

JESUS CALMED A STORM

Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8



One evening, Jesus said to His disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee” They set out and began to sail across, and other boats were with them. Jesus lay down in the back of the boat and fell asleep on a cushion.

While Jesus slept, the wind began to blow. Suddenly a powerful storm arose on the sea. The wind became so strong it caused waves to pour into the disciples’ boat. The disciples, many of them fishermen, had been in storms before—but this storm was fierce. They thought they might drown!

The disciples rushed to Jesus and woke Him. “Lord, save us!” they shouted, “Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”

Jesus stood up. He looked at the roaring wind and the crashing waves and said, “Silence! Be still!”

Right away, the wind stopped. The waves became calm. Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

Christ Connection: The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the Son of God, the

promised Savior. One day, Jesus would show His greatest power—not by calming a storm, but by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save people from sin. Jesus saves everyone who trusts in Him.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

•What do you like to do when it's raining outside?

2 SESSION STARTER

☐ OPTION 1: SWEEP UP



Choose one kid to be the storm. Instruct the kid who is the storm to stand in the middle of the room. Explain that when you say, Go, everyone must run around to avoid being tagged by the storm. If a kid is tagged, he or she becomes part of the storm by linking arms with the first kid. Now both kids must run together and attempt to tag others. As more kids are tagged, the storm will continue to grow. Play until only one kid remains free.

SAY “ Storms can be scary and unpredictable! Today’s story tells about a scary storm Jesus’ disciples were in. But we will learn that **JESUS CALMED A STORM TO SHOW THE DISCIPLES HE IS GOD.** ”

☐ OPTION 2: BEACH BALL BALANCE

Place a parachute in the middle of the room. Invite the kids to gather around the parachute and pick up a handle. Throw an inflated beach ball in the middle of the parachute. Tell the kids to begin moving the parachute up and down like waves. Encourage them to keep the parachute moving, while keeping the ball, or boat, from falling off. When you say, switch, each kid should swap places with someone else without letting the boat fall. Continue play as time allows.

SAY “ Keeping the ball from falling was no easy task. Storms may be scary, but they are no match for God! Together we will learn that **JESUS CALMED A STORM TO SHOW THE DISCIPLES HE IS GOD.** ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about when Jesus calmed a storm. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8.

•What does this story teach us about God?

JESUS CALMED A STORM TO SHOW THE DISCIPLES HE IS GOD. The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the God of the universe, and He has power over all of creation. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior.

•How does this story show that Jesus is both human and God?

In these verses, we see a unique picture of who Jesus is. Jesus was asleep in the boat, both tired because He is human, but unafraid because He is God. Jesus commanded the storm to be still, and the wind and waves immediately became calm, showing that He is God.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Share that Carter Bearden preached for 48 years, but he didn't use his mouth to tell others about Jesus; he used his hands. He was deaf, and he preached powerfully using American Sign Language (ASL).

Carter became a Christian when he was a boy living in Dallas, Texas. Carter said his local church greatly influenced his life through their ministry to Deaf children. After Carter graduated from the school for the Deaf, college, and seminary, he served as a missionary to the Deaf, primarily in Georgia and Tennessee. Soon he was being asked to preach to the Deaf community all around the country. During his career, Carter preached regularly, helped churches start ministries to the Deaf, and assisted in starting new Deaf churches. He also helped train interpreters for the Deaf to serve in churches.

Carter wrote several books and Bible studies for both Deaf and hearing populations. Even in his 90s, Carter was still teaching Bible study courses at two churches near him.

Pray, thanking God for people like Carter Bearden, who helped many Deaf people learn about Jesus.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Jesus not only has power over nature, but through His death and resurrection He has revealed that He has power over sin and death. Those who repent of their sin and turn to Him as Lord do not need to fear. Their sin is forgiven, and their greatest enemies have been defeated! To learn more about what it means to trust your life to Jesus, you can see one of your parents or church leader.

4 PRAY

God, we trust that Your Word is eternal. Through Your Word, You have provided us peace during times of trouble. In a world of uncertainty, help us give people encouragement through the good news of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- How do we become less fearful?
- What is a fear you can trust God with today?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Mark 4. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 4:37-41.

Explain that today's story is found in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These three books are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels, which means summary or synopsis. The Synoptic Gospels all share a summary of events of Jesus' life on earth that contain similarities.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Mark 4:37-41 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think the disciples asked 'Who is this man?' Did they not know who Jesus was?

Explain that the disciples' response did not show a lack of knowledge. Their response demonstrated that Jesus was unlike any other man. Explain that only God has power over the forces of nature. The disciples' question acknowledged that Jesus is both human and God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Colossians 2:9.)

2. What does Jesus' power over nature teach us about His role in creation?

Lead kids to think about Jesus' command to the sea in this story. Scripture reminds us that God controls the waves and tells them how far to come. Point to Jesus' identity as the Word who was with God in creation. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Job 38:8-11; John 1:1-3.)

3. How can we focus our minds on God's character every day?

Remind kids that God has revealed Himself to us through His Word and His Son, who is the Word made flesh. Scripture tells us that Jesus gives peace to those who focus on Him. By reading God's Word and praying every day, we can equip ourselves to focus on who God is, despite our circumstances. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isaiah 26:3.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Is the Bible true?
Yes, the Bible is true and has no error.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Isaiah 40:8. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Share that storms and trials will come in life. But God's Word is the trustworthy foundation we can build our lives on because it never fades.

Write each word of the key passage on index cards. Tie a bandana around each kid's forehead. Place one word of the key passage in his or her bandana so others can see it. Encourage the kids to silently work together to line up shoulder to shoulder in the correct order of the key passage by looking at their classmates' cards. Once in the correct order, invite the kids to recite the key passage from memory.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His comfort in the midst of the difficult moments we face in life.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

TRUE AND WITHOUT ERROR

Remind kids of our big picture question and answer: **Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true and has no error.** Create groups of three or four kids and give each group a Bible. Assign each group a Bible verse about the trustworthiness and importance of Scripture, such as 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105; or Romans 10:17. Lead the groups to look up their Scripture, read it, and discuss what it teaches. Give each group time to share with the larger group. After everyone has gone, give each kid an index card and something to write with. Encourage them to choose one of the verses and write it on the card and keep it in their Bible.

Remind preteens that the Bible is true and without error. We can trust what it says. The more we read the Bible and store God's Word in our hearts, the more it will come to mind when we face with difficult times.