

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: TNC #15 "HEAD"

CONNECT IN with one another

Tonight we are going to be looking at Paul in a storm. Have you ever had a scary or funny moment on a boat, a ship or a plane?

CONNECT UP with God

- The Bible is full of stories about people being in storms: Jonah, the disciples, Paul, to name a few. Why do you think this is? [Help for leaders: God knows life gets rough & stormy!]
- We are going to read a Bible passage in which the Apostle Paul demonstrates how Naked Christians influence the world. **Read Acts 27:1-44.**
- Verses 13-20 are pretty dark and hopeless. How do you react during storms of life? What made Paul react differently to the other people in the ship?
- People didn't listen to Paul when things were calm in verses 9-11, but they did when things got rough in verses 21-25. CS Lewis argues in his book 'The Problem of Pain' that this is because *"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."* Do you agree with him? Why / Why not?
- What kind of storms do you know are going on the lives of people you care for - Christian and non-Christian?
[Help for leaders: Try to stop people from talking about themselves or about other people in the Group. That comes next, but first let's focus beyond. Help people to be really specific, naming people and not just generalities.]
- We can help them together by praying in a moment. How else can you help them?
- What kind of storms are you personally facing right now?
- When the disciples met Jesus in the midst of their storm in Matthew 14, it caused them to bow down and worship him. Spend some time praising Jesus as the one who walks on the storm and who helps us to walk on the water with him too.

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

- As you worship Jesus, make plenty of room for people to pray for the friends they have mentioned who are in storms. Pray that this Christmas time, as people celebrate the birth of Jesus, that as a group you will have lots of opportunities to be vocal about your faith, like Paul, and that people will be brought to new birth through you.