

Storm Front Coming

Overview	Conflict is an inevitable by-product of spiritual growth.
Title	Storm Front Coming
Metaphor/Image	Storm clouds
Treatment	Moving toward God's Way means one will encounter storms, whether in relation to contemporary worship, family attitudes toward your faith, or personal faith development. Conflict is an inevitable by-product of spiritual growth.
Human Need	It's confusing when becoming a follower of Christ creates conflict rather than peace.
Experience	To find comfort that the conflict you experience in your spiritual life, birth or faith family, is a natural part of your faith growth, and that Jesus will sustain you
Word	
Primary Scripture	Luke 12:49-56
Lectionary Week	11 th Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
Related Scripture	Matthew 10:34-36
Topic	
Primary Topics	Conflict, growth, change, family, confusion, hardship, pain, trials
Related Topics	Peace, comfort

Movie Clip Suggestions

1. *Twister* (1996)

Plot: TV weatherman Bill Harding (Bill Paxton) is trying to get his tornado-hunter wife, Jo (Helen Hunt), to sign divorce papers so he can marry his girlfriend. But a series of intense storms draws them back together, as they attempt to insert a revolutionary measuring device into a tornado's eye.

Clip: While visiting at Jo's aunt's house, the storm chasers get word of a coming

storm. They leave the house in a rush. Particularly helpful are the differences between Jo's and Melissa approach to the storm. There are several other possibilities in this film, if the preacher is willing to preach around its storyline.
Time: (VHS) 51:35- 53:04, (DVD) Chapter 15, 2:05-3:34, length 1:29

2. *Keeping the Faith* (2000)

Plot: A story about two friends, a priest (Ed Norton) and a rabbi (Ben Stiller), who fall in love with the same beauty Anna (Jenna Elfman).

Clip: Jake and Anna have a fight about their relationship, and the conflict because of their religious differences. Great scene for illustrating facing risks. Watch for a "hell" in the middle of the scene, may need to rise the sound board.
Time: (VHS) 1:17:33-1:21:03, (DVD) Chapter 20, 4:06-7:36, length 3:30

3. *Wizard of Oz* (1939)

Plot: Dorothy Gale is swept away to a magical land in a tornado and embarks on a quest to see the Wizard who can help her return home.

Clip: The ranch hands scramble around as the twister is coming on the horizon. End is optional.

Time: (VHS) 15:01-17:04, length 2:03

Music Suggestions

1. "Sheltered from the Storm"—Bob Dylan. Perfect for a feature. Your relationship with Christ can sustain you through times of spiritual change and conflict.
2. "Bad Moon Rising"—Creedence Clearwater Revival. 70s hit, good for an opener.
3. "Storm Front"—Billy Joel. 80s hit good for an opener.
4. "Trading My Sorrows"—contemporary praise.
5. "O Young and Fearless Prophet"—hymn
6. "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"—hymn
7. "Stand By Me"—hymn

Lumiclip Description

A cloudy day turns into a driving thunderstorm in this short animation. Good for establishing a storm theme. Hard-driving drama. Running time is :33; Volume 3 Clip 6.

Integration

Call to Worship

Use a personal story here if applicable, or:

"Have you ever been out enjoying a beautiful day when all of a sudden, a storm front appears on the horizon? There is no place to run or hide—you have no choice but to face it head on.

"You may think that being Christian will make your life a sunny day with white puffy clouds and blue skies. It can be confusing and disheartening when storms arise in our family or in our church. Conflicts even happen in our own hearts as we grow and change into the likeness of Christ.

"Jesus recognized that conflict was an inevitable part of his life and ministry and that it would be for all of his disciples as well. These storms are a natural part of moving toward God's Way.

"But know that when the inevitable storm front comes, Jesus will shelter you."

Closing Words

"Go with the comfort and knowledge that even when you can make no sense of your world, you are sheltered with the love and companionship of Jesus."

Prayer

Ask people to meditate on an area in their lives in which they are experiencing conflict. Lead them through a series of responses to their experience, including prayer for the people with whom they are in conflict, whether in their family, at work, in our church or at school; prayer for themselves for patience, love, comfort, strength, and courage—whatever they need to be sustained through the storm; and that through the storm, they will find spiritual growth.

Drama

DRAMATIC: A kid comes into his parents' bedroom in the middle of the night, afraid of the storms.

COMEDIC: A crowd is bunched up in a storm shelter. All of them can't fit in the shelter. They try and force out the least liked person, then possibly the strongest and most "storm-resistant" person. They keep debating and eventually decide to "float" one member of the group above them (like a rock star at a concert). They close everyone up in the shelter. After a short while, the group is fed up with the "floating" option and each other's company. They all spill out the shelter and resort to brave the storm.

Display

One option is to show the elements of fighting a storm: umbrellas, raincoats, galoshes, even sandbags. Another option is to create an atmosphere of a storm for when people enter the sanctuary—using fans for wind, sound effects of storms, etc.

Keywords

Conflict, growth, change, family, confusion, hardship, pain, trials, peace, comfort, storms, weather, *Twister*, *Keeping the Faith*