



Miracles of Jesus – Calming the storm

Point of the day: Jesus is always the Captain of the storm

Memory Verse: "Getting to his feet, Jesus told the wind, "Silence!" and the waves, "Quiet down!" They did it. The lake became smooth as glass." Luke 8:24

LEADERS NOTES

This is a miracle that I think all of us can identify with. There are so often storms in our lives that rock us and makes us feel fearful and unsafe. It can seem like Jesus just isn't there, even though we know he has authority to act. We can easily identify with the fear and frustration felt by the disciples as they were rocking from side to side on the boat, uncertain of the future. I know I am so quick to feel frustration and annoyance at God when things don't go to plan or seem scary and uncertain. One commentary states that this miracle highlights the fact that faith and fear cannot exist together. Jesus had complete faith in the Father and then had no fear. This is a real challenge to the way our faith impacts the fear that we feel. What faith and view of Jesus do we have and do we realize that this an antidote to fear? I know I often feel fearful but don't realize that I am often trusting completely in my own ability to completely sort something and not recognizing the power and authority of Jesus. Even when I don't feel like Jesus is near it is learning how to trust that He is ultimately above it all.

After all God created the world by a word and this miracle shows that he calms the storm by a word. This shows his authority, power and deity. Jesus didn't just seem to control nature; He commanded it.

Other commentaries have highlighted the way in which that Jesus seemingly sleeps through the despair that the disciples are feeling. However, he knew that they were boatman and could handle the storm, they had the skills to cope. There are times in life when although we feel like Jesus isn't present He is in the boat with us as we navigate certain storms but he is trusting us to sail. He hasn't left and also, like we said earlier, He does have ultimate control and power. In those moments where Jesus feels absent or asleep I have found that I often see a new perspective, realize new characteristics of God and see His strength in me. It is therefore in these times of turbulence that we grow, seek Him more and learn to trust.

For people who are often those that make things happen, bring about change or lead others, this parable can be a particular challenge. We often feel very in control and know that we have the ability and strength to sort many things out ourselves. This is not how we were meant to live with Jesus. It is in the moments of the storm that we feel like we have lost control that we have the decision to make; do we chose fear or faith? There is also the challenge of knowing how to stand with others as they battle the storms of life, especially when we don't have any answers. Are we able to sit with them in the mystery with faith?

This is an opportunity for the children to share about the things that they feel are the storms in their life and be reminded of Jesus' power and authority and that we can trust Him.



ACTIVITY ONE –

Type of activity: Video

Jesus Calms the Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYLHqdSO90Y>

This story is based on Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25, and Matthew 8:23-27

Equipment: Video and the means to play it

Duration: 15min

Discuss these questions:

- What do you think the disciples were most afraid of?
- How did Jesus calm the storm?
- How did Jesus calm the fears of the disciples during the storm?
- What fears do you have?
- Can Jesus calm your fears? How do you think he does that?

The Point: To teach them a story

ACTIVITY TWO -

option 1 GREEN BLAZE

Type of activity: Bible Lesson

Big Storm

Equipment: None

Duration: 10 min

Sit the children in a circle. Show them how to make a storm using their hands – first rub them together then pat their thighs with their hands and lastly drum on the floor. They can also add “wheew” noises with their mouths, although this might lead onto more noise than is easy to control. Practice making the storm louder and quieter by raising and lowering your hands.

Now ask the children to sit quietly, but to start to make the storm when your hands indicate that it needs to start.

Tell the story:

Jesus and his disciples were sailing across the lake It was a peaceful evening, and Jesus was tired. He fell asleep in the stern of the boat.

Suddenly a strong wind started. (Rub hands)

The wind got wilder and the rain fell. (Pat knees)



The storm grew worse (Pat floor), and the disciples started to be scared that they were going to drown. (Vocal effects if desired)

The disciples woke Jesus up, crying, "Master! We are all going to die!"

Jesus woke up and sat up. He looked at the waves and said, "Peace! Be still!"

(All sound effects cease at once)

The wind obeyed Jesus. The rain stopped. It was a beautiful evening.

Jesus' disciples were relieved – and a little bit scared. Who was Jesus? Even the wind did what he said!

The Point: To tell the story simply.

Option 2 BLUE BLAZE

Type of activity: Bible Lesson

Conscious Alley

Duration: 10 min

Equipment: The Jesus Storybook Bible or similar story Bible

Read the Bible story and after you have read it once ask the children to think about the disciples.

Get the children to think about what they must have been thinking as they set sail. Then get one child to be a disciple and ask them to walk between two lines of other children.

As the child walks past each child lined up the one in the line says what they think the disciple would be thinking as they set off on the boat. (e.g. "Oh, it is a lovely day, we are so glad to be out here with Jesus.")

Repeat the same activity with a different child for the disciple and at different parts in the story (when the storm started and Jesus wouldn't wake up and after the storm.)

Ask the children to think about how this miracle might have changed the disciples view of God. What does this miracle tell us about God's character?

The Point: To retell the story and to think about how characters might be feeling.

ACTIVITY THREE –

Type of activity: Craft

Jesus calms the storm

Equipment: template, coloured pencils, scissors, metal brag

Duration: 10 min

This craft is simple, but fun. It will help reinforce the story of Jesus calming the sea. It's a nice reminder that when the world is raging around us, God is in control of it all.

- Color the templates.
- Cut out the templates.
- Make a small hole with scissors or a pin on the black dot in the middle of the circle and on the boat. Stick a metal brad through it. Open and bend the legs.
- Now turn the circle. The skies will go from rain and thunder to calm and sunny



The Point: To remember the story



