

LESSON 20

# Jesus Calms the Storm

LUKE 8:22-25



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS HOLDS ALL AUTHORITY

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION ..... 5 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** glass of water

2. BIBLE STORY ..... 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 98)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION ..... 5 MIN

**Where Is the Gospel?**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS ..... 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY ..... 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) ..... 20–30 MIN

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:** coloring page for NT Lesson 20—one for each child; markers or crayons

**In the Boat with Jesus**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ masking tape
- ✓ fan
- ✓ small plastic bowl
- ✓ water

**What Scares You?**

**SUPPLIES:** print of the following pictures off the Internet: a mean-looking dog; a person climbing on a cliff; a night scene; a hypodermic needle; a tornado

7. CLOSING PRAYER ..... 5 MIN

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

**THE LESSON**

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn that Jesus has authority over the winds and the waves.

Bring a glass of water to class.

As class starts, open up a window in your room and have a volunteer speak to the wind and tell it to pick up or be still, depending on whether or not its blowing. Present the glass of water to the class and have another volunteer speak to the water and command it to splash, bubble, or swirl. Obviously the children will not be able to control the wind and the water, but you can use this as an illustration to help them understand how humans do not have authority over the water or the wind.

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like to control the weather. How might they use that power? (Accept any answer.) Ask them if they know who has authority over all things, including the wind and the water. (God)

Take time to pray and thank God for his authority over all things. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 98, “Jesus Calms the Storm,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened to the disciples when they were in the boat?**  
*(they sailed into a windstorm)*
  
- **What is a windstorm?**  
*(Obviously a windstorm is a storm with very strong winds, like a squall or a hurricane. You might want to have the children stand up and pretend that very strong winds are blowing around them. You could have them sway like the trees.)*



- How did the disciples feel on the boat with such strong winds?  
*(The disciples were afraid.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS** ..... **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Have you ever been afraid?  
*(Accept any answer.)*
- What should we do when we are afraid?  
*(We should trust Jesus to care for us and not worry when we are afraid. We can pray to the Lord when we are afraid [Psalm 56:3].)*

## Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The reason the disciples could be assured of their safety in the midst of the raging storm was because the promised Messiah was in the boat with them. Yet they still didn't know who he was. After calming the wind and the waves, the disciples must have reasoned that Jesus was no ordinary rabbi, no ordinary teacher, no ordinary prophet. Later they would understand that Jesus was the Messiah, but even more than that, Jesus was God.

Jesus was fully man and slept from authentic exhaustion as a man on the boat. It would be this humanity that enabled him to hang as a man in our place and receive from the Father the punishment for our sin. But Jesus was also God. He had authority over the wind and the waves and the demons that possessed the man on the shore. Jesus lived a sinless life and after dying on the cross conquered death by rising again on the third day.

Notice the theme of salvation that follows Jesus everywhere he traveled. Jesus saved the disciples from the storm and Jesus saved the man from the demons that possessed him. Today, if we place our trust in Jesus who died on the cross to take the penalty for our sins, we too can be saved by his power.

- What did Jesus do when the disciples woke him?

*(Jesus calmed the storm.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** ..... **5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS** ..... **20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 20—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Why were the disciples afraid?

*(They thought they would die because the boat was filling with water and the wind was tossing the boat around.)*

- Where was Jesus?

*(Jesus was sleeping in the boat.)*

- What did Jesus tell them after they woke him up?

*(He asked them where their faith was. They should have known that Jesus would protect them.)*

**In the Boat with Jesus**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ masking tape
- ✓ fan
- ✓ small plastic bowl
- ✓ water

With masking tape on the floor outline a boat big enough to carry the whole class. Position the fan to blow on the boat. Fill the small bowl half full of water. Act out

the drama with one of the children playing Jesus and the rest playing the disciples. Have them all sit out in the boat with Jesus falling asleep. Then tell them that a storm is brewing. Have the children lean to the left, then right, and back again. Turn the fan on high, blowing right on them, and tell them that the waves are starting to come into the boat. As you say that, flick a sprinkle of water on them. Tell them to act scared and wake up Jesus calling frantically, “Master, Master, we are going to die.” Have Jesus calmly rise and tell the wind and the waves, “Peace, be still.” At that, turn off the fan and have the children stop leaning.

While the children are in the boat ask them why they thought the disciples were afraid and why Jesus said they should have had faith. Explain to them that Jesus was God and in control of everything, even the wind and the waves. Although the disciples thought they were in danger, nothing would have happened to them that Jesus did not control and allow.

### What Scares You?

Print the following pictures off the Internet: a mean-looking dog; a person climbing on a cliff; a night scene; a hypodermic needle; a tornado

Show the pictures to the class one by one, and ask the children to raise a hand if they think the picture shows something scary. Then talk about how God could protect us if we faced the thing in the picture. For example,

The dog could be behind a fence.

If you were climbing a mountain you would have a safety rope and a guide.

At night you would not be alone.

The needle is in the hand of a doctor you can trust.

You have a storm shelter so that when the tornado comes it can't hurt you.

Finally connect all of these situations to trusting God:

God only gives us temptations we can bear.

God is our safety rope. He is in control of all things and will not allow us to stumble.

God is always with us so even at night we are not alone if we trust in God.

God is our healer; we can depend on him.

Jesus is our shelter in the storm. Just like the disciples we can trust him.



Finally vote as a class which picture is the scariest. Then review the Bible story and ask the children what advice they would give the disciples if they were in the boat.

**CLOSING PRAYER** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

**SUPPLY ALERT:** If you plan to do next week's object lesson "I Am the Bread of Life" you will need moldy bread. Place a slice of bread into a resealable plastic bag along with a few drops of water. Seal the bag and set at warm room temperature.

LESSON 20 - JESUS CALMS THE STORM

