

Small Group Questions: When Your Ship Has Been Wrecked

Pastor Ernest Smith

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Read

Acts 27:20–32

Reflect

Most, if not all of us, have experienced a storm this year—one we were not prepared for. In the book of Acts, Paul experiences storm after storm. Returning to Jerusalem as an apostle for Jesus rather than as a pious Pharisee, he is prisoned for two years before sailing to Rome to plead his case. On the way there, his ship hits a storm. To survive, the crew throws all the cargo overboard and considers abandoning ship. But Paul has faith that God will save them if they stay on the ship. In what areas of your life have you considered abandoning ship?

Guest speaker, Ernest Smith gives us a strategy to survive the storms: stay on the ship.

1. Don't pretend to be okay when you're not okay.

- a. How hard is it for you to admit things are not okay? Why is it difficult to admit?
- b. What particular area of your life is especially hard to admit is not going well?
- c. Where do you tend to turn first when things go badly? To practical solutions? Yourself? To another person? To God?
- d. If you have reached out for help, what was your experience? What have you learned?
- e. Have you experienced God's steadying hand in a tough situation? If so, explain.

2. Don't change in the dark what God told you in the light.

- a. Is there something you're struggling not to abandon?
- b. In what area of your life do you need to trust God most?
- c. What would it look like to cut the ropes of your back-up plan and be all-in?
- d. Paul knew in many situations that he was heading into a storm. How can you use what God told you prior to a storm to help you get through it?
- e. How has God shown you that he has not abandoned you?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?