

6-WEEK SMALL GROUP GUIDE

BASED ON THE 21 DAY DEVOTIONAL

STILL WATERS DON'T MAKE SAINTS





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ovERview:

This small group guide walks participants through six of the most recognizable and transformational storms from *Still Waters: A 21-Day Journey Through Biblical Storms*.

Each session includes a leader's overview, an anchor Scripture, a main takeaway, key discussion prompts, and a podcast episode to supplement the conversation. Whether you're meeting in homes, cafés, or church settings, this guide will help participants step deeper into the storm—and come out more like Jesus.

HOW TO LEAD THIS GROUP

Welcome to Still Waters Don't Make Saints: The Small Group Journey. This isn't your average study — it's six weeks of gut-level honesty, Scripture-soaked reflection, and practical formation built around the storms we all walk through. **You're not leading a lecture. You're guiding a sacred conversation.**

Here's how to lead well — no seminary required:

1. Create a Safe Space

Your job isn't to fix anyone. It's to hold space. Let people bring their full selves — the doubt, the pain, the questions. Model vulnerability, and remind your group: you don't have to be okay to show up here.

2. Stay Anchored in the Word

Each session begins with Scripture — and that's your anchor. Read it slowly. Out loud. Let it land. If the conversation drifts, bring it back to what Jesus said, did, or revealed.

3. Ask, Don't Preach

Use the discussion questions to spark conversation, not deliver mini-sermons. Let the group wrestle, wonder, and process together. Silence isn't failure — sometimes the best work happens between the words.

4. Leave Room for the Spirit

You don't have to control the outcome. Your goal is formation, not perfection. If someone cries, let them. If someone confesses, hold that with tenderness. God is already moving — you're just guiding people to see it.

5. Close With Intention

End each session by circling back to the Main Takeaway, and invite your group to reflect:

Where did God meet me in this storm?

What's one thing I need to do this week?

You can close in prayer — short and simple works just fine. Let it feel real.

Pro Tips:

- Print the session notes or bring them on your phone/tablet.
- Set the tone early: "This is not a fix-it group. This is a walk-through-it group."
- Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know."
- Keep it to 60–75 minutes max.
- Check in midweek — a text or DM can go a long way.

6

You're not just leading a group. You're helping people see that God's still in the boat. Storm and all.

WEEK 1

The Storm of Disobedience

From: Still Waters Don't Make Saints — Day 01

Main Character: Jonah

Storm: The one you cause when you run from obedience



063: THE ENEMY

LEADER'S OVERVIEW

This week we dive into the uncomfortable truth that sometimes... we are the storm. Jonah didn't just end up in chaos — he chose it. God asked for obedience, and he ran the opposite way. But even in Jonah's rebellion, God never left the scene. This session helps your group confront their own Ninevehs, name where they've been running, and remember that God's grace is still bigger than their disobedience. Expect gut-level honesty, but also hope.

MAIN TEXT (ESV) JONAH 1:1–17

"But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up..." (v.4)

MAIN TAKEAWAY

You can outrun a calling, but you can't outrun God. Even when you're the one who caused the storm, His grace will still meet you in it — not to punish, but to re-route.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Personal:** What's a "Nineveh" you've avoided — something God asked of you that you resisted, delayed, or flat-out ignored?
2. **Scriptural:** Why do you think God allowed Jonah to be thrown into the sea instead of calming the storm immediately?
3. **Theological:** What does Jonah's story teach us about the nature of God's mercy and pursuit — even in our disobedience?
4. **Application:** How can we begin to move toward obedience in areas where we've been running? What's one practical step this week?
5. **Challenge Question:** What are you afraid will happen if you say "yes" to God?

WEEK 2

The Storm of Deliverance

From: Still Waters Don't Make Saints — Day 02

Main Character: Moses & the Israelites

Storm: The one that forces you to move forward — even when you're terrified



**101: WHEN GOD COMES
FOR YOUR COMFORT
ZONE**

LEADER'S OVERVIEW

This week centers on a storm that looks like a trap but is actually deliverance. The Israelites stood with the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh behind them — and panic set in. But what felt like a setup for defeat became a setup for freedom. This storm asks your group: Where do you freeze when God is saying “move”? It's about learning to trust Him, even when the way forward looks impossible.

MAIN TEXT (ESV) EXODUS 14:10–31

“And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today... The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.’” (vv.13–14)

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God doesn't just part seas — He parts you from your past. What looks like a dead end might be divine direction.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Personal:** What's your Red Sea right now — a place where God's asking you to move forward but you're frozen in fear?
2. **Scriptural:** Why do you think God led the Israelites to a place that looked like a trap?
3. **Theological:** What does this storm teach us about the nature of deliverance and God's timing?
4. **Application:** What's one area of your life where you need to stop panicking and start moving?
5. **Challenge Question:** What would trust look like this week — practically, physically, spiritually?

WEEK 3

The Storm of Doubt

From: Still Waters Don't Make Saints — Day 05

Main Character: Peter

Storm: The one that rises after you step out in faith



**035: STRUGGLE IS
A THING**

LEADER'S OVERVIEW

This is the storm that hits not when you're running from God — but when you're walking toward Him. Peter had the faith to step out of the boat, but the moment his focus shifted, fear kicked in. This session is about the inner storms we face after obedience: fear, second-guessing, insecurity. Your group will talk about how to keep walking when trust gets shaky, and how Jesus responds when our faith fails mid-step.

MAIN TEXT (ESV) MATTHEW 14:22–33

"But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand..." (vv.30–31)

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Faith doesn't mean you won't sink — it means you know Who to call when you do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Personal:** Have you ever stepped out in faith and then started to panic? What did that look like?
2. **Scriptural:** What caused Peter to sink — and what does Jesus' response reveal about His character?
3. **Theological:** What does this story tell us about doubt? Is it failure... or formation?
4. **Application:** How can you fix your eyes on Jesus this week — practically, in the middle of your storm?
5. **Challenge Question:** What would you attempt this week if you believed Jesus would catch you?

WEEK 4

The Storm of Rejection

From: Still Waters Don't Make Saints — Day 12

Main Character: Joseph

Storm: The one that starts when those closest to you turn their backs



**039: BREAKUPS
ARE A THING**

LEADER'S OVERVIEW

Joseph didn't get rejected by strangers. He got sold out by his own brothers. This week is about the kind of rejection that stings the most — the kind that comes from people who were supposed to protect you, love you, or stay. This storm challenges your group to confront their pain honestly, without letting it redefine their worth. And it invites them to look at what God can do with what others tried to destroy.

MAIN TEXT (ESV) GENESIS 37:18–28; 50:15–21

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..."
(50:20)

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Rejection may change your direction — but it doesn't cancel your calling.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Personal:** Has rejection from someone close ever altered the way you see yourself? What wound still lingers?
2. **Scriptural:** How did Joseph respond to his brothers in Genesis 50? What does that show us about healing?
3. **Theological:** What does Joseph's story teach us about God's sovereignty in painful situations?
4. **Application:** What does forgiveness look like when the pain still feels fresh?
5. **Challenge Question:** What would it take to trust that God can redeem even this?

WEEK 5

The Storm of Shame

From: Still Waters Don't Make Saints — Day 18

Main Character: The Woman with the Alabaster Jar

Storm: The one that tells you your past disqualifies you from grace



045: SLAYER

LEADER'S OVERVIEW

This week we meet a woman with a reputation — the kind that follows you into rooms and silences them. The storm she's caught in isn't external — it's internal, fueled by whispers, labels, and religious judgment. But when she crashes a Pharisee's dinner and pours everything at Jesus' feet, He doesn't flinch. He defends her. He forgives her. He honors her. This session is for every person who's ever wondered, "Would Jesus still want me if He knew?" Spoiler: He knows. And He's still not pushing you away.

MAIN TEXT (ESV) LUKE 7:36–50

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much." (v.47)

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Shame says, "You don't belong here." Jesus says, "You're the reason I came."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Personal:** What's a label you've worn — something others or even you have used to disqualify yourself?
2. **Scriptural:** How does Jesus respond to the woman vs. how the Pharisee sees her?
3. **Theological:** What does this story teach us about the difference between religion and redemption?
4. **Application:** What would it look like to bring your full self — brokenness and all — to Jesus this week?
5. **Challenge Question:** Where are you still hiding in shame, and what would it take to pour it out like perfume?

WEEK 6

The Storm of Death

From: Still Waters Don't Make Saints — Day 21

Main Character: Jesus

Storm: The one that looks like the end — but isn't



060: GRIEF

LEADER'S OVERVIEW

This is the storm no one outruns — death. It's the silence. The loss. The ache that doesn't go away after a worship set or a good cry. But Jesus didn't avoid death — He walked into it. Willingly. Lovingly. Fully aware of what it would cost. This session isn't just about grief. It's about hope. Because Jesus didn't just die — He overcame. And because He did, we don't grieve like people who have no hope. We grieve anchored.

MAIN TEXT (ESV) LUKE 23:44–46; 24:1–6

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (23:46) "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (24:5–6)

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Death isn't the end of the story — it's the beginning of resurrection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Personal:** What's something in your life that feels like it died — a dream, a relationship, a part of you?
2. **Scriptural:** How did Jesus face death, and what does His posture teach us about surrender?
3. **Theological:** Why does the resurrection matter for us today — not just at Easter, but in everyday storms?
4. **Application:** Where do you need to believe for resurrection in your life — not just comfort, but new life?
5. **Challenge Question:** If death isn't the end, what would you live differently this week?