

## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

*In A Boat in the Middle of a Lake: Trusting the God Who Meets Us in Our Storm*  
Patrick & Ruth Schwenk

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“At some point, we all find ourselves in a boat in the middle of a lake.  
We all find ourselves in water. In a storm. And far from shore.  
And yet, as much as we would prefer to be *by* the lake rather than *in* it,  
we wouldn’t trade this storm – and what God is doing – for anything.  
We say that with a bit of fear and trembling. With humility. But we do mean it.”  
-- Patrick & Ruth Schwenk

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- Patrick and Ruth, your marriage has endured some pretty tough seasons. Multiple miscarriages and most recently Patrick’s cancer diagnosis (at age 43). How did that diagnosis unfold?
- How did you lead your family during your cancer diagnosis?
- How did you grow as a couple during that time of suffering?
- What are some ways God uses suffering or trials to change his people? What has that looked like for you?
- You write that “Suffering is not a form of punishment but, rather, one of the ways God can protect us.” How did you discover this perspective?
- How would you encourage someone who feels angry or disappointed with God today?
- In what ways does God uses suffering to expose what we truly believe?
- How important is community (or friendship) when you’re in the midst of a storm?
- What is God up to during our seasons of dryness or burnout?
- How does God purify our love in the midst of chaos?
- How can a Christian care for him/herself during seasons of suffering?
- You write about the importance of heaven during the times that life hurts like hell. How are those two related?

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**Guest/s:** Patrick & Ruth Schwenk - Blog: [TheBetterLifeMinistry.com](http://TheBetterLifeMinistry.com) - Podcast: Rootlike Faith

**Book title:** *In A Boat in the Middle of a Lake: Trusting the God Who Meets Us in Our Storm*

**Available:** September 2020 wherever books are sold (Nelson Books) [www.InaBoatBook.com](http://www.InaBoatBook.com)