



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Young Preschool • #NT9 • January 26, 2025

Concept

Jesus is God. He is even stronger than a storm.

Goal

Children will learn that because Jesus is God, He is even stronger than a storm. He told the wind and rain to stop and they did. The children will learn that if they ask, Jesus will always help them.

Passage

Matthew 8:23-27

Key Verse: "Even the winds and sea obey Him!" Matthew 8:27

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol.1, Ella K. Lindvall</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Long strips of Velcro</i>• <i>3 head coverings with elastic</i>• <i>Box fan or hairdryer</i>• <i>Spray bottle filled with water</i>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Printed boat with disciples, 1/child</i>• <i>Jesus stickers, 1/child</i>• <i>Markers</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

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

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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God gives us evidence of His existence in many ways and, likewise, Jesus provided evidence that attested to His identity as God's Son, God incarnate, the Messiah. The many signs and miracles He performed, apart from demonstrating His love and compassion for people, authenticated His claims of deity.

The disciples were eyewitnesses to the works of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 8:23-27, the disciples and Jesus departed from the crowds after a tiring day. The disciples had seen Jesus do amazing miracles that day. They got into a boat to cross the sea. Jesus fell asleep. Some of the disciples were experienced fishermen and were not afraid to navigate on the sea until a "great" storm arose. This storm was very strong and powerful, able to capsize the boat. They were very afraid and cried out to Jesus to help them. Jesus says, "Why are you timid, you men of little faith?" Then He commanded the storm to stop. The disciples were amazed at how the wind and waves obeyed Him. Who would have such great power but God Himself? Once again Jesus showed the disciples who He was by giving them clear evidence.

"... Christ's ministry of power is another link in the already strong chain of proof of His deity. What gained for Him the unquestioning obedience and unfaltering loyalty of His followers? If He be not Son of God, how explaining the fact that after two millennia there are millions who would gladly surrender life itself rather than deny Him? The transformed lives of Christians are an eloquent and ever-present witness to the deity of the person from whom the transforming power proceeds"[1] As you prepare this lesson, consider the difference it makes to you, personally, that Jesus is God. Ask the Spirit to show you the incredible significance of His deity.

[1]The Incomparable Christ, J. Oswald Sanders, © 1971, Moody Press, p. 60.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class – Use Velcro to create the outline of an imaginary boat in which all of the children will sit. Make sure you build the boat close to an outlet for the hairdryer/wind.

Activity Stations:

- **Read Aloud – "The Wind that Obeyed"**
 - **Instructions:** Read the story from Read-Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 1, pp. 97-125.
- **Music – "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"**
 - **Instructions:** Have children sit in boat outline and sing the song. Have them pretend they are rowing the boat, going over waves, being splashed with water. Children can take turns wearing the head coverings to pretend they are disciples during Jesus' time.

Instructions: The children will sit in the "boat." The teachers will wear the head coverings. One teacher will tell the story and another teacher will attend to the "wind," "lightning," and spray of water. Follow suggested motions in parentheses.

Boys and girls, come sit in my boat and help me make a rainstorm. (Softly pat your legs, making the sound of light rain.) Oh, I think it's going to start raining harder. (Pat legs harder, encouraging the children to do the same.) Oh, I hear some thunder. (Clap your hands.) Oh, it's just raining now. It's slowing down. (Slow your patting, then stop.) It's time for our hands to rest in our laps, while we take a ride. Is everybody aboard? Today we are going to pretend to ride in this boat while I tell our lesson about a storm that came while Jesus was in a boat with his friends.

It had been a long day and Jesus was very tired. He slept while his friends rowed the boat. (Row and encourage children to make rowing motions with their hands.) While he was asleep the sky became dark (flick lights). And the wind began to blow (make wind noises as a group). The wind blew stronger and stronger (turn on fan or hairdryer so that it blows on the children). The waves got bigger and bigger (spray water lightly over or toward children).

Jesus' friends were afraid. They were really afraid! Why were they so afraid? Right, the wind was blowing (blow the hairdryer) and the waves were splashing into the boat (spray again).

One of his friends woke Jesus up. "Lord, Save us," he said. Jesus saw that they were really afraid. What do you think Jesus did? He told that storm to "Hush, Be still!" And do you know what? The wind obeyed! The rain stopped. It became perfectly calm. (Allow a few seconds of silence.)

Lesson Continued Lg. Group

Jesus' friends were amazed! "Jesus saved us! Even the wind and sea obey Him." Did you know that Jesus made the whole world—He made the wind and the waves, too? He can make them obey Him because He is God. Jesus was able to save his friends because Jesus is God. Jesus is even stronger than a storm.

Jesus showed His friends that He cared for them. Do you know that He also cares for you and will help you when you are afraid? He can take care of you because He is God. Jesus is God. He is even stronger than a storm. He came to earth so that people can have a friendship with God if they choose to ask for it!

Let's pray and thank Jesus that He loves us and wants to be with us when we are scared. Let's thank God that Jesus is God. He is even stronger than a storm.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – A Storm

- **Instructions:** Give each child a printed boat and a Jesus sticker. Write their name on the paper. Put the sticker on the picture and color it. As the children work, discuss the following with them: What did Jesus do? He made the storm stop. Isn't it cool that Jesus is God? He is even stronger than a storm. He can take care of us no matter what the problem is.

If you would like to pretend you are in the boat with Jesus you can do that now.

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Group

Drama – Role Play

- **Instructions:** Act out the story a couple of times with three or four children being disciples and one being Jesus, using the boat outline. Other kids can be wind and waves.

NT#9 Jesus Calms the Storm Bible Guy Skit

Bible Guy is sitting on the beach with a blanket, cooler sunglasses, etc,

Ahh! This is what I love ...relaxing on the beach with a good book.

[looking concerned]

Hmm... starting to look a little cloudy over there. Maybe it will blow over...

[goes back to reading his book]

[make wind sounds, pretend hat blows off, etc]

Boy, the wind sure has picked up. Maybe we are going to get a storm after all. These waves have gotten huge. I better move my stuff. Now it's starting to rain.

[Open umbrella. Keep making wind sounds, act as if it's hard to walk, looking off stage and cupping a hand to his ear]

WHAT?! [to kids] My friend is shouting something to me, but I can't quite hear him.

[shouting toward offstage, again] WHAT DID YOU SAY? A BOAT? THERE'S A BOAT OUT THERE?!

[to kids] Oh boy, I would not want to be out there today. These waves are big enough to sink a boat. I'd be really scared, wouldn't you? I hope those people make it in to shore okay.

[shouting toward offstage again] WHAT? YES, I KNOW IT'S RAINING! YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS A BAD STORM... O.K. I'M COMING. JUST LET ME GET MY STUFF.

[As he gathers his things, the storm suddenly stops. He looks around in amazement]

Whuh? Huh? How can that be? A minute ago I thought I was going to blow away and now it's perfectly calm...no wind...no rain. The water is perfectly still. I've never seen anything like this! Oh. Hey! I wonder if that boat made it back to shore. I can't see anything from here. Let me go ask my friend. [EXIT]

[ENTER with binoculars]

These things are great! [put them up to eyes as if looking out over the water] I can see that boat my friend told me about. He said he was watching it the whole time. He said it looked like it was about to sink and all the guys on it were scared, except one guy who was asleep!

[take binoculars down and shrug]

I couldn't sleep through something like that could you? So, anyway... I guess the other guys woke him up. He got up and looked like he was talking to the water. My friend says that's when everything calmed down.

[look through binoculars again]

Hey, wait a minute! They're a lot closer now...I think I recognize that guy... it's Jesus!

[take binoculars down]

Some people say that Jesus is God. What do you think? If he was able to make the wind and the waves obey him, he must be God! He's stronger than the storm! He helped his friends and I bet he would help us, too if we needed him and asked him. Do you think he would?

[look into binoculars]

Wow! They're almost to shore. I'm going to go help them pull their boat in...gotta go!

[EXIT]