



UNIT 22 | SESSION 1

JESUS CALMED A STORM

MATTHEW 8; MARK 4; LUKE 8

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is Lord. He has power over everything.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Jesus is God's Son. John 1:18

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus and His friends were in a boat during a storm.
- Jesus told the wind and waves to be still.
- Jesus showed that He is the Lord.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Jesus and His friends got into a boat. Jesus was tired, so He laid down and went to sleep. A great windstorm came, and water came into the boat. Jesus' friends were afraid, and they woke up Jesus. "Lord, save us!" they said. "We are going to die!" Jesus got up and said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind stopped blowing and the waves were calm. Jesus asked His friends, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Jesus' disciples were amazed. They said, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 8. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“Jesus is the Son of God.

The Son of God, the Son of God.

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is God’s Son.”

| **SAY** “ Jesus is God’s Son. He is our Lord, and He has power over everything. ”

2 PLAY ASLEEP AND AWAKE

Provide high chairs or horseshoe-shaped pillows for each baby to sit on. Play peekaboo with the babies by placing your hands over your eyes to cover your face and saying, “Asleep.” Then remove your hands from your face and open your eyes and say, “Awake.” Encourage the babies to repeat the same movements. Read the gospel gems.

| **SAY** “ Jesus and His friends were in a boat during a storm. Jesus was tired, so He laid down and went to sleep. While He was asleep, a storm came. Jesus got up and told the wind and waves to be still. Jesus showed that He is the Lord. ”

3 ROLL THE BALL

Sit babies in the floor using horseshoe-shaped pillows (one per baby). Roll soft balls back and forth from one baby to the next. Let the balls stop before rolling the balls back. Encourage the babies to roll the balls back and forth to one another.

| **SAY** “ During storms, waves move back and forth like our ball. In this storm, Jesus told the wind and waves to be still. The wind stopped blowing and the waves were calm. Jesus is Lord. He has power over everything. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 8. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 CREATE A BOAT

Provide paper plates cut into halves, precut 2-inch triangles, and craft sticks (one per toddler). Instruct the toddlers to glue the triangle on the craft stick. Invite the toddlers to tape the craft stick to the paper plate to form a boat. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Jesus and His friends were in a boat during a storm. Were Jesus’ friends afraid when the storm came? Yes! The friends were afraid and asked Jesus to save them. Does Jesus have power over everything? Yes! Jesus has power over everything, even the wind and the waves! ”

3 MARCHING MUSIC

Invite the toddlers to line up and march around the classroom. Encourage the toddlers to clap and stomp their feet saying, “Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus? Jesus is God’s Son.” Display the key passage phrase as you point to and read the phrase.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Jesus is God’s Son.’ Jesus has power over everything. ”

4 MAKE WAVES

Set out colorful paper streamers. Lead the toddlers in making different hand movements with the streamers. Instruct the toddlers to make waves with the streamers when you say, “Go.” Tell them to freeze when you say, “Be still.” Retell the Bible story as the toddlers make waves.

SAY “ Did a storm come while Jesus and His friends were in a boat? Yes! A storm did come. What did Jesus do? Jesus got up and told the winds and waves to ‘Be still.’ Jesus has power over everything. ”

5 OBSERVE BLUE WATER

Place two clear bowls filled halfway with water on towels. Place three drops of blue food color in each bowl. Invite the toddlers to take turns stirring the water with spoons until the water turns blue. Guide toddlers to take turns blowing in the water to make waves. Review the story.

SAY “ Did water get inside of the boat when the storm came? Yes! Who told the waves to be still? Jesus! What happened when Jesus told the wind and the waves to be still? The wind and the waves stopped! Jesus showed that He is the Lord. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: WHAT MAKES ME AFRAID?

Provide toddlers with examples of things that make some people afraid. Examples include the dark, bugs, heights, thunderstorms, and so forth. Encourage the toddlers to raise their hands if they hear things that make them afraid. Explain that Jesus has power over our fears.

SAY “ Do you ever feel afraid? When we are afraid, Jesus will save us. What happened while Jesus and His friends were on the boat? A storm came and Jesus’ friends were afraid! Jesus saved them! Jesus told the wind and waves to be still. Jesus has power over everything. ”

2 EAT A YUMMY BOAT SNACK



Give each toddler a quarter of an apple, a pretzel stick, a cheese triangle, and fish-shaped crackers on a blue paper plate as a snack. Point out the items. Instruct toddlers to listen for each item in the story and to create a boat snack (apple—boat, pretzel stick—the mast of the boat, cheese triangle—sail of the boat, and fish-shaped crackers—fish in the water). Retell the Bible story as the toddlers build their snacks.

SAY “ In our story, Jesus and His friends got in a boat. Then a great windstorm came. Jesus’ friends were afraid. Was Jesus afraid? No! Jesus told the wind and waves to be still. Jesus has power over everything. ”

3 FIND WHAT'S IN THE OCEAN

Place a small amount of blue toothpaste in ziplock bag. If desired, place ocean-themed stickers, plastic gems, shells, or other small items inside the bag. Seal the bag and place duct tape over the opening to prevent leaks. Show toddlers how to rub the bag to spread the toothpaste around. Allow toddlers to explore.

SAY “ Jesus calmed the storm by telling the wind and waves to be still. The disciples were afraid and asked Jesus to help them. Did Jesus help them? Yes! Jesus saved them from the storm! ”

4 PLAY WITH WATER BEADS

Lay out a container of water beads for toddlers to touch. Provide people figures and boats in the container. Review the Bible story as the toddlers explore. Monitor closely, ensuring no child puts any water beads in his mouth.

SAY “ Jesus and His friends were in a boat during a storm. When the storm came, Jesus got up and told the wind and waves to be still. Jesus showed that He is Lord. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.