


"A powerful reminder that our current reality is not our final reality,
and God is Lord over all chaos and suffering!"

—CANDACE CAMERON BURE

actress and *New York Times* bestselling author

IN A BOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A LAKE



TRUSTING THE GOD WHO MEETS US IN OUR STORM

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A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

CHAPTER 1

IN A BOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A LAKE

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Describe a time when you found yourself “in a boat in the middle of a lake.”
2. What was your first reaction to your storm and why?
3. In what ways can our own comfort be an “enemy” of how God wants to shape us?
4. Why is chaos, and not a classroom, often a better teacher?
5. How has your place of anxiety also been a place of abundance?

CHAPTER 2

IT'S OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is being honest about our hurt a necessary step toward healing?
2. In what ways have you ever felt rushed in your pain?
3. Take a moment and read John 4:1–8. Jesus was tired and weary from his journey and ministry. In what ways did he demonstrate his need to be cared for by others?
4. Where do you need to practice good self-care right now?
5. Hope reminds us that our current reality is not our final reality. What new beginnings do you sense God leading you toward?

CHAPTER 3

THIS /S WHAT GOD IS DOING

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. While suffering might feel like an interruption to us, it is instrumental to Jesus. How have you seen the suffering God allowed be the suffering God is using?
2. Take a moment and read Genesis 1:26–27. What does it mean to be made in “God’s image”?
3. How is God using your storm to restore his image in you?
4. Often, we take our hurt to the wrong people or places. Instead of turning to God, who or what are you most tempted to turn to in your suffering?
5. What is the difference between trying to be like Jesus and desiring to be with Jesus?

CHAPTER 4

PRY ME OFF DEAD CENTER

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What uncertainty are you living with right now?
2. In what ways is trust different than obedience?
3. Take a moment and read Psalm 9:10. What truth about God do you need to remember most right now in order to trust him?
4. How do we often try to “be God” when we choose not to trust him?
5. What area of your life or circumstances do you need to surrender to God?

CHAPTER 5

TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF OUR SUFFERING

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Take a moment and read Mark 4:38. What question were the disciples really asking?
2. How are you tempted to let comfort, or the lack thereof, be commentary on God's character?
3. How is the story of Joseph an encouragement to you in your storm?
4. According to Genesis 50:19–20, what perspective did Joseph have that can help us in our suffering?
5. In what ways does fixing our eyes “on what is unseen” enable us to deal with loss or hurt?

CHAPTER 6

THE BLESSING OF THE UNBLESSED LIFE

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. According to Deuteronomy 8, what dangers exist when we are experiencing the blessed life?
2. What were God's people instructed to do to guard their own hearts?
3. In what area of your life are you most tempted toward self-sufficiency?
4. Explain how your suffering has either turned you inward or outward.
5. In what ways do you think the blessed life is not so much what we *get* from God but the life we live *with* God?

CHAPTER 7

WE ARE NOT ALONE

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Take a moment and read Hebrews 13:5 and Psalm 139:8–9. Why is this promise so important to remember in our storms?
2. Why is it important for us to guard how we respond when God seems distant?
3. What “lesser loves” are you discovering in your suffering?
4. How is God using your storm to lead you to delight more in his love?
5. In what ways is Jesus asking you to say yes to him in your suffering?

CHAPTER 8

DISCOVERING WHAT WE REALLY BELIEVE

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. As you think about the disciples in Mark 4, how did the storm reveal a greater threat going on inside of them?
2. How did their storm expose their faith?
3. In what ways has your suffering helped you see what you believe or don't believe?
4. Why is it tempting for you to believe in God's goodness and love for others, but not for you?
5. Where do you need Jesus to help you "overcome your unbelief?"

CHAPTER 9

WHAT SUFFERING SAVES US FROM

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. According to 2 Corinthians 12:7, what did the apostle Paul's suffering save him from?
2. How have you seen your storms protect you?
3. What does God promise us according to 2 Corinthians 12:8–9?
4. In what ways can we bring God and his grace into our everyday lives?
5. Are there particular areas of your own life that you believe God might be training you through or disciplining you in? Why?

CHAPTER 10

WE NEED ONE ANOTHER

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Why are we often tempted to isolate ourselves when we are hurting? How can this be good but also dangerous?
2. How have you been tempted to withdraw from community?
3. What is one way you can cultivate deeper friendship in your suffering?
4. In what ways are you at risk of being hurt in your hurt?
5. Why is it crucial to remember that friends can support us but never ultimately satisfy us like God can?

CHAPTER 11

YOU HAVE A FUTURE

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Take a moment and read Colossians 3:1–4. How does thinking about our future encourage us in the present?
2. What does God promise us in 1 Peter 1:1–5?
3. How does the promise of 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 help put our pain in perspective?
4. How does the feeling of homesickness lead us to experience greater hope?
5. What truth about heaven do you need to hold on to right now?