**TITLE: GOD’S ANSWERS TO LIFE’S DIFFICULT QUESTIONS**

**SESSION THREE: HOW CAN I BE CONFIDENT IN A CRISIS?**

**KEY VERSE: Have no fear of sudden disaster. . . for the Lord will be your confident . . .**

 **Proverbs 3:25-26 (NIV)**

**INTRODUCTION:**

25Have no fear of sudden disaster. . . 26for the Lord will be your confidence . . .

 **Proverbs 3:25-26 (NIV)**

**God doesn’t want you to be fearful when you face a crisis. He wants you to be confident.**

**JESUS CALMS THE STORM**

23Then [Jesus] got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24Without

Warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” 26He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

 **Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)**

**FIVE FACTS ABOUT CRISES**

1. **Crises Are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

James 1:2 says, “When you face trials . . . “not if, but when.

1. **Crises Are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

There are many kinds of crises: situational, relational, emotional, financial . . .

1. **Crises Are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 “He . . . sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

 **Matthew 5:45 (NIV)**

They happen to both good people and bad people. They can even happen when you’re

 doing the right thing.

**4. Crises Are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Without warning, a furious storm came up . . .

 **Matthew 8:24 (NIV)**

**5.I can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Crises**

You basically have two options when you face a crisis. You Can be filled with panic, like the disciples, or you can be filled with peace like Jesus.

 24[When the] storm came up . . . the waves swept over the boat . . . 25The disciples went woke [Jesus] saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

  **Matthew 8:24-25 (NIV)**

**How Can I Have Peace in a Crisis?**

* **Refocus on** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Get your eyes off the crisis and onto Christ.

 Then [Jesus] got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

 **Matthew 8:23 (NIV)**

The disciples forgot that God was in the boat. When we go through trials and crises, we tend to think we’re all alone.

The Bible says we are not.

 1” Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have [called] you by name, you are mine.

 2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the

 rivers, they will not sweep over you. . .”

 **Isaiah 43:1-2 (NIV)**

* **Rely on God’s** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 The disciples. . . said to him. “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

 **Mark 4:38 (NIV)**

 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, the

present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 **Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)**

* **Remember God is in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 **[**Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then

the wind died down and it was completely calm.

 **Mark 4:39 (NIV)**

**THE FACTS OF FEAR**

* Fear occurs when we feel out of control.
* Most of life is out of our control, so we have a lot of things to fear.
* The secret of overcoming fear is faith in God.

 “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?”

 **Matthew 8:26 (NIV)**

The antidote to fear is faith. Fill your life with faith and the fear vanishes.

 1Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the

 almighty, 2can say to him, “You are my defender and protector: You are my God; in

you I trust.” 3He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers. . . 3You need not fear . . .

 **Psalm 91:1-3, 5 (GNT)**

We fear too much because we trust God too little.

 “In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer, I have overcome the

 the world.”

 **John 16:33 (NKJV)**

What’s rocking your boat these days? If Jesus is in your boat, he will calm the storm in due time.

**DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:**

1. Look at our key verses (Proverbs 3:25-26). Share a time when the Lord has given you confidence in the face of sudden disaster.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you think God allows crises into our lives?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Saying you’re confident and living confidently are two different things. What does confidence in God look like for you?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4.) Have you ever seen God control an out-of-control circumstance in your life? How could true confidence that God is in control help you deal with a current crisis?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_