



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Nursery • August 2023

Concept

Jesus is stronger than a giant storm.

Goal

Children will learn that because Jesus is God, He is stronger than a storm.

Passage

Matthew 8:23-27

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

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies

Lesson:

- *Laminated, magnet-backed pictures*
- *The Bible In Pictures For Toddlers, Ella K. Lindvall, pp. 106-107*
- *The Beginner's Bible for Toddlers, Zonderkidz, pp 110-115*

*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/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.

Prayer

Pray for the children

- With your team before class.
- During the week.

Pray simple short prayers for the children.

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: Give children the laminated figures to put up as you talk about them. Use the story bibles to tell the story.

Main Points:

- Jesus was very tired and He slept. (His friends rowed the boat. Row and encourage children to make rowing motions with their hands.)
- The sky was dark and the wind blew strong. The waves got bigger and bigger.
- Jesus' friends were afraid. Are you afraid when it storms?
- Jesus' friends knew that Jesus is stronger than a giant storm.
- Jesus told that storm to "Hush, Be still!" The wind and rain stopped and it was calm.
- Jesus' friends were amazed! "Even the wind and sea obey Him."
- Jesus made the whole world, the wind and the waves, too.

Let's thank Jesus that He is stronger than a giant storm. He can take care of us.

Activities

Music – "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

- **Instructions:** Have children sit as if in a boat and sing the song. Have them pretend they are rowing the boat, going over waves, being splashed with water.