

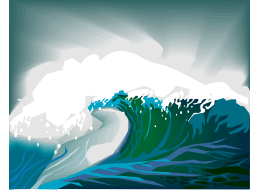
Questions for Reflection and Discussion
Matthew 8:23-34

Getting Started

Have you ever been in a bad storm? Describe your experience.

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 8:23-27.** Describe the setting?
2. Why do you think Jesus was sleeping? (Consider the preceding context.)
3. What do you think about the disciples' fear? Was it justified? Why or why not?
4. If you had been one of the disciples, how do you think you would have reacted to the storm?
5. How did Jesus respond to the disciples' cry for help? What does this reveal about his expectations for his disciples?
6. What does Jesus' command of nature reveal about his identity?
7. **Read Matthew 8:28-34.** Tell the story in your own words.
8. Reflect for a moment on the condition of the two men. List the ways in which they were suffering.
9. What do you think the demons meant in v. 29?
10. Why do you think Jesus allowed the demons to go into the pigs?
11. What was the reaction of the people who witnessed the destruction of the pigs?
12. What was the reaction of the townspeople? Why?
13. What does Jesus' authority over demons reveal about his identity?



Getting Personal

- Are you sailing through some stormy weather at this time?
- What have you learned from this passage that can help you navigate rough waters?