

Dear Church,

We would like to provide you with some resources that can be used while we are having church online in our homes during the COVID 19. This collection of resources is available for your use, if you desire. You can download and print out any sections that your child may benefit by using either during the sermon on Sunday morning or any other time of the week. This week Joe will be preaching on, “*Finding Peace in Anxious Times*”, from Mark 4:35-41, Jesus Calms the Storm.

Videos for Early Elementary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYLHqdSO9OY> (2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w7Y62o03aQ> (4 min)

Act it Out!

Preschool and early elementary kids love to act out stories. Throw a blanket or couch cushions on the floor and pile in some people with a “Jesus” sleeping in the front of the “boat”. Create some pretend wind and storm noises with your voices, pots and pans, or your cell phone. As the “disciples” become very scared, have one of the disciples wake up “Jesus” to calm the storm. Take turns! Talk about how scary that would be for the disciples and encourage your children to talk about other things they are scared of. What helps us when we are scared?

Pray: “Dear God, it’s wonderful that Jesus had all the power in the world. Help us to trust Jesus and follow him so we can know his amazing power and his amazing love. In Jesus’ name – Amen!”

Object Lesson for Elementary

1. Towel and Storm

- Take a neatly folded towel and show it to your children.
- I have a VERY nicely folded towel here – if I might say so myself. I spent a LOT of time folding it – to get it nice and neat just for you today.
- In what ways, do you think, could we use this towel? (*to dry off with, cover up with, maybe mop up something, maybe to use as a pillow or something to sit on*)
- It’s odd that none of you said “Put it where everyone can see it, admire how nicely it is fold, but can’t touch it” – because that’s how *I’m* thinking it should be used.

- See ... all of your suggestions sound like really good things to do with *someone else's* towel.
- Because if we did those things you were suggesting with *this* towel, then it would get all messed up and wrinkled and that would be really, really sad, don't you think? (*Hopefully your children will all yell "NO!" at your ridiculousness, but if they don't – whisper to them "Say NOOOOO"*)
- Wait – is it possible that you are telling me that the towel can be *re*-folded after we use it!?!?!?
- Hmm. Do you think you could show me how to do that? [*Mess up the towel and let your children refold the towel for you and then thank them for their help.*]
- There are no towels in today's scripture story, but there IS a storm. And the disciples are really worried about it.
- In a lot of ways, the disciples are a lot like my towel – they started the day nicely folded.
- But when the storm showed up – they got so worried about the storm and the waves, that the disciples get all wavy and stormy inside of *themselves*.
- Sort of like this – [*unfold the towel and bunch it up a little bit to make it look like waves*].
- Instead of being nicely put together, the disciples got all wavy and twisted up on the insides.
- But, once the disciples got all stirred up and twisted on the inside, they then did something really smart – they asked Jesus for help.
- Do you remember what happened once they asked Jesus for help?
- That's right – Jesus calmed the storm [*smooth out the towel*].
- Jesus smoothed out the waves.

Object Lesson for Elementary

2. Pop Goes the Fear

Disclaimer: Be careful when doing this activity with young children. Keep them away from the straight pins and balloon pieces for safety. To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

Gather: A Sharpie marker and 1-3 balloons per child in your home. Blow up either ahead of time or with your children's help. Take a small piece of cardboard and push straight pins (sewing pins) through the bottom of the cardboard so they are sticking up and sharp!

Say: We've seen from the things Jesus said and did for his disciples when he calmed the storm that he desires to protect us from fearful situations. What fears do you have? If you would like to share a fear, I'll write it on one of the balloons.

Use the marker to write on balloons several things your children say they're afraid of. Then set the balloons aside. When each balloon has been labeled, show your children the piece of cardboard with the straight pins. Set the cardboard on the table so the pins stick up.

Say: Think of these pins as being like Jesus. Our fears are written on the balloons. Let's see what happens when the fears get close to Jesus.

Drop one of the balloons onto the pins so the balloon pops. (If it doesn't work right away, depending on the quality of your balloons, just push down – carefully!)

Say: Jesus has the power to destroy our fears just as a pin can destroy an inflated balloon. As each balloon pops, let's praise God for destroying our fears with his Word.

One by one, drop the balloons onto the pins. As each balloon pops, lead your children in thanking God for his power and love.

Debriefing Questions

Ask:

- **How are these pins like the way Jesus takes care of our fears?**
- **Would a smaller or larger balloon have the same results? Why do you think so?**
- **Are there any fears that may be too big for Jesus? Explain.**

Say: Jesus' power and love are not limited by the size of our fears. He created us and everything else in the universe. There is nothing too great or too small for him to handle.

Online Resources

The following are general resources that are excellent and made available to you to use at home with your children during this time. Many companies are opening up resources for free!

[Life Way Kids at Home](https://kidsministry.lifeway.com/2020/03/13/lifeway-kids-at-home/); Free Family Bible Study for Churches Postponing Services:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/tgi-game-app/>

NetFlix

We just recently discovered these films on Netflix:

“The Gospel of Matthew”

“The Gospel of Mark”

“The Gospel of Luke”

“The Gospel of John”

What is unique about them is they are a word-for-word Bible text of the entire book which is narrated and re-enacted, 2 – 3 ½ hours each movie. Disclaimer: they are rated TV-14 (for fear and suicide, in the case of Judas). We thought they were very well done and rare to find ones with strictly scripture (and not other random things added!).

Printable Resources

The following are printable resources that you can use at your discretion. Maybe something your child can color or work on during Joe’s sermon (if they have trouble just sitting for that long?!). Use as desired and there are many more available on a quick web search.

Enjoy! Please let me know if I can help you in any way during this time or beyond.

-melissa

Jesus Calms the Storm

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39

The puzzle is based on Mark 4:35-41 (NIV).



D H P F O T D W G C F L G C U
 J D U U E L E N T M X M J O Z
 M Y E I L K I R Q E D B S H U
 U U Q I O P S K R U A F X H O
 T E T W E Q T C H I I C L U R
 S S V E Y K E K R N F E H I L
 W C L E P F R B C O H I T E J
 A S U G N B N D H A W P E Y R
 M S X S B I I R Z H L D W D Q
 P Q O A H A N P U M N M W A R
 E U U B R I T G Q I T M K P Y
 D A F F E U O D W A L L C S U
 R L A U M Y U N O S F A I T H
 R L F A G R R B K T J B F S M
 X D R O W N I X U W A V E S T

STERN	CROWD	FAITH	CALM	TEACHER
OBEY	SWAMPED	WIND	AFRAID	DROWN
WOKE	SLEEPING	BOAT	EVENING	STILL
SQUALL	WAVES	CUSHION	TERRIFIED	QUIET



Jesus Calms the Storm

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

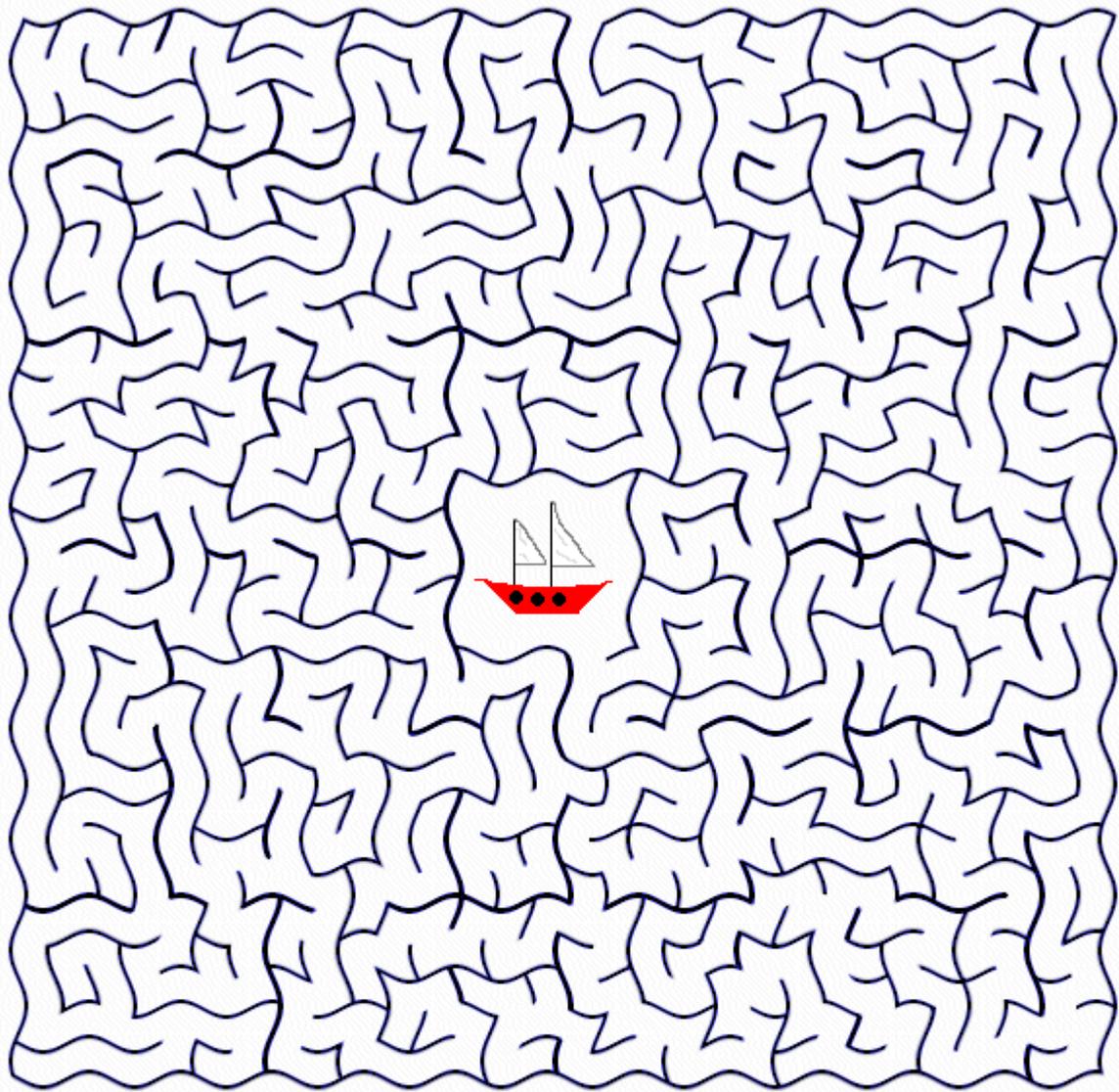


That day when evening came, he said to his _____, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the _____ behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the _____. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the _____ broke over the boat, so that it was nearly _____. Jesus was in the stern, _____ on a cushion. The disciples _____ him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we _____?"

He got up, rebuked the _____ and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely _____.

Mark 4:35-39 (NIV)

boat	crowd	drown	swamped	wind
calm	disciples	sleeping	waves	woke



Jesus and his disciples were in a
little boat in a terrible storm.
Jesus said "Peace, be still".
The storm instantly stopped.
Mark 4:35-41