

Use Week of:

Unit 24 • Session 1

Jesus Calmed a Storm

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8

STORY POINT:

Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalms 40:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

After a long day of teaching, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When their short sailing trip was interrupted by a violent storm, the disciples found themselves in danger with nowhere to turn—except to the One who created all things.

Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen. They had spent significant time on the Sea of Galilee, but this storm was so strong that the waves overtook the boat. The disciples were afraid they would drown. As the disciples panicked, what was Jesus doing? He was sleeping!

The disciples woke Jesus. The situation was out of their control, and perhaps they felt forsaken by God. But their reaction was full of irony: “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?” (Mark 4:38).

The disciples obviously did not know why Jesus had come to earth. Jesus had come to rescue people from sin. In dying on the cross, Jesus would truly be forsaken by God. (See Matt. 27:46.) Jesus would die the death the disciples—and all sinners—deserve so that they could live forever with God. Did Jesus care that the disciples were going to die? Absolutely. But He was going to rescue them from something worse than drowning. Jesus would save them from spiritual death.

Jesus calmed the wind and the waves. He displayed His power over creation and demonstrated that He is truly God. God has power over the wind and the waves. (See Job 12:15; 28:25; Ps. 33:7; 107:25-30; Amos 4:13.)

As you teach kids this Bible story, seize the opportunity to share the gospel. Help them understand the truth the disciples did not yet fully grasp. Who is this man? He is the Messiah, the Savior, and the Son of God.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Calmed a Storm

Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8

Jesus spent all day teaching crowds of people near the Sea of Galilee. That evening, Jesus wanted to cross over to the other side of the sea.

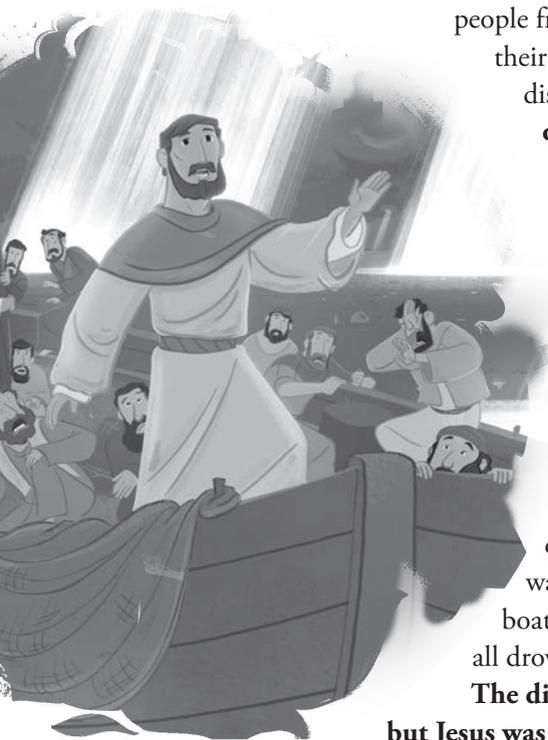
So Jesus and His disciples left the crowds. They got into a boat and began sailing. Some of the people from the crowds followed in their own boats. While Jesus and His disciples traveled, Jesus fell asleep on a cushion at the back of the boat.

All of a sudden, a storm came. The wind was strong, and the waves crashed into the boat. Water was coming into the boat, and the disciples were afraid! Many of the disciples were fishermen. They had survived storms on the sea before, but this storm was different. It was so strong. If the water kept coming in the boat, the boat would sink. Surely they would all drown!

The disciples looked to Jesus for help, but Jesus was still fast asleep at the back of the boat. He didn't seem to even notice the storm.

Did Jesus care that they were about to sink into the sea?

The disciples woke up Jesus. "Lord, save us!" they said. "We are going to die!"



Jesus opened His eyes and saw that His friends were afraid. He **got up and spoke to the wind. Then Jesus said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!”**

At the sound of Jesus’ voice, the wind stopped blowing and the waves stopped crashing. Everything was calm. The disciples were safe.

Jesus looked at His disciples and asked, **“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”** Did the disciples not trust Jesus to take care of them?

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

Christ Connection: Jesus’ disciples knew Jesus was a good man and a good teacher. But when Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed His disciples that He is also God. God rules the sea and stills its waves. (Psalm 89:9)

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use lighting effects:** Dim the lights to portray nighttime as you set the scene for the Bible story.
- **Play sound effects:** Play sound effects as you tell the story such as blowing wind or crashing waves.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss a time they felt afraid. What scared them?

SAY • We often feel afraid when we face situations that we don't understand or weren't prepared for. Today we will learn about a time Jesus' disciples felt very afraid. What do you think scared them? How do you think they handled their fears?

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Before and After" activity page. Challenge the kids to search the two versions of the Bible story picture to find the seven differences.

SAY • Wow, in the first version of the Bible story picture, the disciples look pretty scared! In the second version, it looks like the storm is over. Today we will learn about a time Jesus ended a storm. How do you think He did that?

- "Before and After" activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Indoor storm

Split the group of kids into three smaller groups. Assign each group a role: rain, wind, or thunder. Ask each group to make noises that correspond to that sound in a storm. Kids can slap their thighs for rain, whistle for wind, and make thundering noises with their mouths.

SAY • That sounded like a huge storm. Thankfully, we weren't in any danger. Today we will learn about a real, dangerous storm and how Jesus responded to it.

OPTION 2: Is it possible?

Instruct the kids to form a line in the center of the room. You may use masking tape to mark a line for the kids to stand on. Read a series of actions and instruct the kids to take a step to the left of the line if it is something they can do or could learn to do. Kids will take a step to the right of the line if it is something they could never do.

· masking tape
(optional)

Suggested actions:

- play basketball
- plant a tree
- control the weather
- lift a school bus
- dance in a talent show

SAY • Humans can do many things. But one thing we cannot do is control the weather. In fact, we can barely even predict the weather, even with all our modern technology! Today we will learn about a time Jesus showed His power as God by controlling weather.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Decorate the room to look like the front office of a travel agency. Place a desk on stage with a computer monitor. Hang travel posters and maps around the room. You may choose to display the theme background slide.

Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire

[Leader enters wearing business casual attire and a hands-free telephone headset.]

LEADER • Hello there. Wow, you certainly are a large group.

I suppose you are booking some kind of school trip? Or maybe there's a large family reunion somewhere? Either way, you've come to the right place. Welcome to Graceful Getaways, your one stop for non-stop vacation planning. So, where are you looking to go? *[Allow responses.]* Wait, really? You aren't planning a big trip anywhere? Well, I suppose it makes sense. Stay-cations have been gaining popularity.

Are you all sure you don't want to book a cruise

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

or a riverboat tour? We are running a special on all watercraft tickets. [*Allow responses.*] Well, it's just as well. We are getting into stormy season, so travel by water might not be the best idea.

Say, while you are here, would you like to hear a story about Jesus? He did a lot of traveling with His disciples, and they even faced some pretty big storms.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As we get into this new unit, we have a new big picture question. *Why did Jesus perform miracles?* A *miracle* is something God can do that would normally be impossible. Jesus did many miracles while He was on earth. As we learn about some of the miracles Jesus performed, I want you to try to figure out why He did them. Let's set the scene for our first story.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. · Giant Timeline

LEADER • After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the world was thrown into sin. Every part of God's creation was damaged by sin in one way or another. God's people struggled in sin, sometimes obeying God, but usually fighting against Him or ignoring Him altogether. All along, God had a plan to rescue people and destroy sin. Jesus is God's plan to defeat sin. Jesus came into the world as a baby. He grew into an adult and traveled throughout Israel doing ministry: healing, teaching, and performing other miracles. Today's story is called "Jesus Calmed a Storm."

- Bibles
- “Jesus Calmed a Storm” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Calmed a Storm.”

LEADER • I don’t know about you, but I’ve often wished I could control the weather. For starters, I’d never have to water my lawn again. But no matter how many times I sing songs asking the rain to go away or the sun to come out, I have no control over the weather.

This story helps us see that Jesus is not like us. He doesn’t wish He could control the weather; He really does control it. At His command, the wind stopped, and the waves calmed. Only God is able to make all of creation do as He says. *Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.* After Jesus ended the storm, His disciples were safe from drowning, and they began to understand who Jesus is. **Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.**

We often feel we have a lot of control over our lives. As you grow up, it might be tempting to feel more and more in control. Many people think they can control their lives if they have enough money, the right friends, or a position of authority. But we have very little control over our lives.

The Bible teaches that God is in control of all things. He is good, loving, and just. We can trust that everything He does is for His glory and our good. Whenever we face difficult or scary situations, we can remember that God can use it for good.

Christ connection

LEADER • Jesus' disciples knew Jesus was a good man and a good teacher. But when Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed His disciples that He is also God. God rules the sea and stills its waves. (Psalm 89:9)

Jesus did much more than saving His disciples from a dangerous storm. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sin, and rose to life on the third day. His work made the way for us to be saved from something much worse than drowning. When we have faith in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us new life with Him forever.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 24, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why we have bad days if Jesus is in control. Guide them to discuss ways we can encourage one another during hard times.

• “Unit 24, Session 1” Questions from Kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the “Good News for the T People” missions video.

LEADER • One church in North Carolina made a big difference to a people group in Myanmar (mee-ANN-mar), a country in Southeast Asia. They made it possible for people to hear about the amazing things Jesus has done, like when **Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples that He is God.**

We don't always feel like we can help missionaries very much, but the offerings we give can have a large impact. We can help provide the tools and

• “Good News for the T People” missions video

transportation needed to take God's Word to people all over the world who may never have heard the good news of Jesus.

Key passage (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster
• "None Can Compare with You (Psalm 40:5)" song

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Psalm 40:5. Then sing the key passage song.

LEADER • This psalm is a wonderful reminder that God is good. All He does is good. All His plans are good. We can trust Him through every trial and all hard times we face.

Sing (4 minutes)

• "Miracle Maker" song

LEADER • Only God can control the wind and the waves. **Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.** He is our miracle maker.

Sing together "Miracle Maker."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord, we know that You are in control of all things. Help us trust You. Give us hearts that are filled with Your Spirit so we can love and obey You more each day. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- beanbag or ball

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Select a kid to start the key passage and give him a beanbag or ball. He will say the first word then pass the beanbag to his left. The kid on his left will say the second word and pass the ball again. Continue in this way until kids have completed the key passage at least once and every kid has had a chance to hold the beanbag.

SAY • Our key passage reminds us that God does many wonderful things for us. Jesus is God the Son. He did wonderful miracles to show that He is God. Jesus' most amazing miracle was saving sinners by dying on the cross and rising again.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Mark 4. Remind them to use the table of contents to find Mark and the large chapter numbers to find Mark 4. You may use the New Testament Israel Map to point out the Sea of Galilee (D6). Discuss the purpose of Bible divisions, and ask a volunteer to tell which division Mark is in. (*to help us organize and understand the Bible; Gospels*)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What was Jesus doing when the storm hit the boat? (*sleeping, Mark 4:38*)
2. How did Jesus calm the storm? (*by speaking, Mark 4:39*)
3. How did the disciples react to Jesus' miracle? (*They were terrified and asked who Jesus was, Mark 4:41*)
4. Why do you think the disciples were afraid? *Direct the kids to think more deeply than the simple answer of the storm they faced. Help them see that their fear came from a lack of understanding of and trust in who Jesus is. If they had known who Jesus is and trusted Him completely even in the storm, they would not have been afraid.*
5. How do you react to scary or hard situations? *Guide kids to answer honestly. Discuss when it is hard or easy to trust God. Be sensitive if any kids share about abuse or neglect, and ensure you follow all proper reporting procedures according to the laws where you live and your church's policies.*
6. How can we know that Jesus is trustworthy no matter what? *Prompt kids to provide ways we can know Jesus is trustworthy. Remind them that God's Word is true, and it teaches us to trust Jesus. Jesus is God the Son, and the Bible teaches us that He has control over all of creation. We also know that God only does what is good and right. Everything He does is for His glory and our good.*

SAY • Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God. When we understand who Jesus is and put our faith in His work on the cross, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life with Him.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- “Motorcycle Picture” printable, 2 per kid
- “Missions Message to Parents” printable
- crayons

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- dowels, 1 per kid
- blue paper streamers
- tape

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Missions motorcycle

Print enough copies of the “Motorcycle Picture” printable for each kid to have two. Instruct kids to each color in one motorcycle. The other will be sent home with a copy of the “Missions Message to Parents” printable.

Instruct the kids to work with their parents to raise money for this missions offering. Consider dividing your total goal by the number of kids in your ministry and encourage each kid to bring back the second motorcycle, all colored in, when they reach their portion of the goal.

SAY • Missionaries all over the world are grateful for the support of churches. They want all people to know Jesus, who is so powerful that He can calm storms and do other miracles. In the missions video, we saw how kids in one church raised enough money to buy a motorcycle that a missionary could use to reach villages with the gospel. We can raise money for missions too!

OPTION 2: Storm sticks

Provide each kid with a dowel. Help the kids tear lengths of blue paper streamers and tape them to one end of the dowel. Then work together to retell the story, allowing the kids to shake their storm sticks to simulate the wind and waves.

SAY • Some of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen before they followed Him, so they probably had been through some rough storms before. However, the storm from our Bible story must have been very powerful because the Bible tells us the disciples were terrified! Thankfully, Jesus is more powerful than anything in

creation because Jesus is the Creator! He rules over all things. When Jesus told the wind and the waves to be calm, they obeyed. We can know for a fact that when Jesus says we can have life through faith in Him, it is the truth. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is saved from sin and death.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.