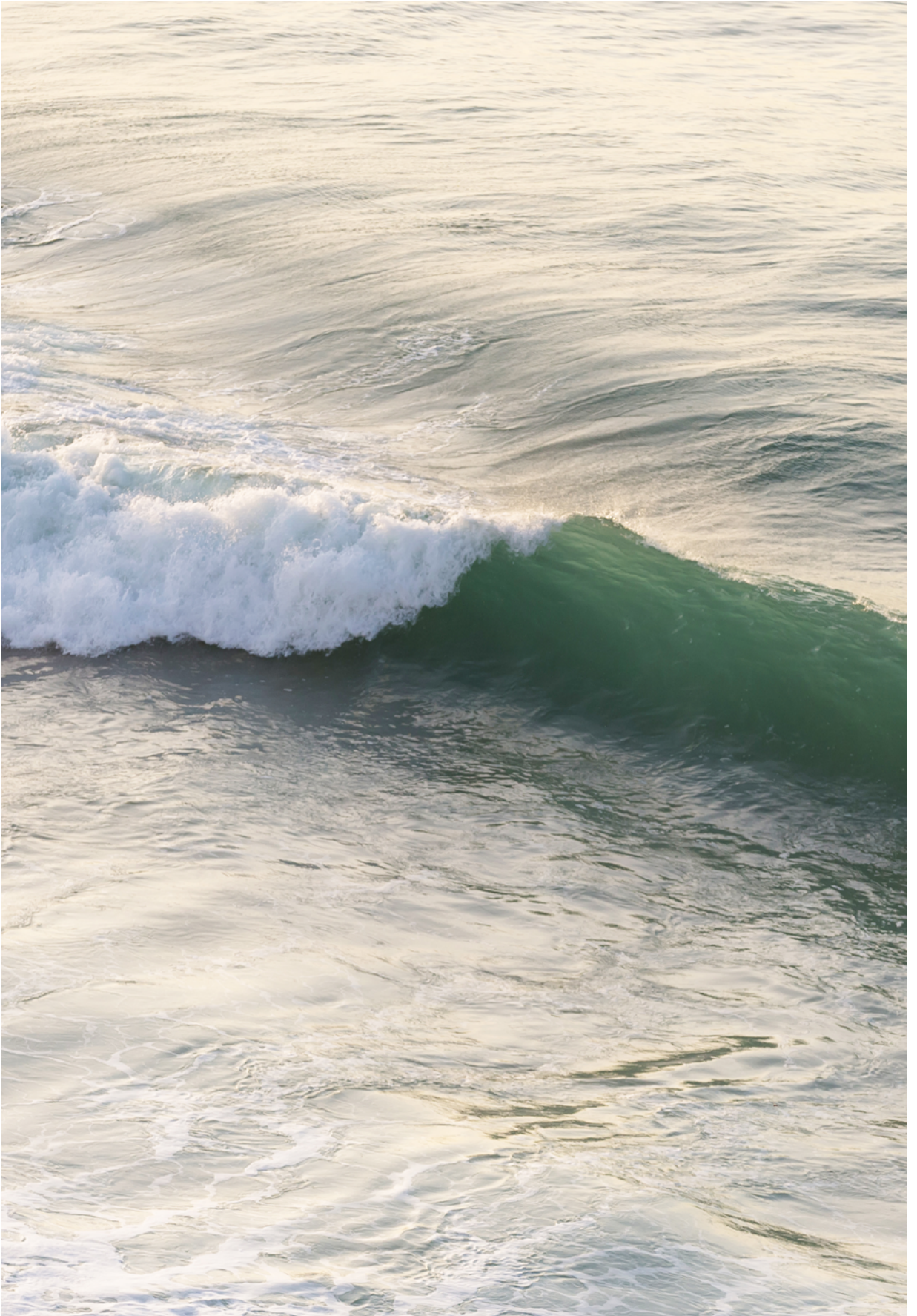


WEEK 3

Jesus Walks on Water and Calms Storms

Mark 4:35-41, Mark 6:45-52



MARK 4 : 3 5 - 4 1

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the sea." ³⁶So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?" ³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰Then he said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

MARK 6 : 4 5 - 5 2

⁴⁵Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After he said good-bye to them, he went away to the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷Well into the night, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸He saw them straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Very early in the morning he came toward them walking on the sea and wanted to pass by them. ⁴⁹When they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke with them and said, "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ⁵¹Then he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded, ⁵²because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

SERMON NOTES

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEACHING SUMMARY

Jesus has the power over water—power to walk on water and power to calm it. He has the power to calm the storms in your life too. There will always be storms, even storms within, and Jesus is the One who can bring calm in the midst of chaos.

LEAN IN

What is the most tumultuous weather event or other natural disaster you have ever experienced?

LOOK DOWN

READ MARK 4:35-41 (pg. 46)

What clues are there in this passage that this miracle was witnessed by others?

What is different about this miracle than the previous ones we've studied so far in the series? Do you find this miracle harder or easier to believe? Explain.

When the storm was happening, what did the disciples say to Jesus? What was their reaction to Jesus speaking to the wind and the sea?

RHYTHM REMINDER



worship



prayer

READ MARK 6:45-52 (pg. 46)

What does it mean that Jesus “wanted to pass by them” (v. 48)?

What makes the disciples think they are seeing a ghost?

How do they react to seeing Jesus?

LOOK OUT

What’s different about how unbelievers respond to horrifying circumstances and how Christians respond to them?

LOOK IN

What do we have our faith in when we deeply fear our circumstances?

Which do you fear most: circumstances you cannot control, or the God who controls all of your circumstances?



Dawn is Just in Sight
by Charlene Tsai

That Blind-Breaking Light

written by: Kyle Gunderson

"And their eyes were opened..." — Matthew 9:30

The taller I built the wall of things I thought I wanted,
the darker my world became.

Yet I kept stacking it higher and higher,
falling into the devil's blinding game.

Occasionally, I saw a flicker of light
slip through the wall's cracks, but that
shimmer living on the other side was soon
covered by a mountain of Earthly plaques.

There it is! The *next* shiny thing.
In a world so dull,
where else would I cling?

Adjusting to this darkness, my unseeing eyes
searched for the next building blocks.
But suddenly from the other side,
the wall shook as I heard thunderous knocks.

Even taller now, I kept building to put up a fight.
I smiled as the wall stood still in silence...
However, I noticed there was no longer any light.

Was this my fate, into the darkness would I succumb?
The knocking returned, this time stronger—
it was the sound of a mighty drum.

Hands outstretched blindly, no way to let Him in,
This wall I built blocked out all His light
with the weight of all my sin.

Still, I followed the imprint of His steps
as deep as a tear-filled sea,
crying out, "Son of David,
have mercy on me!"

"Do you believe that I can do this?"
said a voice from the other side.

"Yes, Lord!" I shouted back, in desperate reply.
The groom was now on His way to see His bride.

He broke down the door—I saw darkness retreat,
piece by piece I tore down the wall,
and laid it all at His feet.

"Let it be done for you according to your faith."
New sight, I could now see!
So I couldn't help but spread the news
of the miracle God had just done for me!

The taller I built the wall of things I thought I wanted,
the more I felt alone.
Now we build together in His blind-breaking light.
Now I build with Jesus Christ, my cornerstone.

Janine's Story: Meeting Christ in the Quiet

written by: Kathryn McLeland

Music was instrumental in Janine's family growing up. From listening to classic rock to singing in the church choir, Janine always had a song in her heart and mind for any situation—each moment held a melody in the soundtrack of her life.

Ultrarunning also filled Janine's heart with joy, including training on the trails for hours to prepare for races. She also enjoyed listening to music while sorting packages as a delivery driver.

But then, in the spring of 2019, her hearing started to diminish. After several doctor appointments and subsequent hearing tests, she returned her hearing aids, which no longer worked for her. The world, once full of song, fell silent. There was no music, no laughter, and she was unable to perform her job duties on the road. Janine was honest with God about her frustration with going completely deaf. Music, conversation, and laughter were such fundamental parts of her life, and she felt God had taken it all away.

Thanksgiving 2019 was a dark time for Janine, as she sat around the table with her quick-witted

family who were laughing and joking while she was left in silence.

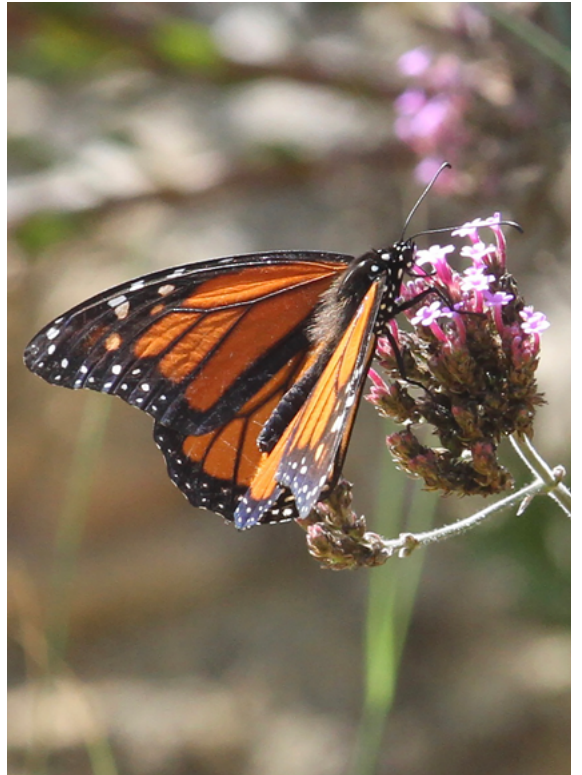
"My world went silent, and my quality of life suffered greatly. I'm a bit of an extroverted introvert to begin with, but when I lost my hearing, I withdrew from people simply because it was difficult and frustrating to communicate," she said.

Despite feeling withdrawn, Janine had always enjoyed technology and used this gift to move through barriers of communication: "When I found the translation apps for my phone, that helped a little."

However, even with modern technology, Siri could only translate so fast.

"It was a frustrating and sometimes amusing process as the translation apps couldn't keep up and sometimes got the words wrong," Janine said. "I did provide people with some laughs when the translation apps came up with strange translations."

Despite feeling out of touch, Janine felt surrounded with prayer from her circle of friends and family. Her constant prayer to God included



Walking Through the Storm
by Rebecca Slymen



this request: "Please give me ears to hear, Lord."

Her friend and former Rooted leader suggested receiving prayer from an Elder in the prayer room. "The Elder shared with me about his eye affliction and told me that he might lose his sight. I started to feel a calming presence during his prayer."

At that point, Janine started to research cochlear implants. With the support of her family, her Life Group, and her hearing loss support group, she went in for her first implant in January 2020. The first words of the robotic-sounding audiologist sparked a new sense of hope. By the grace of God, Janine utilized hearing calibration technology, rehabilitation activities, and exposure to restore word recognition by filtering in noise. A year later, she decided to get a second cochlear implant, and after some adjustments,

continues to make gradual improvements in retraining her brain today.

Birds singing, water rushing, the flutter of wind in the trees, the climax of a rock ballad...Janine could hear again! Regaining her hearing in this way gave her a new sense of "hearing" God's voice because that was all she had. Being in nature is her place to listen to God's voice. The sound of silence is where God drew her to Himself through His Word, church community, and His still, soft voice.

Now, Janine says, "I rarely listen to music on the trails. I spend that time thinking, listening to God's voice through those thoughts, and praying while I'm running or hiking."

Despite the loss of hearing, God also used this quiet time to enhance her view of the world around her. As Janine's lens for sight was reca-



Calming of the Storm

by Susie Sprinkel Hudson

liberated without the external hum of sound, so her love of photography reignited too. Drawing from her experience as a photojournalist, she started to spend more time capturing His creation with her camera.

Janine was able to run or hike every day before and after her surgery, which helped in the recovery process of retraining the organs of her inner ear to improve balance, and most importantly, helped strengthen her relationship with God. Nature continued to be the place God communicated His care for her through peace and rest while the rest of the world was silent; this was a divine turning point. To this day, God is restoring her hearing with renewed faith. He is using her trial to bring so much meaning into her life, all the while increasing her faith in Him as He shows her more of His plan for her life.

Reflecting on this gift, Janine can now appreciate her season of silence. "Now I am grateful and thankful that He used this loss to make me realize how blessed I am with this second chance and miracle hearing." One of the verses which Janine meditated on was Philippians 4:13, which says, "I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me."

Her response now is worship and gratitude: "I'm grateful to God that He answered all of the prayers on my behalf. I'm thankful to have some wonderful prayer warrior women at Mariners who have been supportive. These are truly my ears to hear (my miracle) and they are a blessing. I eventually feel like God may be leading me to work with people who have hearing challenges like me." ●

WE ASKED MARINERS KIDS TO SHARE A MIRACLE GOD HAS DONE IN THEIR LIVES OR IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO THEM. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR RESPONSES!

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| NAME Madellyn | AGE 10 |
|-------------------------|------------------|

~~When I almost died~~
 A miracle god has done for me is when I almost died when I was a baby



| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| NAME Olivia * Olivia | AGE 9 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|

my miracle that god did is made my family



NAME

Carter

AGE

10



My grandma had heart issues and had to be airlifted to Rocksprings



Now shes alot better and people thought she might not live.