

CONNECT GROUP NOTES



FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC: Hear the Voice ABOVE the WAVE

Sermon audio:

www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/331

Reader 1

In life we are all on a journey and looking to God for answers to things, uncertainties in our lives. If we want God's guidance we need to look to God when things are going well and when they're not.

Sometimes it's hardest to see God when we are going through struggles and storms. These can be financial storms, relational, health, emotional and business storms. Storms and struggles can take

many forms but that doesn't change that you can look to God through them.

We can often find ourselves in a valley of decision. You may not know what to do or where to go. When we face decisions we need to look to God to hear what He wants us to do.

Question 1: What decisions are you needing to make currently that you need to ask God about?

Reader 2

When we are faced with decisions like this, the struggle is to hear and listen to what God is saying as opposed to listening to what everything and everyone around you is saying.

In Matthew 7 Jesus tells the people about the wise man who built his house on the rock and **when** the storms came the house stood. The storms will come, it's not an 'if they come'. Storms

are sent for a reason, they are there to reveal things and are not there to punish. Storms can seem difficult, but they will build you up, as long as you are built on the rock.

Reader 3

Luke 8:22-25

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. ²³As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. ²⁴The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.
²⁵"Where is your faith?"he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another,
"Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Jesus was tired after a lot of ministry, so He went to sleep in the boat, but Jesus was still in the boat. We need to remember that Jesus does not expect us to do it on our own.

Faith in action is the result of understanding the Lordship of God in your life. Jesus was the one who told them to get in the boat and cross the lake. Jesus expected them to have faith that He was with them and would get them across the lake. Jesus was with them at the start and was with them until the end.

When we have an understanding of God's Lordship it becomes easy to not lose faith and put our trust in Him.

Question 2: Do you struggle with Lordship in your life? Do you know God as your Lord over all?

Reader 4

The way in which we journey in our lives shows who is Lord of our life. The way in which you live your life out should reflect what you believe and who you place as your Lord.

Lordship leads to revelation. When we know God as our Lord we start to gain revelations of who He is. When the disciples saw that Jesus was Lord over even the water and wind they understood who He really was and received a revelation of Jesus.

John 10:2-5

²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a

stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

We need to recognize the voice of Jesus. Storms may cause us to fear and be anxious, but the voice of Jesus should calm us and bring us peace.

Reader 5

How can we listen more carefully for the voice of Jesus in our lives? We need to be sure to fight the right fight.

1 Timothy 6:12

¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The first step we can take is to make sure that we are fighting the good fight and the right fight. God will be with you in the boat as you pursue what He has destined for you in fighting the fight of faith. When we are following the path He has set out for us it becomes easier to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

Reader 6

The next thing we need to do is to make the right choice as to who we are going to follow.

Psalm 27:4-5

⁴One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord

and to seek him in his temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

When we choose to live in the house of the Lord and serve him always we can stay connected to Him and hear His voice over the storms in our life.

Question 3: Do you choose to dwell in the house of the Lord? How can you seek God out more in your life?

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read and why?

ACTION STEP

What action step can you take to ensure that you dedicate your dining room table to the lord.

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