

# Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

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## Leader Guide - Session 2

### Outline:

#### **I. We can have hope for our future, knowing one-day God will set all things right.**

- A. Still, we must admit that things in this world right now are very wrong.
- B. We have to acknowledge that some of us are going through a difficult season this Christmas. This includes recognizing ways you are struggling right now.

#### **II. God allows us to choose the object of our fixation in a world that is not right.**

- A. While it's easy to fixate on the crises in life, we can make the conscious choice to fixate on Christ.
- B. In the storms of life, we learn to practice "spiritual replacement"-focusing on Jesus without ignoring the painful reality of this world.
- C. We remember Jesus was also in an advent season of waiting.

#### **III. Luke's Gospel tells about a storm that occurred in the disciples' lives.**

- A. Jesus tells His disciples to cross to the other side of the lake (see Luke 8:22).
- B. Jesus falls asleep while a storm arises (see Luke 8:23-24).
- C. Jesus rebukes the storm and asks, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25).

#### **IV. Jesus went into a storm with His people so He could show them that He was greater than the storm.**

- A. Life is full of storms, but our storms are full of Jesus.
- B. God uses our storms to make a way for us to see His works and His glory.
- C. Our job in the storm is to not lose focus on Jesus and to stay fixated on Him.

#### **V. It's critical for us to remain focused on Jesus during a storm because ...**

- A. Staying focused on Jesus fulfills our purpose (see Colossians 1:16).
  - Our heart beats because we were made by Jesus and for Jesus.
  - We have the grace of God and a personal relationship with Christ.
- B. Staying focused on Jesus gives us hope in any and every circumstance.
  - We have hope because we know that Jesus was raised from the dead.
  - We have the promise that Jesus will make all things right.
- C. Staying focused on Jesus enables our worship of Him to be uninterrupted.
  - The disciples worshiped Jesus when they saw His power in the storm.
  - We likewise express true worship to Jesus when we witness His power

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## **Discussion:**

1. How do you handle the tension between any struggles you may be facing and the cultural expectations to enjoy the Christmas season?
2. How does the idea of "spiritual replacement" resonate with you and your circumstances right now? What does it mean to focus on Jesus without denying the challenges you face?
3. Does Jesus' response- "Where is your faith?"-to His disciples in the midst of a storm-tossed sea surprise you? Why or why not?
4. When you're experiencing the pain and turmoil of life's storms, what gives you perspective? How does your faith in Christ help you weather the storms?
5. Which of the reasons/benefits listed for staying focused on Jesus in the midst of life's storms stand out to you? Why?