



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: Questioned

Suggested Week of Use: September 17, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 3:20-30

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### News Story Summary

Since the start of 2023, a series of exceptionally intense storms have made a profound impact on various regions around the world. These extreme weather events, ranging from ice storms to powerful hurricanes to formidable typhoons and cyclones, showcased the immense force and variability of Earth's atmospheric systems. Citizens across the globe have experienced the full force of these storms, grappling with record-breaking wind speeds, heavy precipitation, and destructive storm surges. The resilience and readiness of communities were put to the test as they worked tirelessly to manage the aftermath. Their efforts demonstrated the vital importance of disaster response and recovery measures in the face of such challenges.

For more about this story, search “Extreme storms of 2023.”

### Engage

To supplement Engage, share the information about the extreme storms in 2023. Ask: *What is our normal reaction to news of a storm heading our way?* Allow adults to share. Affirm that storms can often induce fear and even panic. Note that storms are outside of our control, which adds to anxiety. (NOTE: Be sensitive to adults who have lived through severe weather events. Also, avoid political debates about climate change. Emphasize preparation and response.)

Ask: *What are some personal storms that can rock our worlds? (Examples: a family death, job loss, financial strain, relational conflicts, and so forth)* Explain that in today's passage, Jesus faced a storm of criticism from His opponents, but He handled it wisely. Share that He also reminded His listeners that He holds authority over everything, including Satan. Encourage adults to use this session to identify ways Jesus can help them handle the storms of life.

### Challenge

To supplement Challenge, remind adults of the weather news from Engage. Ask: *What is the first thing you do when you hear a storm is approaching your house?* Note that experts usually warn us to get to our “safe space,” like a basement, hallway, or closet. Share that facing personal storms also requires us to move to a safe space. Say: *Since we serve a Savior who has authority over everything—including Satan—turning to Him makes sense.* Encourage adults to lean into Jesus during the storms of life. Close the session in prayer, asking God to help adults remember to seek Him when they feel threatened by a storm.