with life circumstances is simply the result of not resting in God. We’re anxious and fearful.” What is your response? How have you seen this to be true in your life?
 - What does it mean to rest in Jesus? What are some practical ways to do this? What difference does it make in the midst of the storm?
4. *Who then is this Jesus? He is all-powerful: Call to him (8:24).*
 - How does Jesus reveal his omnipotence in this story? Do you truly believe in God’s all-powerful abilities? How does your life substantiate this conviction—or not?
 - When the wind is blowing and the waves are raging, God may still the storm, or he may still your heart. Which option do you pray for most often? Why would God choose the latter option instead of the former?
 - What does Philippians 4:6-7 teach about coming to God in prayer in the face of hardship? What other verses on this topic would you turn to for comfort and clarity?
5. *Who then is this Jesus? He is able to save: Trust him (8:25).*
 - What is the disciples’ two-part response to Jesus’ power? How is this a good formula for our worship?
 - Pastor Todd said, “If Jesus says we’re going somewhere, then we’re going somewhere. Whatever we face along the way is inconsequential.” Why do we often doubt God’s ability to get us to our destination? How does God’s faithfulness in the past help us to trust in the present? Do you have a personal example of this?

BREAKING OUT

6. Is there a situation in your life that is making it difficult to say, “It is well with my soul”? What lie are you believing? What truth do you need to embrace instead? How can your small group help you fix your eyes on Jesus?