

Jesus Calms a Storm

Luke 8:22–25

Key Point

Jesus calms the wind and waves to assure the disciples that He is the Savior and to strengthen their faith in Him. Jesus is with us in His Word, Baptism, and Holy Communion, assuring us that He is our Savior and strengthening our faith in Him through all the storms of life.

Law/Gospel Points

Like the disciples, I am afraid when the storms of life beset me; I sometimes doubt that God is with me and will save me. **Jesus gives me His Word, Holy Baptism, and His real presence in Holy Communion to assure me that He is my Savior and to strengthen my faith.**

Connections

Bible Words

Fear not, for I am with you; . . . I will help you. Isaiah 41:10

Faith Word

Deliver

Hymns and Songs

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (LSB 922; HS98 887; AGPS 102)

I'm with You (LOSP, p. 32)

Catechism

Lord's Prayer: Seventh Petition

Supply Box: In your classroom, have on hand a Bible, hymnal, Little Ones Sing Praise songbook, offering basket, markers, crayons, scissors, glue, tape, paper punch, construction paper, assorted stickers, yarn, decorating supplies, paper plates, hand sanitizer, napkins, and plastic zipper bags for take-home projects.

Abbreviations: LSB=Lutheran Service Book; HS98=Hymnal Supplement 98; LW=Lutheran Worship; TLH=The Lutheran Hymnal; AGPS=All God's People Sing!; LOSP=Little Ones Sing Praise; TG=Teacher Guide

Materials Needed



Opening

- Dishpan of water
- Towels
- Toy boats and plastic lids
- Sprinkling cans or margarine tubs
- Items that sink or float



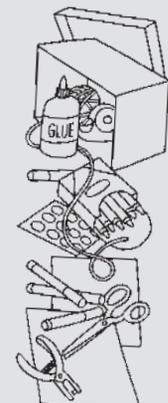
God Speaks

- Rope or blanket
- Sprout puppet



We Live

- Story Page 9
- Activity Page 9
- Margarine tub
- Clay
- Craft sticks
- Recording of thunderstorm
- Scarves or rhythm instruments
- Plastic 2-liter bottle
- Vegetable oil
- Snack ingredients



Growing in the Word

Jesus Calms a Storm

Luke 8:22–25

Law

Like the disciples, I am afraid when the storms of life beset me; I sometimes doubt that God is with me and will save me.

Gospel

Jesus gives me His Word, Holy Baptism, and His real presence in Holy Communion to assure me that He is my Savior and to strengthen my faith.

Context

The account of Jesus calming the storm also appears in Matthew and Mark. In Luke's account, the calming of the sea occurs just after Jesus teaches His followers the parable of the sower and its meaning. The calming is followed by a series of miraculous healings.

Commentary

One of the results of sin has been the disharmony of nature (Genesis 3:17–19), including storms at sea. Several of Jesus' disciples were experienced sailors, and they knew the dangers of sudden squalls on the Sea of Galilee. What they did not yet understand was that their master was also master of the wind and the waves.

Exhausted, Jesus instructs the disciples to ferry over to the other side of the lake, while He lay down in the stern to sleep. As the storm began to rage, Jesus continued to rest peacefully. The disciples cried out to Him, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" (Luke 8:24). Jesus stood up, and He spoke to the elements. Instantly, "there was a calm" (Luke 8:24).

Jesus rebukes His disciples saying, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25). One may compare the disciples to the rocky soil Jesus spoke of in His parable. They received the Word with joy, but in the time of trial, they were quick to doubt and fall away.

The disciples whispered, "Who then is this, that He commands even the wind and water, and they obey Him?" (Luke 8:25). Believing that Jesus was the Messiah, even the Son of God, had not prepared them for this reality. Christ was able to restore the perfect working order of creation.

God is with us today in His Word, assuring us that even in our storms of life He continues to be with us. He seeks to calm those storms as we study the Word, come to Him in prayer, and partake of the blessed Sacraments.



Podcast

Visit
cph.org/TeacherSpot
and listen to the
Seeds of Faith podcast
each week!



1 Opening

15 minutes

Welcome the children, and have them put their offering in the offering basket. To provide a connection for what the children will learn in the Bible lesson, set a dishpan of water about one-third full on a low table or the floor. Have towels under it or nearby to catch spills. Supply toy boats and plastic lids. Encourage the children to sail the boats. Have them make waves by moving the plastic lids or their fingers slowly back and forth in the water. Give them sprinkling cans or margarine tubs with holes in the bottom so they can make it rain on the boats.

You can also supply items that sink or float (rocks, metal spoons, small paper scraps, blunt-end scissors, crayons, plastic blocks, Styrofoam plates or cups, sponges, corks, etc.). Let the children drop the items in the water and tell if they sink or float.

Ask **What sinks? What floats? Watch what happens to the boats when the waves and rain come. In our story today, Jesus' friends, the disciples, were afraid when big waves crashed into their boat. They thought their boat would sink! What do you think they did?**

Option: Play a tape of a thunderstorm. Your local library may have CDs of rain storms available. Cover a table with poster paper. Provide washable gray, black, and white paint or markers. Have the children listen to the rainstorm and paint to it. Ask the children how the music makes them feel. Adapt the talk to introduce the Bible story theme.

You may wish to begin your lesson with the classroom opening on page 128 at the end of this book. Suggestions for group devotions can be found on the Director CD.

2 God Speaks

10 minutes

To prepare: Use a rope or blanket to outline a boat shape on the floor. Have the children sit inside the boat as you tell the story. See the In God's World section to make a wave bottle. Have your Bible open and tell the children that the story is from the Book of Luke so they know it is from God's Word. Introduce the story using Sprout or another puppet.

Sprout: (*Comes running in*) Oh, Teacher, I'm so happy to be here today. The worst thing happened to me yesterday! I was so scared!

Teacher: Hi, Sprout. We're glad you're here too. But what happened yesterday? What made you so scared?

Sprout: Well, I was at the fair with my mom and Lily. We were in a building with the mother animals and their babies. But there were so many other people in there too. I couldn't even see the animals! So, I wiggled by all the people's legs to get closer to the fence. Then I leaned over to look at the baby pigs. They were so cute! I stood up to tell Lily to come see them, but she wasn't there. Then I looked for my mother,



and I couldn't see her either! All I could see were legs! I hollered, "Lily! Mom!" but no one answered. I was so afraid.

Teacher: Oh, Sprout! That does sound scary. How did you find them?

Sprout: I didn't! I just sat down and cried. But then I felt someone hug me and say, "It's okay, Sprout. I'm here." I knew that voice. It was my mom! I was so glad to see her again!

Teacher: I'm sure you were! What a scary thing to happen. I'm glad Jesus helped your mom to find you quickly! I hope you will remember to stay close to her next time! There are lots of things that can make us afraid. In our story today, Jesus' friends, the disciples, are in a big storm. They get scared too!

Sprout: They do? What do they do?

Teacher: Let's listen and find out what they did! (*Put Sprout down. Pick up Bible.*)

Say **Jesus taught people about God's love. He healed people who were sick. He forgave their sins. At the end of the day, Jesus was tired. He told His friends, the disciples, "I need to rest. Let's go to the other side of the lake." So Jesus and His friends got into a boat and began to sail across the big lake.** Invite children to get into the pretend boat you made with the rope or blanket.

Jesus' friends rowed the boat across the lake. Jesus went to the back of the boat and lay down. Soon He was fast asleep. Rest your head on your hands.

While Jesus was sleeping, the wind started to blow harder and harder. Whoosh! went the wind. Make blowing noises. **The waves on the water got bigger and bigger.** If you made a wave bottle, use it to show big waves. **Splash went the waves. Up and down over the waves went the little boat.** Have the children rock back and forth in the "boat" with you. **Jesus' disciples were afraid.**

The wind blew harder and the waves got bigger. Then it began to rain. Big, fat drops of water rained into their boat. More water from the waves splashed into their boat. Jesus' friends were sure their little boat would sink! But Jesus wasn't afraid. He kept sleeping. Rest your head on your hands. Repeat wind and waves motions throughout the next portion.

Jesus' friends were so afraid. They needed help. Who could help them? Jesus! The disciples hurried over to Jesus. "Wake up, wake up, Jesus! It's storming. The wind and the waves are so big that we are going to die. Please, help us!" they cried.

Jesus woke up. He stood up and looked at the wind. He looked at the rain. Then He told the wind and the waves, "Be quiet."

Use a quiet voice. **Do you know what happened? Just like that, the wind stopped blowing. The rain stopped falling. The waves stopped splashing. Everything was quiet and still.** Have children sit quietly for a few seconds.

Jesus' friends were so surprised that they said, "Wow! Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"



Teacher Tip

Children who act out a Bible story are more likely to remember the details and sequence of the story.



Jesus' friends were afraid of the storm. But Jesus is God. He has great power. He heard His friends' cry for help and took care of them. He made the storm go away.

Have you ever been afraid of something? Let children share their fears. **Sometimes I'm afraid too.** Tell of something you might be afraid of (e.g., thunderstorms). **But then I remember that Jesus is with me. God has made me His child in Baptism. He tells us in the Bible that He loves us and is with us. He promises to answer our prayers. He says, "Don't be afraid. I am with you."**

Sometimes when I do something bad, I am afraid too. I am sorry that I sinned. Then I remember that Jesus has power over sin and the devil too. Jesus beat the devil when He died on the cross to pay for all our sins. Jesus forgives our sins.

Jesus is stronger than any of the things we're afraid of. We can always pray to Him when we're afraid and know that He will hear and answer our prayers in a way that is best.

Jesus gave His disciples and us a special prayer called the Lord's Prayer. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Deliver us from evil." Can you say that with me? Do so. When we pray, "Deliver us from evil," we are asking Jesus to take care of us and keep us safe from things that would hurt us. The best way Jesus "delivers us from evil" was when He died to pay for our sins so we can live with Him forever.

3 We Live 30 minutes

These activities help the children grow in their understanding of what the Bible story means for their lives. Choose the ones that work best with your class.

Lesson Review—Using the Story Page

Make a copy of Story Page 9 at the end of this lesson for each child. As the children color the picture, review the story with these questions.

Ask **How do the disciples feel?**
 Is Jesus afraid?
 What is Jesus doing?
 What happens to the wind and the waves?
 How does Jesus help us when we are afraid?

Song—Singing and Stretching

Sing the following to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Ask the children to name other things they are afraid of and make up stanzas accordingly. Add actions. When you are done singing, remind the children that God loves us and answers our prayers for Jesus' sake in a way that is best. He promises in the Bible to be with us always.

Sing **If you're scared and you know it, pray to God.**
 If you're scared and you know it, pray to God.



**If you're scared and you know it,
then your face will surely show it.
If you're scared and you know it, pray to God.**

If you're scared of the dark, pray to God. . . .

If you're scared of tornados, pray to God. . . .

Bible Words—Learning God's Word

Fear not, for I am with you; . . . I will help you. Isaiah 41:10

Say **In our Bible story today, Jesus heard His friends' cries and made the storm go away. Jesus listens to our prayers and answers them too. He tells us in the Bible, "Fear not, for I am with you; . . . I will help you." Let's say those words together.**

Activity Page—Connecting to Our Lives

Make copies of Activity Page 9 for each child. Discuss the fearful situations pictured on the side. Then have the children draw something they are afraid of on the sail. Tell them to trace the dots to make a cross on the sail to remember that Jesus tells us in His Word that He is with us and will take care of us.

God tells us in His Word, "Fear not, for I am with you; . . . I will help you." The best way He has done that is by sending Jesus to die on the cross to defeat our enemies—sin, death, and the devil.

Have the children color their boat and the waves. They can cut around the boat and glue it to a piece of blue construction paper.

Craft—Boat

Materials: For each project, you will need a margarine tub, oil-based clay, a craft stick, construction paper, and tape or glue.

Instructions: Cut a rectangular sail from construction paper. Tape or glue the sail to the top of the craft stick. Roll clay into a ball, and stick it inside the margarine tub. Stick the craft stick into the clay in the tub. Talk about how Jesus has power over wind and waves today. Encourage the children to tell the story to someone at home.

Options: (1) Use bars of Ivory soap instead of the margarine tubs and clay. Stick the sail directly into the soap. (2) Make sail from craft foam. (3) Draw a cross on the sail. (4) Make the boat from small individual milk cartons cut in half. (5) Cut a paper plate in half to use for the bottom of the boat.

Game—Moving and Doing

Allow children time to stretch and move by playing a recording of rainfall or a thunderstorm. Give the children scarves and lead them in moving with the music, or give them rhythm or rain sticks to play along with the music. When it is thundering and storming, walk quickly around the room waving the scarves or tapping the sticks loudly. When it is gently raining or the storm is going away, move slowly, letting the scarves float gently, or use the sticks in a quiet way. Talk about the music, relating it to the Bible story. Reinforce that Jesus is with us. Repeat the Bible Words.

If you do not have a thunderstorm recording, have the children use rhythm instruments to make storm sounds in response to your directions (e.g., How does the thunder sound? Can you make a thunder sound? How does the rain sound now? Can you make a quiet rain sound?) or act out things that might frighten them (e.g., let's pretend we're slithering snakes; let's pretend we're thunder; let's pretend we're big barking dogs). Talk about how Jesus is with us even when we are afraid.

In God's House—Connecting to Church

Visit church. Look for church symbols or pictures in the windows or carvings. The Church is pictured as a type of boat where God is with us, rescuing us from



our enemies—sin, death, and the devil—through Jesus and bringing us safely to our eternal home with Him.

Say **Jesus' disciples were in a boat during a storm. They were afraid. Who was in the boat with them? Yes, Jesus was with them! He kept them safe from the storm. Today we used a blanket to make a pretend boat to tell the story. We have troubles that make us afraid too. But we are God's children. He made us His children through our Baptism and His Word. Our church is God's boat.** Have children look around the sanctuary at windows, crosses, and the like. **Who is with us in our church boat? Yes, Jesus! Jesus hears our prayers and promises to be with us in all our troubles. The best way He keeps us safe is by paying for our sins so we can live with Him forever.**

In God's World—Exploring Story Concepts

Make a wave bottle by filling an empty clear plastic soda bottle half with water and half with vegetable oil. Add blue food coloring. Put glue on the inside of the cap before tightening it so it will seal. Tape the cap for added security. Encourage the children to “make waves” by rolling and moving the bottle.

Snack—Making and Tasting

Use the snack to reenact the storm; then let tired arms appreciate the calm. Put instant pudding mix in a large plastic leak-proof container. Tape it shut for added security. Pass the container around the class so that each child has a turn shaking it to make the pudding set. You may also divide the pudding into individual baggies or baby-food jars, one per child, and let each child shake his or her snack.

Option: Make celery or banana boats by adding cream cheese and raisins to celery or melted chocolate and marshmallows to bananas. Cut bananas in half and add a pretzel mast. Use frosting to attach a cracker sail.

4 Closing 5 minutes

Sing “I’m with You” (*LOSP*, p. 32) or stanza 1 of “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (*LSB* 922; *HS98* 887; *AGPS* 102)

Pray **Jesus, thank You for making us Your children in Baptism. Thank You for hearing us when we call to You. Thank You for helping us. Thank You most of all for saving us from our sins. In Your name we pray. Amen.**

Beyond Sunday School

Think about ways God can use you to help those who are hurt by storms and other natural disasters. Visit the LCMS Web site and search the World Relief and Human Care tab for ideas.



Teacher Tip

Avoid saying the church is “like a boat” since young children do not understand abstract analogies. Instead make parallel statements and allow them to make the connections when they are able.



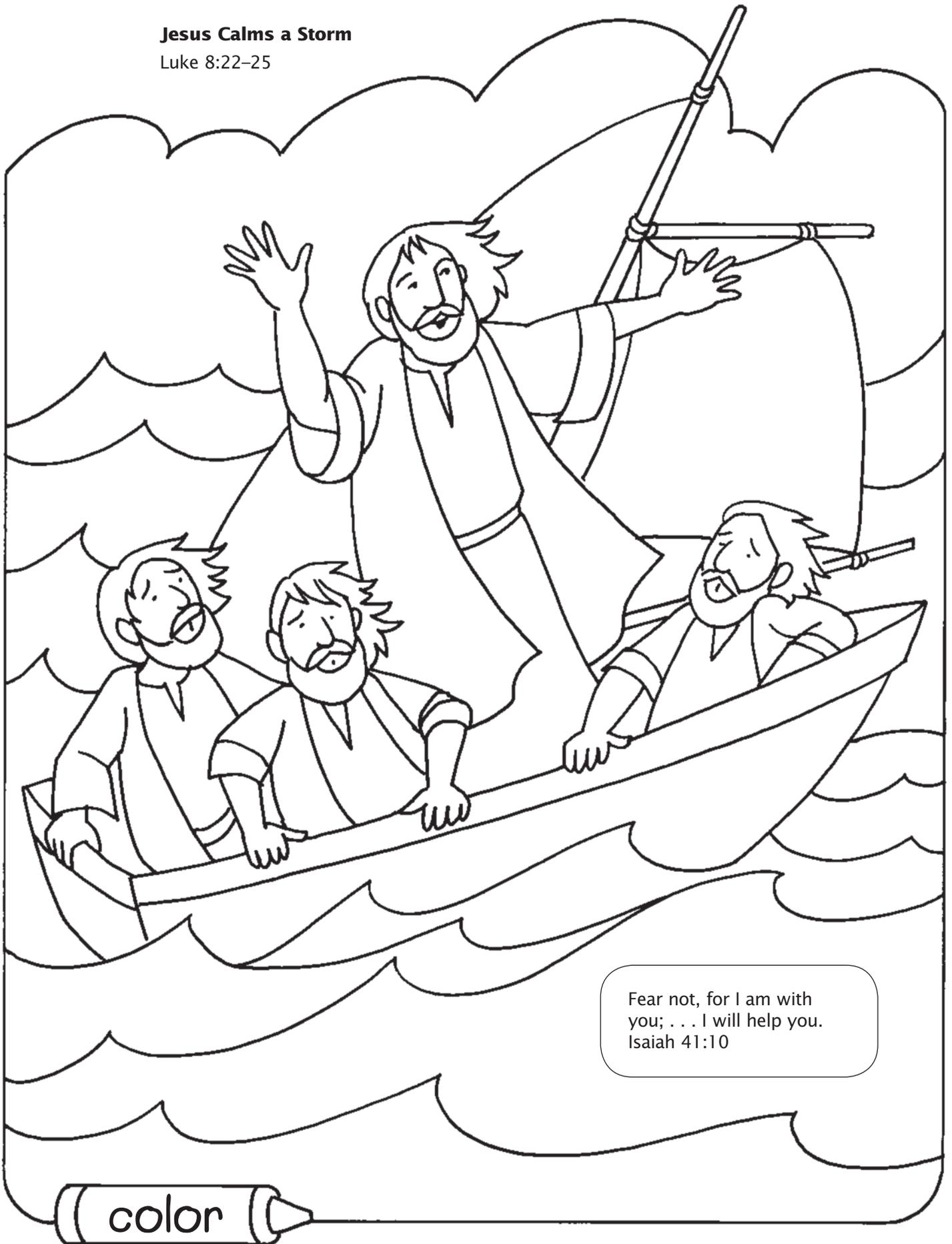
Teacher Tip

Four-color leaflets with the Bible art and text of each story are available for purchase. Send a leaflet home with each child.



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Luke 8:22-25



Fear not, for I am with
you; . . . I will help you.
Isaiah 41:10

color

