

**Hang On! Help is on the Way!**  
**John 16:5-33**

**LAUNCH**

**[Arouse Attention]**

A few years back, a lot of us watched with sad amazement the reports from Japan after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake provoking a tsunami sent 30-foot walls of water as far as six miles into the heart of Japan, taking the lives of more than 10,000 people, leaving thousands more homeless, and wiping entire villages and towns off the map. In describing the earthquake, one person said, “The earth shook with such ferocity I thought things were coming to an end...it was simply terrifying.”

**[Surface Fallen Condition]**

I noticed a couple things as I read accounts of the disaster. There’s a great sense of disorientation that people experience when something like this happens. And there’s an obvious need for help. The circumstances are so dire that managing on one’s own just isn’t an option.

**[Connect Audience to Fallen Condition]**

We may not have gone through anything like the Japanese disaster, but many of us have experienced metaphorical earthquakes—like a divorce, the death of a loved one, or being betrayed by a close friend—that have left us disoriented and crying out for help. Maybe you’re here this morning, and that’s exactly your experience.

I know for me being on staff with Cru Campus, the restructuring we’re going through has felt disorienting. Aspects of it have felt like a metaphorical earthquake, leaving me wondering what kind of role is best for me and whether I should even stay on staff with Cru.

Whatever our situation, a driving desire that many of us have when we’re hit with those kinds of circumstances is to find solid ground.

**[Frame the MBI]**

So how can we stand on solid ground when a metaphorical earthquake strikes?

In the hours before Jesus’ death, his closest followers were going through this kind of situation. They had pinned their hopes on him to be their hero and rescuer, but he was talking about being crucified and them being persecuted. The things he was saying didn’t fit with their categories. Their world was being shaken. They felt disoriented and were crying out for help in their hearts.

**[Introduce the Passage]**

What would Jesus do to address their disorientation and need for help? It’s an important

question, because it helps us understand how Jesus wants to address the disorientation and need for help that we often face. So let's explore that by looking at John 16:5-33.

## CLOSE

### **[Move Hearers to Respond]**

As if the earthquake and tsunami in Japan weren't devastating enough, these disasters gave way to a nuclear disaster because of their effect on a Japanese nuclear facility. At the forefront of the effort to avert the nuclear disaster was a group of engineers known as The Fukushima 50. It was actually several teams of 50 workers each that had been exposed to high levels of radiation and had resigned themselves to death for the sake of their nation. As Japan's prime minister told them, "You are the only ones who can resolve a crisis. Retreat is unthinkable."

### **[State (reduced) MBI and Show How it Answers Fallen Condition]**

Those words might just as well have been spoken about Jesus Christ. He steps into our disorientation and the metaphorical earthquakes that strike us. He sacrifices his own life to preserve ours. He's the only one that can truly resolve our crisis. Retreat was unthinkable for him. So how can we stand on solid ground when a metaphorical earthquake strikes? We receive Jesus' help, joy, and peace. We receive Jesus' help, joy, and peace.

**(Full MBI: Because Jesus lets us stand on solid ground when a metaphorical earthquake strikes, we can receive his help, joy, and peace.)**

*NOTE: I decided to move them to respond first and then return to the MBI.*