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Date: June 10, 2020

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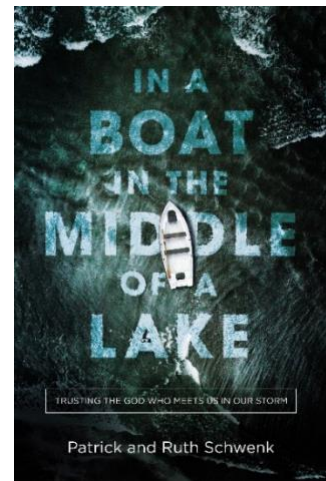
PATRICK & RUTH SCHWENK OFFER READERS HOPE: 'THE STORM YOU ARE IN DOESN'T HAVE TO SINK YOU'

FOUNDERS OF POPULAR BLOGS & PODCAST SHARE THEIR STORY OF CANCER, CHAOS AND HOPE

Nashville, TN — At age 43, Patrick Schwenk received a shocking diagnosis: incurable cancer. He was a husband, a father of four, an author and a pastor. In fact, Patrick and his wife Ruth had served in ministry their entire married life – almost twenty years. They suddenly felt disoriented. Alone. Drifting. And that's when their transformation began.

In a Boat in the Middle of a Lake: Trusting the God Who Meets Us in Our Storm (Nelson Books, Sept. 2020), is their story. But it's also everyone's story.

"At some point we all find ourselves in a boat in the middle of a lake -- uncertain about what is going to happen next, in danger of sinking as the storm rages," Patrick and Ruth explain. "The good news is that we are not alone. God is with us. And just as He was trustworthy on the shore, He is trustworthy in the middle of the lake."



In their compassionate and powerful new book, the Schwenks weave together lessons from their own experience with insightful Bible teaching. They help readers see that one of the greatest ways God transforms his children is through trials. The authors unpack why Jesus called his disciples into the middle of a lake when dry ground was so safe and comfortable. ***In a Boat in the Middle of a Lake*** helps readers:

- understand why the depth of our hurt enables us to experience deep hope
- learn to conquer fear to experience the freedom God has for us
- discover how God uses chaos, and not just the classroom, to shape and work through us.

"Today—in your confusion about God's intentions, your disappointment over lost dreams, your disillusionment about prayer—God is offering hope," they write. "Jesus is still Lord over the water. And while he is not moved by the waves, he is moved by you."

Major takeaways:

- ✦ *Chaos*, not the classroom, is our greatest teacher
- ✦ Without the depth of our hurt, we would never know *the depth of our hope in Christ*
- ✦ Suffering is not an interruption to what God is doing; it *is* what God is doing
- ✦ Hope isn't just something we hold onto in the dark; *hope holds us* in the darkness
- ✦ If we have Jesus, we have everything. Which means, we can lose everything and *still have it all*
- ✦ Even when Jesus doesn't stop the chaos *around* us, he can calm the chaos *inside* us

Regardless of a reader's specific struggle – job loss, the death of a loved one, disability, divorce, or financial insecurity – they will find the Schwenks to be wise and compassionate companions through dark times.

"If not for the storm, the disciples would not have discovered the goodness, power and faithfulness of the God who was with them," the Schwenks write. "And though 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."

Nelson Books is supporting the launch of ***In A Boat in the Middle of a Lake*** with a national publicity campaign, digital advertising, and social media promotions.



Patrick and Ruth Schwenk have dedicated their lives to local church ministry and online ministry. They are the founders of two popular blogs, FortheFamily.org and TheBetterMom.com, as well as a new podcast, Rootlike Faith. Patrick and Ruth have each authored multiple books. Their newest book together, *In a Boat in the Middle of a Lake: Trusting the God Who Meets Us in Our Storm*, arrives September 2020. The Schwenks have been married 21 years and live in Ann Arbor, MI, with their four children, two dogs and one hamster. www.InaBoatBook.com

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

By Patrick & Ruth Schwenk

www.InaBoatBook.com

Available from Nelson Books, September 2020

PRICE: U.S. \$18.99 FORMAT: Trade Paper PAGES: 224
ISBN: 9781400216871 CATEGORY: Religion / Christian Life / Spiritual Growth

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