



STORMY SEAS

Disciples & Early Church • U1#4 1st-3rd Gr. • June 30, 2024

Concept

We all will have trouble and problems in this life, but when we look to Jesus we can have peace regardless of our circumstances.

Goal

Students will that because God is with them, they can have peace in every circumstance!

Passage

Matthew 14:22-33; John 16:33

Key Verse: "... in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bible Concordance</i> • <i>Dry erase marker</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>9 dowel rods on stands (or 9 cups)</i> • <i>Velcro for starting line</i> 	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods, Glen Keane</i> • <i>Security Guidelines for writing to missionaries</i> • <i>Stampers</i> • <i>Stamp pads</i> • <i>8½" x 11" cardstock or construction paper, ½ sheet/student</i> • <i>Stickers</i> • <i>Markers</i> • <i>Pens</i> • <i>Scissors</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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“Jesus was not rebuking the disciples in this passage. Their faith was real, but it was disordered and unfocused, and was not at work in the important realities of life. The disciples were scattered to their own concerns and they had interests apart from Jesus Christ. After we have the perfect relationship with God, through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, our faith must be exercised in the realities of everyday life. We will see ruin and barrenness, to know what internal death to God’s blessings means. Are we prepared for this? It is certainly not of our own choosing, but God engineers our circumstances to take us there. Until we have been thorough that experience, our faith I sustained only by feelings and blessings, But once we get there, no matter where God may place us or what inner emptiness we experience, we can praise God that all is well. That is what is meant by faith being exercised in the realities of life.”

“Do we not see God at work in our circumstances? Dark times are allowed and come to us through the sovereignty of God. Are we prepared to let God do what He wants with us? Are we prepared to be separated from the outward, evident blessings of God? Until Jesus Christ is truly our Lord, we each have goals of our own which we serve. Our faith is real, but it is not yet permanent. And God is never in a hurry. If we are willing to wait, we will see God pointing out that we have been interested only in His blessings, instead of in God Himself. The sense of God’s blessings is fundamental.”

“‘[B]e of good cheer, I have overcome the world.’ (16:33) Unyielding spiritual fortitude is what we need.” [1]

Rather than be surprised and devastated by trials, we can become beacons for Jesus as we turn to Him and acknowledge His sovereignty. The tendency is to isolate and try to protect ourselves from suffering and pain. When we do this we project unbiblical expectations for the Christian life. Indeed trials are a reality of this life. However, in Christ we have the peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7) as we choose to look to Him and respond in faith. Trials do not magically draw us closer to God or make our faith stronger. As we turn to God, He will provide exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we can ask or imagine and our faith in Him will be deepened.

[1] Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, “The Way to Permanent Faith,” April 4, Quick Verse special edition, Parsons Technology.

Activity Stations:

• **Story— Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods**

- **Instructions:** After you read the story discuss what happened when Adam kept close to King Aren and when he took his eyes off King Aren and focused on other things or circumstances. He was secure and at peace while with King Aren. When he focused on things or circumstances, he lost his way, was afraid and thought he would die. As soon as he was back with King Aren, the peace and security returned. Who do you think King Aren is supposed to be a picture of? Did King Aren make the Lost Woods fun and easy to walk through? No, the woods had howling, cold winds and twisted trees, but King Aren went with Adam and knew which way to go. As Adam held tight to King Aren's hand King Aren walked him through the scary forest.

• **Craft – Greeting Cards**

- **Instructions:** Our lesson this week is about how we deal with various trials. We have missionaries in various parts of the world. What trials might they encounter? (Learn new language, make new friends, understand the culture, want to tell people about Jesus in a country where it is illegal.) One of the best ways we can pass on what we've learned or been reminded of is to remind and encourage someone else with that truth. Our key verse is, "... in Jesus you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! Jesus has overcome the world" (John 16:33). With provided materials, make a card that would encourage the missionaries to trust Jesus, who is their peace. We will mail the cards to the teams.
- **Teachers, please note: Please have students follow attached security instructions!**

During the last few days of Jesus' live here on earth He spent a lot of time talking with His best friends, the twelve disciples. During the three years He had spent with them, He taught them what it means to be His disciple. The last day before Jesus died He told them that He would not be with them much longer because He was going back to be with God, the Father. He said, "... in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). This is our key verse. Jesus knew that in just a few hours He would be arrested, the disciples would reject Him, He would be crucified and die on the cross. He knew that the disciples would be alone, sad, and afraid without Him. He knew that it would be a very difficult time for them. He wanted them to know that He would give them peace even during the terrible days ahead.

Let's gather around to start our lesson.

Lesson Lg. Group

Let's read about a time when Jesus showed His disciples His power.

We are going to read parts of Matthew 14. The disciples had seen Jesus perform miracles that showed His great power. They had seen Him take care of them in difficult times. One time He walked on the water during a storm. Follow along while I read what happened. We'll read **verses 22-33**.

Some of you have probably heard a lot about Jesus' miracles. Maybe you are so used to hearing about them that you don't think it's any big deal. But if you really think about it, can you imagine being in a boat at night in a terrible storm? It's very dark, the wind is howling, the water is crashing against your boat and splashing inside. Then out of nowhere in the midst of this terrible storm Jesus comes walking on top of the water. It seems impossible, but Jesus is God and He has power to do anything.

Jesus is so powerful that He can do anything. He can even take away our sin. Remember our key verse, "... in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). When Jesus said this He knew that when He died on the cross He would overcome the sin that entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came to earth to take the punishment that each of us should get from God for our sin. When we admit to God that we sin and ask that Jesus' death count as the punishment we deserve, He forgives us. Because our sin has been taken care of we can begin a friendship with God that will last forever.

Transition

Let's get into small groups to talk some more about this and to pray.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Jesus overcame the world when He paid for our sin on the cross. Our key verse also says that in this world you will have trouble but in Him you may have peace. Do you know what that means? (Jesus said that as long as we are in this world there will be suffering and all kinds of trouble. He never promised to keep us from suffering, but He did promise that He would be with us and give us peace while we go through suffering.)

When we have trouble or we are afraid, it's hard not to think about our problems or what we're afraid of rather than about Jesus. Remember what happened to Peter when he took his eyes off Jesus and saw those big waves? (He started to sink, didn't he?) But the minute he looked to Jesus and called out to him, Jesus pulled him up out of the water. The storm didn't stop, but Jesus was there to help Peter through it. It is the same with each one of us who have asked Him into our hearts. There are often things Jesus wants to teach us when we are afraid or have problems.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Maybe He wants us to learn how much He loves us or that He is much bigger than any of our fears or problems. Maybe He wants us to learn to tell Him we are afraid and ask Him for help. When we do, He hears us and will be right there with us. He is more powerful than any of our fears or problems and He will be with us as we go through them.

Have you ever asked Jesus to help you? What happened? (Teacher should have an age-appropriate illustration to share with the group.)

Optional: Have the students come up with a list of trials or problems they have encountered. Write these on the white board. Have a student choose a problem and look in the concordance to find a scripture that speaks to the problem. How can the scripture be applied in that situation? This is a good opportunity for the Christian students to experience sharing with others how scripture applies to life and how God has worked in their lives.

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray now and thank Jesus that He has overcome our sin by paying for it on the cross. Let's thank Jesus that in Him we can have peace and ask Him to remind us to ask Him for help when we have a problem or we are afraid.

Transition

Let's play a game in which you will be boats that cross the sea.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Game -- "Row Your Boat"

Instructions: Divide the class into three groups. Have the students find a partner within their group. The partners will stand side by side with their arms linked at the elbow. To form a boat, the pairs will line up two by two behind one another. Each pair will hold on to the waists of the pair in front. If there is an uneven number of students in a group, one student will be in the front as the bow of the boat. Use the provided dowels on stands for the buoys (or cups) for each group. Place them in zigzag fashion from one side of the room to the other. At the signal the "boats" will move forward weaving around the buoys and back to the starting line. If the boats become separated (elbows unlinked or hands off waists) or knock over a buoy they must begin again. The winners are the first "boat" to make it over and back without coming apart or knocking over a buoy.