

LESSON 5

JESUS IS LORD OVER NATURE

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that Jesus, who has the power to do what is humanly impossible, is truly the Son of God.
2. To learn that God alone has the power to help us overcome all of our problems.
3. To gain faith in God and put away our fears by trusting Him with all our hearts.

MEMORY VERSE

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for bringing us together on this Sabbath day so that we can rest and worship Him.
2. Ask God to increase our faith.
3. Ask God to help us to trust in Him to overcome difficulties.



Overview

1. Jesus Walked on Water (Mt 14)

- The disciples were caught in a storm (vv. 22-24)
- Jesus walked on water and comforted the disciples (vv. 25-27)
- Peter walked on water, fell, and Jesus helped him (vv. 28-31)
- Jesus stopped the heavy winds (vv. 32-33)

2. Jesus Calmed a Storm (Mk 4:35-41)

3. Jesus Performed Many Types of Miracles

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God

5. Life Application

- Finding Our Faith: How do we increase in faith? The relationship between prayers and the building up of our faith.
- A Testimony of Faith: God alone has the power to help us overcome all of our difficulties and problems.

6. Activity—Write a Testimony



Background Knowledge for Teachers

In the two Bible stories to be discussed today, the disciples met with great danger caused by nature. Matthew 14:22-33 records a time when the disciples were tossed by waves. They saw the heavy winds and the storm. Water filled their boat, threatening their lives. In these situations, Jesus showed that He is Lord over nature: He walked on water and calmed the storm just by speaking to it. Jesus told His disciples to have faith. Jesus asked the disciples why they feared and lacked faith. The disciples needed to trust in Jesus, and believe in His almighty power.

Hebrews 11:1 records that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is having full conviction or belief, without seeing it happen. In both Bible stories, Jesus reached out to the disciples and helped them although they lacked faith. Out of His great love and mercy for the disciples, He helped them. In John 20:29, Jesus said that those who have believed without seeing are blessed. Jesus blessed those who had faith in His resurrection before they saw Him post-resurrection.

In our lives today, it may be easy to see difficulties as the disciples did. After all, when difficulties occur, they are always so real, right before our eyes. However, the Bible encourages us to trust in the Lord, to look to Jesus instead of looking at our difficulties and worries. For, if we have God, we have nothing to fear.



Reaching Out to Your Students

In life, we will inevitably encounter difficulties and problems. Students at this age may begin to notice their family members experiencing health problems, or they themselves may experience stress in school, peer pressure, or other issues. It is important that they learn to connect their troubles with their faith, to understand that with faith and trust in God, everything will be well.

Jesus is Lord over all, as discussed in today's two Bible stories. There is nothing too difficult for our Lord Jesus, and we must have faith in Him. Encourage your students to bring any worries and difficulties to God. Whenever we are worried or scared, we should remember Philippians 4:6-8: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." When we bring our worries to God in prayer and thanksgiving, God will fill our hearts with peace.



Opener

5 Minutes

Sing and then analyze the hymn "He Will Hide Me" from our church hymnal. Some of the following questions can be used as warm-up questions for discussion: Have any of you seen huge, raging waves in person? Imagine that you were very close to the sea or right in the middle of a raging sea, how would you feel?

A lot of times, life has been compared to a raging sea, with troubles towering over us at times. Think about times when you felt overwhelmed with situations beyond your control or ability to change. What did you do?

Let's see what this hymn encourages us to do. [Talk about the lyrics and use this hymn as an entry point to the Bible stories for today.]



Vocabulary

boisterous: strong

perishing: dying

stern: the back of the boat



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. The students will fill it out during the lesson. Keep one copy to reference during the lesson. The answers have been underlined in this section.

Why did Jesus come to this world? [Give students time to answer.] Out of His great love, Jesus Christ came to preach the gospel and died on the cross to save mankind so that they can have eternal life. Of course, He cared also for man's well-being on earth. One day, there were more than 5,000 people who listened to Jesus Christ preach the gospel. Afterward, they were hungry. Jesus Christ took care of the people and fed them.

Afterward, Jesus instructed the disciples to go into a boat and start sailing to Bethsaida. Then, Jesus sent the people away and went up to a mountain to pray alone. On the way to Bethsaida, the disciples met with danger. **Let's read Matthew 14:24.**

"But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary."

The boat was in the sea, far from land, and caught in heavy winds. Also, it was nighttime. Since the winds were blowing against the disciples, they had to row very hard (Mk 6:48). Can you imagine how the disciples must have felt then? [Let students respond.] Yes, the disciples

were probably very frightened and tired.

Jesus saw the disciples on the boat. **Let's continue reading Matthew 14:25-27 to see what happened next.**

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.'"

When the disciples were caught in a storm, Jesus walked on the water. Is it humanly possible for a person to walk on water? No. Through this, Jesus showed the disciples His great power. Jesus showed that He is God, Lord over nature. For man, walking on water is impossible, but for Jesus, nothing is impossible. **Let's continue reading verses 28-32. We'll refer to the worksheet and fill in the blanks.**

"And Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' So He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased."

Why did Peter start to sink? He saw the boisterous wind and became afraid. It was then that Jesus taught Peter to have faith. **Let's read verse 33.**

"Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God.'"

After all these things happened, the disciples worshipped Jesus. They knew that He is the Son of God.

Now, we'll discuss another time when Jesus also showed that He is Lord over nature. One evening, Jesus and His disciples sailed across a lake (Lk 8:22).

Let's read Mark 4:37-38.

"And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'"

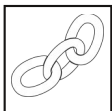
From this, we can see just how frightened the disciples were. They saw the great storm, the boat filling with water, and thought they were going to die. And, they saw Jesus sleeping through the storm! **Let's continue reading verses 39-41.**

"Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!'"

Jesus is truly Lord over nature. He stopped the great storm just by speaking to the wind and waves! Jesus also taught His disciples to have faith! Even in such a frightening situation, the disciples needed to have faith and not be scared, for they needed to believe in Jesus' almighty power. When the disciples were scared, they did not have faith, for faith and fear are opposites. To have faith is to cast all our fears to the Lord, and let Him take charge of whatever situation we're faced with.

FOR TEACHERS

Now, refer to the Bible Discovery Activity teacher handout for a corresponding activity. Go over with the students some other instances in the Bible of how Jesus is the Lord over nature.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Jesus is the **one true God**. He is the Lord over nature. Through His almighty power, Jesus was able to calm the storm. Only the one true God, the Creator of the heavens and of earth, can have power over nature. That is because He was the one that created nature in the beginning. No human or machine has the power to control nature.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **In the first Bible lesson we learned about, why weren't Jesus and the disciples in the boat together?** Jesus had told the disciples to sail to Bethsaida first while He went up to a mountain to pray alone.
2. **How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on the water and why?** They cried out in fear because they thought Jesus was a ghost.
3. **True or False: After the disciples knew that Jesus had walked on water, they all wanted to walk on the water.** False.
4. **Peter started walking on water but then became afraid. Why?** He saw the strong winds.
5. **What did Peter do when he started to sink?** He cried to Jesus, "Lord, save me!"
6. **What did Jesus say to Peter after he cried out?** He said Peter had little faith and asked why he doubted.
7. **Why did the disciples worship Jesus after they first saw Him walk on water and then stop the storm?** They had seen Jesus' power and knew that He was the Son of God.
8. **In the second Bible lesson, how did the disciples react when they saw the boat filling with water?** They woke Jesus up and asked if He cared that they were all dying.
9. **How did Jesus calm the storm?** He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!"
10. **What did Jesus say to the disciples after calming the storm?** He asked why they were scared and didn't have any faith.
11. **What can we learn from the answer above?** We must have faith in God's almighty power and trust in Him at all times, even in times of danger. We should not fear.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[First, go over Worksheet #1 with the students as you read the passages and answer the questions as a class. Then, go over Worksheet #2 by reading the testimony with the students and discussing the questions that follow.]

1. Finding Our Faith

Today, we learned two Bible stories in which there was great danger caused by nature. The disciples were fearful because they saw a great storm. Today, we may not always find ourselves in the middle of a natural disaster. However, a great storm for us can come in the form of any trouble or difficulty. Sometimes, we may feel fear from these troubles and difficulties. However, our Lord Jesus can help us with any kind of difficulty. We must bring our difficulties to God and have faith in Him, for there is nothing too difficult for God. Let us remember this verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Pr 3:5-6).

This brings us to one important question. We know we ought to have faith in God. However, how is faith developed? How do we strengthen our conviction and faith towards God? Let's look at our Life Application Worksheet for today.

1. **How do you define faith? Write down your response without referring to the Bible or discussing it with your classmates.**
2. **Read Hebrews 11:1. How is faith defined in this passage?**
Faith is the belief that what we hope for will happen, even when we can't see it.
3. **Read Hebrews 11:6. Why is it so important to have faith?**
Those who come to God must believe that He is God and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Let's consider how faith is developed.

A. Let's read Mark 9:14-29.

- a. **Why did the father ask the Lord Jesus for help?**
- b. **What did he say to the Lord Jesus in verse 24, and what does this verse teach us about faith?** "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" It teaches us that faith can be prayed for and that the Lord can grant us faith.

B. Let's read Hebrews 12:1.

In chapter 11 of Hebrews, the author cites many examples of faith. Here in 12:1, we're told that we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. What does this verse tell you about how we can gain faith?

The followers of God in the Old Testament, the disciples and believers in the New Testament, plus many believers in our current times have all experienced God in their lives. When we read about them or hear testimonies of God's acts in their lives, we need to meditate and remember. If God took care of them, surely God will care for us according to His great mercy!

C. What effects did the two events in which the Lord Jesus walked on water and calmed the raging storm have on His disciples? Their faith was strengthened.

Indeed, we need spiritual experiences for our faith to be strengthened. Now, I'm guessing you must be thinking in your minds: How can we have spiritual experiences? Well, the answer is, you need to allow God to work in your life.

If you're facing struggles, whether emotional, physical, or in another aspect of life, you need to kneel down and pray. Then, what? You need to learn to wait. There are many instances in the Bible that teach us to wait for the Lord to act. For example, Psalm 40:1 says, "I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry."

Sometimes, even in prayers, we can feel the Holy Spirit guiding us, transforming our hearts and minds to understand our situation better. This requires deep prayers, with patience and calm, meditating upon God's words as we pray. Such experiences will strengthen our faith, and we will know that we can fully entrust our problems to God, for He will surely work something out for us.

D. Let us read this short testimony. [The testimony has been provided on the worksheet.]**Discussion Questions**

1. What are your prayers about? Do you have a list of requests for God to fulfill, or do you think about (meditate upon) God's words in relation to things in your life?
2. Have you ever experienced how praying actually gives you peace or changes your ideas about certain things so that you know you are in tune with God's will?
3. What are the characteristics of a good prayer that is acceptable and pleasing to God?

2. A Testimony of Faith

We have mentioned that faith can be strengthened by learning about God's work in others' lives. Let us now read a testimony of how God cured a boy of an incurable disease. The testimony is about a boy who was very sick. His parent was very worried and scared at first. However, God comforted them in times of fear and helped them.

Life Application Questions**1. What did the boy's parent do when he was heartbroken?**

He called the wife of his colleague, who was a True Jesus Church member, to ask her to pray for his son.

2. Why was he facing an impossible situation?

The doctor had no confidence that his son would live, and treatments did not help him at all.

3. How did God comfort the parent?

The parent saw a ray of light during prayer, the son wanted to be baptized, and the sister from church said the pastor thought the boy should be baptized.

4. What are some things that the parent learned?

To trust and rely on God. Blessed are those who love and believe in God. God listens to our prayers.

Through this testimony, we can see how God guided and comforted the boy's parent. Although the parent faced a situation as big and dangerous as a storm, God calmed the storm for him. We must trust in the Lord and bring our worries and difficulties to Him.



Activity

Write a Testimony

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reflect on God's power and care for us.

Materials

- Lined paper
- Pencils

Instructions

1. Have the students think of a time when God helped them with a difficulty.
2. The students will write a testimony.
3. Remind them about how to begin and end a testimony
 - Begin: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify.
 - End: May all the glory be unto God.
4. If time permits, have the students share their testimonies by reading them aloud to the class. Alternately, group students into pairs and have each pair exchange testimonies.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. They cried out in fear because they thought Jesus was a ghost.
2. He saw the strong winds.
3. They had seen Jesus' power and knew that He was the Son of God.
4. He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!"
5. We must have faith in God's almighty power and trust in Him at all times, even in times of danger. We should not fear.
6. Answers may vary.

Other Events in Which the Lord Jesus Showed Power over Nature—Bible-reading and Sharing among Students

Preparations

1. Prepare index cards and write down the following passages, writing one on each index card. If there are more students than passages, please repeat the passages and have two index cards with the same passages. (Or, you can use other miracles performed by the Lord Jesus and write down the biblical references.)
2. Put all the cards in a box or envelope so the students can take turns to draw a card.
3. After drawing a card, they will read the passage they have picked, and then share about what they have read, according to the questions you will ask.

Bible passages

- Mt 21:19-21
- Lk 7:11-17
- Jn 2:1-11
- Lk 17:11-14
- Mt 9:27-29
- Mk 1:21-27

Say to the students: "From the two events on the sea, we have seen that the Lord Jesus is Lord over the forces of nature. Now, we're going to do a short exercise and look at other events in the Bible that also testify to the fact that our Lord Jesus is Lord over nature."

I have here with me [number of] index cards. These cards contain Bible passages. I'd like for each one of you to come up and pick one card. Read the Bible passage written on the card, and then share with your classmates what the passage is about. In particular, please focus on the following question."

Discussion topic: How does this passage/event show that Jesus is God and that He can solve all types of problems?

[The students will read the card, describe what happened in the passage, and then answer the discussion question. Each passage should be shared about at least once.]

Explanations to the students during discussion:

- **Jesus cursed the fig tree (Mt 21:19-21)** – No human can make a tree wither at will.
- **Jesus healed the lepers (Lk 17:11-14)** – Leprosy may be curable today, but it requires strong doses of a combination of drugs. In the days when Jesus was on earth, there were no such drugs, yet Jesus cured the lepers by just His words.
- **Jesus raised the son of the widow at Nain (Lk 7:11-17)** – No one but God can raise a dead person and bring him back to life.
- **Jesus healed two blind men (Mt 9:27-29)** – There are other instances of the Lord healing the blind.
- **Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana (Jn 2:1-11)** – There is no "magician's trick" behind this; water simply changed into wine!
- **Jesus cast out an evil spirit (Mk 1:21-27)** – A lot of emotional and mental diseases are works of the devil. Jesus, being God, has power over evil spirits, too.

Conclusion

The miracles performed by the Lord Jesus varied greatly. He healed sicknesses. He restored disabilities. He even raised the dead to life. We are so blessed to know Him, and to be His children. We can turn to Him for every trouble we face!

Let's read Romans 8:31-32. Let us have faith in God, for He will help us in everything, and will give us the best according to His will.

JESUS IS LORD OVER NATURE

Instructions: Follow along with the teacher and fill in the blanks when necessary.

Fear

Have Faith

<p>Matthew 14:30 "But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was _____; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'"</p>	<p>Matthew 14:31 "And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of faith, why did you _____?'"</p>
<p>Mark 4:38 "But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are _____?'"</p>	<p>Mark 4:40 "But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have _____ faith?'"</p>

In both Bible stories, what threats did the disciples see?

Matthew 14:24 "the boat was t_____ by waves."

What danger did Peter see?

Matthew 14:30 "the wind was b_____."

Although the disciples feared and saw danger, Jesus encouraged them to have faith. He wanted them to see and believe in Jesus' great power instead of seeing the dangerous end to the situation.



FINDING OUR FAITH

1. **How do you define faith?** Write down your response without referring to the Bible or discussing it with your classmates.

2. Read Hebrews 11:1. **How is faith defined in this passage?**



3. Read Hebrews 11:6. **Why is it so important to have faith?**

Let's consider how faith is developed.

A. Let's read Mark 9:14-29.

- a. Why did the father ask the Lord Jesus for help?
- b. What did he say to the Lord Jesus in verse 24, and what does this verse teach us about faith?

B. Let's read Hebrews 12:1.

C. What effects did the two events in which the Lord Jesus walked on water and calmed the raging storm have on His disciples?

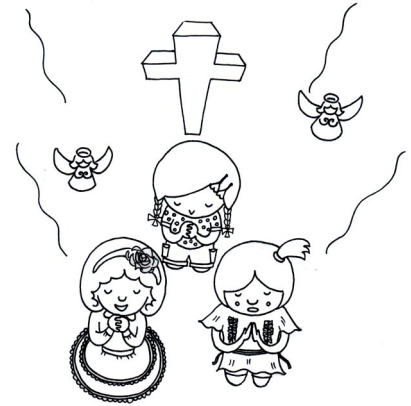
D. Let us read this short testimony.

Sis. Susan had gotten into a conflict with a brother in church. She thought the matter had blown over when she approached the brother and said she hoped that the misunderstanding would clear up and that they were still friends. Unfortunately, the situation worsened because the brother did not think it was a small matter, and he even said unkind words to her.

Susan was very troubled at heart. She went through quite a bit of an emotional roller coaster. She was full of anger against that brother. She prayed, but her anger could not be abated, so her mood was affected. She also felt wronged, and even grew hateful in her heart. Nevertheless, she knew that she had to remember God's words, and not sin against God in her anger (e.g., Eph 4:26a "Be angry, and do not sin.") She knew that she must not grieve the Holy Spirit by sinning, either with her speech or her actions. That was the least she could do to let the Holy Spirit guide her as she waited for God to help her through her emotions. She knew that prayers should not be all about what one feels or has complaints about. Rather, deep prayers should be done with meditation on the words of God.

To help herself, she asked for two good spiritual friends to pray with her. One day, after praying, one of the sisters who had been praying with her shared with her some encouragement about the need to forgive and let things go. After the long sharing, Susan had a long prayer by herself, thinking through her possible weaknesses that prevented her from letting the matter go. She realized that it was her pride that caused her to feel that the brother should be the first to apologize. She realized that her own ideas should be secondary to the importance of having peace between brothers and sisters. Such realizations were the work of the Holy Spirit, for Susan herself could not have thought in this direction.

In her prayers, she repented before God. She understood that her own ego must go. Her own ideas must go. Only God's glory should prevail. And, to bring glory to God's name, she must humble herself and take the initiative to make peace, never mind what the other party thought or felt. Right after making such a decision and promise to God in her prayers, Susan felt completely at peace.



Discussion Questions

1. What are your prayers about? Do you have a list of requests for God to fulfill, or do you think about (meditate upon) God's words in relation to things in your life?
2. Have you ever experienced how praying actually gives you peace or changes your ideas about certain things so that you know you are in tune with God's will?
3. What are the characteristics of a good prayer that is acceptable and pleasing to God?

A TESTIMONY OF FAITH

Wonderful Grace

Tezen Ye Ming

One day during the year when my son was in second grade, he came home from school complaining that his leg hurt him very badly. I discovered that his tonsils were also swollen. Three months later he complained of pain in the right of his abdomen. I took him to see a doctor. The diagnosis was that he had leukemia (blood cancer). Some days were good for him; some bad. This unstable state was so uncontrollable that the doctor said there was no surety that he would live another day. So, we were living from day to day. I, being a faithful Buddhist, was heartbroken. I had never been a terribly bad person so I could not figure out why this tragedy had happened to my only beloved son.

Then I remembered the wife of my colleague who was a very religious Christian in the True Jesus Church. I called her, and explained the situation to her in the hope that she could offer some help through prayers. She immediately came to the hospital the next day to pray for my son. She had also come with many members of the True Jesus Church. During the next few months, they came often to pray for my son.

After about four months, there was still no improvement in my son's condition and the doctor kept increasing the amount of drugs for him, finally reaching what was 54 times the original dose, from 25cc to 1350cc. I was very shocked, but that doctor said that was his only hope for survival and if he did not respond he would die anyway.

My son bled continuously, and every couple of minutes, a nurse had to wipe the blood off his mouth. One day when I was carrying him to the washroom, his body just went totally out of control, and his eyes turned up so that only the whites showed. After we prayed for a while, he became calm but seemed so weak that I thought death was near. Three days later, early in the morning, I was praying in his hospital room when I saw a ray of light beaming upon my head. After my prayer, I was wiping some blood from my son's mouth when all of a sudden, my son sat up and, in a loud voice, said that he felt much better and wanted to be baptized. At that moment, the wife of my colleague came in and coincidentally announced that the pastor felt that my son should be baptized.

After he was carried into the water and baptized, my son walked to the car by himself and started playing with the steering wheel. Later that night, he wanted to eat cake and drink milk. He had not been able to eat for four days already. His temperature was back to normal again. Since then, his visits to the hospital were only for checking up on his progress. He later returned to school and was an energetic child.

Praise the Lord! Jesus is the Almighty God; He is merciful and powerful and will listen to our prayers. Blessed are those who love Him and believe in Him. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Life Application Questions

1. What did the boy's parent do when he was heartbroken?

2. Why was he facing an impossible situation?

3. How did God comfort the parent?

4. What are some things that the parent learned?

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 5—Jesus Is Lord over Nature

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

Short Answer

1. How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on the water and why?
2. Peter started walking on water but then became afraid. Why?
3. Why did the disciples worship Jesus after they first witnessed Him walking on water and stopping the storm?
4. How did Jesus calm the storm?
5. What can we learn from the answer above?
6. Did you have any difficulties this week? How did you trust in God to help you overcome them?