



**Title: Peace**

**Date: December 11, 2022**

**Scripture Text: Luke 8:22-25**

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We continue our celebration of Advent with the focus this week on PEACE. Advent is an opportunity to remember the birth of Jesus while waiting for His return (celebrating His first coming while we look forward to His second). Those who follow Christ experience peace. You might have seen the bumper sticker: “Know God Know Peace, No God No Peace”. Today’s message is the story of Jesus calming the storm. There is peace to be found when there are no storms in life. But it is only through Jesus that peace can be found in the midst of life’s storms.

### **I. Reflect on God’s Promises (Luke 8:22)**

Jesus had just finished sharing several parables. It was now time to turn His teachings into actions as He calls for the disciples to go to the other side of the lake. Jesus wanted them to know who He was and that He would take care of them. Remember, true peace is not found in the absence of storm, but in the presence of Christ! Jesus never promised smooth sailing, but He guarantees a safe arrival. There are several reasons for life’s storms: discipline, disobedience, and living life in a broken world. Each of these reasons give opportunity to turn and trust in Christ, and as a result, experience peace. In doing so, we are able to know God better and to make God known.

- Give a practical example for each of the reasons for storms.
- How can we know God better in the midst of life’s storms?
- How can we make Him known while we experience life’s storms?
- What are challenges you have to experiencing peace, regardless of your circumstances?

### **II. Remember God’s Presence (Luke 8:23)**

After Jesus directs His disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake, a fierce windstorm descends upon them. The boat started to fill with water. The disciples were in danger! But Jesus was there with them. He did not send them out to face the storm alone. He was with them the entire time. Just as with His disciples, Jesus today does not send His children off into the storm alone. He is with us the entire time.

## Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

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- What are other examples from the Bible when an individual was going through a storm and God was there with them? What happened?
- Describe how knowing God is with you through life's storms affects your storm experience (how you perceive the storm).
- Share a storm you've gone through and how you experienced peace by knowing God's presence was there.

### III. Rely on God's Power (Luke 8:24)

The disciples cry to Jesus, "Master, Master, we are perishing!". Jesus got up and rebuked the storm. All was calm now. Remember, the One who created the storm can also control the storm. So, how do we rely on God's power? Through prayer ([James 5:16](#))! Prayer gives us that direct connection to our heavenly Father ([Phil. 4:6-7](#)). Prayer should always be our first response, not the last resort.

- Based on [Phil. 4:6-7](#), how does prayer leverage the power of God?
- In life's storms, how quick are you to turn to prayer?
- According to [verse 25](#) of Luke 8, how would you describe Jesus' expectation of His disciples during life's storms?
  - How is your faith during the storm?
- On a scale of 1-5, how would you describe your experience of peace on a daily basis?
- What can you do to experience the peace of God on a more regular basis?

Because of the empty tomb, we have peace. Because of His resurrection, we can have peace during even the most troubling of times because we know He is in control of all that happens in the world.

- Paul Chappell

If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.

- Thomas Watson