

## TOPIC: OUR INSTANTANEOUS GOD

God has the power to radically alter the course of our lives and circumstances instantaneously!

### KEY POINTS

- ▶ Most of us have experienced things in life that have brought us to a place of utter fear and dread.
- ▶ For many, it has involved the discovery of an incurable disease in your own body or that of a loved one.
- ▶ Or it could be the loss of a job at the time when you have just invested everything you have into a new home.
- ▶ Some have been in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and/or with the wrong crowd and are now in prison for crimes they did not commit.
- ▶ For others, there are immigration issues, or relational issues with a spouse. Others are trapped in psychological and/or financial bondage to an abuser.
- ▶ Some have been caught in the dangerous middle ground between rival gangs or even in war zones.
- ▶ The questions loom large. Where do I turn? Who do I turn to? What do I do now?
- ▶ The disciples of Jesus were experiencing one of those moments as they sailed the Sea of Galilee. They were in the middle of the sea, in the middle of a storm, in a boat that wouldn't float, totally hopeless. In the middle of their crisis, they yelled out to Jesus, "Don't you care that we are perishing?"
- ▶ This was not a cry for help or even a rebuke to an uncaring individual refusing to help someone in need. It was a question of incredulity, seeing a person sleeping in the face of impending death. It was certainly not a cry of faith, as Jesus noted in His response to them.
- ▶ Really, all the disciples wanted to know was: "How can you be so cool and calm when we are all about to die, not even concerned enough to help us bail water?"
- ▶ The point we quickly need to understand is that "When Christ is in the vessel, we can smile at the storm." He has the power to calm any storm in an instant. He is our instantaneous God!
- ▶ The Bible is filled with events, circumstances and situations that highlight this truth. As the disciples traveled with Jesus, they witnessed His instantaneous power time and time again.
- ▶ How should we respond to this truth? How should we live in light of the knowledge that we serve an instantaneous God?
- ▶ First of all, there should be a surge of faith in our souls. A mighty surge of hope and trust in God. He knows where we are and what we are going through.
- ▶ He has a purpose and a plan regarding how we should view our lives, our circumstances, our sicknesses, our failures and our future, in light of His omnipotence. He can turn your situation completely around in an instant.
- ▶ No matter what God decides to do in our lives, or what attacks He allows the enemy to mount against us, we know that we are safe in His arms. Therefore, let us live in faith.
- ▶ "God is fighting for us pushing back the darkness Lighting up the kingdom that cannot be shaken In the name of Jesus, enemy's defeated...." (Darlene Zschech).
- ▶ We worship and praise our God because we understand He is sovereign. We worship and praise our God because there is absolutely no restriction to His power. We live with hope and joy in our hearts because our lives are in His hands. We do not need to worry about a thing!
- ▶ We pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We continue to approach the throne of grace in faith (Hebrews 4:16). We understand that our lives are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). God can turn our lives around in an instant! Therefore we will keep praying, praising and living with joy!

### Key Scriptures:

Mark 4:35-41; Mark 10:27; Luke 1:37;  
Luke 4-8; John 4-6

### Discussion Tools

1. The song lyrics say, "God is fighting for us, pushing back the darkness...." Do you see evidence of that in your life?
2. What are some areas in which you are struggling to believe that God sees and cares?
3. What do you think about Jesus taking a nap during the disciples' time of danger and need? Why do you think He allowed the situation to take place and reacted as He did?
4. Jesus responded to the disciples by asking why they were afraid and pointing to their weak faith. What do you think of this response? What does it tell us about Jesus' view of our reactions to situations in our lives that are causing us great anxiety?
5. Take time to practice a scripture-based response to life's ups and downs: worship, praise and pray together, giving thanks to God (Philippians 4:6, Colossians 3:15-17, James 5:13).

### Discipleship Project Family Connection

During a family devotion time this week, discuss:

- Review the "revelation gifts".
- How can people (in the church or not) benefit from the use of a revelation gift? What is the value of wisdom in the use of these gifts?
- What might be lost if someone refuses/neglects the use of one of these gifts?

### Notes

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### Prayer Time

Thank You, Lord, that You are infinitely capable and completely dependable. We can trust and rest in You and so we will, with thanksgiving.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016  
PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS/COMMENTS:

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Life Group ice-breaker: If you could have any ability you wished, what would you want to be able to do?