

Leader Guide

For week of January 26, 2025

Title: "Our Peacemaker"

Text: Matthew 8:23-27

Series: Jesus Only

PERSONAL
STUDY

LEADER
PAGE

JESUS^{ON} ONLY

VIEW MESSAGE VIDEO

MESSAGE OUTLINE

5 Reasons Why We Face Trials

1. Trials Teach Us About Ourselves (v23)
2. Trials Test What We Believe (v24)
3. Trials Turn Us To God (v25)
4. Trials Tutor Us in God's Grace (v26)
5. Trials Train Us To Help Others (v 27)

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Focus on [Men's Conference 2025](#). Here's some verbiage to use to inspire your group to register:

"Men, what's holding you back from leading with strength and purpose? At Men's Con on Saturday, February 8, we're cutting through excuses and equipping you to lead like never before. Lives change at Men's Con—guys have been baptized, broken free from strongholds, and left ready to lead their families and their church. This year, RT Kendall and Pastor Ron are bringing powerful teaching, plus practical breakouts from our Pastors to help you step up. Bring a friend new to Highpoint for half price—\$40 for you, \$20 for them. Don't miss it, I want you there with me! Register at [Highpoint.church](#) or our app."

GROUP DISCUSSION

SHARE: Get Them Talking

- What is a memorable storm you have experienced? How did you feel during that storm?
This lighthearted "share" question is designed to help everyone feel comfortable and get the conversation flowing. Keep it fun and invite everyone to engage.

STUDY: Get Them In The Word

- Read Matthew 8:23-24. How did Jesus demonstrate a sense of peace in the middle of the storm? How can we find the same peace in the middle of difficulties?
Jesus could sleep through the storm because He completely trusted in God's sovereignty. Encourage your group to reflect on how we can experience that same rest and peace by relying on God, even in life's most difficult moments.
- In Matthew 8:25-26, the disciples cried out to Jesus in fear. What did they do right, and how could they have responded with greater trust in His power?
The disciples went to Jesus, the right person to seek help from. However, Jesus questioned their fear and lack of faith. Help the group reflect on Jesus' words, "Why are you afraid?" Discuss how we can respond to life's storms with confidence in Jesus' presence and power, rather than fear.

STUDY: Get Them In The Word (continued...)

- Read Romans 5:1-2. In Matthew we've seen Jesus calm the storm with the authority of His words. How does this miracle combined with the truths in Romans 5 speak to your need for peace and Jesus authority alone to give it to you?
This question offers an opportunity to point to the Gospel. Highlight that Jesus brings ultimate peace to those who believe in Him. Discuss Romans 5:1-2 with the group, focusing on the peace we receive through faith in Jesus. Emphasize how this peace was secured through Jesus' perfect, death and resurrection for our salvation.
- Read James 1:2-3. Think about a storm you've faced in life. How did God use that trial to grow your faith and shape your character, even when trusting Him felt difficult?
Encourage your group to share openly about their storms, assuring them it's okay to share as much or as little as they're comfortable. Celebrate and affirm God's faithfulness and transforming work in their lives through every trial, big or small.

SUPPORT: Get Them Caring For Each Other

- How is God calling you to listen and follow Jesus this week?
- How would you like the group to pray for you this week?

LEADER'S HEART

Storms. We all face them—those unavoidable, uncomfortable, and unforgettable moments that shake us to our core. Yet here's the beauty: storms are never wasted in God's hands. This week, we see Jesus, not only present in the storm but powerfully calming it. He reminds us that peace doesn't come from the absence of challenges; it comes from trusting the One who holds all things together. Storms reveal what's inside us, test our faith, and shape us for something greater.

As you lead this week, know that your role matters deeply. You're helping others believe in, belong to, and become more like Jesus by pointing them to the grace and peace He offers—even through life's storms. Encourage your group to lean into His presence, even when life feels chaotic. Leaders, God is using you to show His people His faithfulness. Keep going—you're making an difference!

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU:

Lord, thank You for Your faithful presence in every storm we face. We ask You to strengthen our leaders as they guide their groups to recognize Your hand at work, even in the hardest moments. Grow our faith to trust You completely and to rest in Your perfect peace. Amen.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

John 14:27