

LESSON 1

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Creation

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus demonstrates His power over creation when He commands the wind and the waves to be still, and they obey!

WORD OF WONDER: How great God is! We'll never completely understand Him. —Job 36:26a

CURIOSITY 15–20 minutes

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Play Stations:
 - Sail a Boat
 - Tornado in a Bottle
 - Jesus Calms the Storm Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Wind Power
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 20 minutes

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: Job 36:26a

FAITH 15–20 minutes

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Circle Time: Picture Story Review
- Craft: Storm in a Bottle
- Game: Toss the Boats

IDENTITY 15–20 minutes

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: Peace, Be Still!
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Weather Game

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Creation

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

I was soaked, and there was nowhere to go. It was a simple day trip, and I wasn't expecting a storm. Then almost as quickly as the first clap of thunder roared and sheets of rain commenced, the storm stopped.

Most of my friends had spent the night nearby so they had a change of clothes. They calmly went off to find dry clothing. I ended up sitting through dinner still mostly wet.

I remember that storm every time I'm packing for a day trip now. The result? I always pack an extra set of clothes.

Read Mark 4:35–41.

I wonder how the disciples' lives were changed and what they recalled after that day. Someone sleeping through a furious squall like Jesus did? That may have stayed with them.

Jesus demanding the daunting seas to be quiet and then immediate stillness happens? Never seen that before.

Every one of Jesus' responses was in stark contrast to what was happening all around them. Terror? Peace. Lack of faith? A deep knowing that everything is at His command. He is steady when we're not. He is steady when the world around us rages. Because He has power over the wind and waves.

Who is this? The One who knows you. The One who cares for you in every way with a calm and secure presence. How might knowing this change you?

—Rebecca Stone

Children's Ministry Leader and Author

Wonder Ink Development Team

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The book of Mark, which emphasizes Jesus' actions, begins by introducing Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of God" (1:1). This description answers the question the disciples asked after He calmed the storm: "Who is this?" (4:41). This is the Son of God!

WHAT?

Jesus' calming of the storm is a miracle that proves His power over creation and points to His divinity as the Son of God. The sea was seen as a threat in the ancient world, and when Jesus rebuked the wind and waves, the disciples were amazed.

WHERE?

The Sea of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake on earth. Because this lake is surrounded by mountains, this area is susceptible to sudden, violent storms.

WHEN?

Many scholars believe Mark was the first of the written Gospels, and some believe that Matthew and Luke used Mark as a source for their Gospels. It was likely written between AD 55–70.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

From creation to the flood to manna falling from the sky, God showed His power over creation throughout the Old Testament. When Jesus calmed the storm with His words, He demonstrated a power the people believed belonged to God alone, and in doing so, He demonstrated His divinity.

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: bin; shredded paper (blue); toy boat; coloring utensils; toy people (optional); empty 2-liter bottles (2), water to fill 2-liter bottle; tornado tube bottle connector (optional); blue food coloring (optional); glitter (optional); oil (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Calms the Storm Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Sail a Boat

Set up: Fill a bin with shredded blue paper to be pretend water. Place a toy boat or two into the tub. You could add a few small toy people to the boat for more fun.

Play: Let the kids take turns pretending to move the boat in the pretend water in the tub. They could even toss the blue paper shreds to simulate a pretend storm or waves.

Make It Inclusive: This is an excellent activity for including kids who wear hearing devices that can't get wet. Be sure to model how to gently toss the paper shreds to keep them in the tub.

Play Station: Tornado in a Bottle

Set up: Set out a tornado in a bottle for kids to play with. These can be purchased from a school supply store or online. If you don't have one, you can make one with two, 2-liter bottles connected with a tornado tube bottle connector. Be sure to secure the cap so kids are not able to open the bottle. Add water to one bottle before connecting the other on top of it.

Play: Demonstrate how to make a tornado in the bottle by swirling the bottle with the water and then turning it upside down, so the water flows from the upside bottle, through the tornado tub, and into the empty bottle on bottom. Allow the kids to take turns watching and creating a tornado themselves.



Leader Tip: To make the “tornado in a bottle” even more fun, add blue food coloring and glitter to the water in the bottle. You can also add a little vegetable oil, so the kids can see how the oil and water separate.

Play Station: Jesus Calms the Storm Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a boat or water-themed activity they would like to do.

Curiosity Activity: Wind Power

SUPPLIES: small bin or container, water, toy boat, disposable straws (1 per kid), piece of cardboard

Set out a small tub or container with a small amount of water in the bottom. Place a toy boat in the water so it floats.

In today’s story, we’ll hear about a boat that was in a lake during a big storm. Do you know what happens to the water when it starts to storm? Allow the kids to respond. **The wind can make big waves! Let’s experiment to see which things make the biggest waves.**

Let the kids take turns trying to make waves by blowing toward the water through straws, waving a piece of cardboard, or using anything else you may have, such as a non-electric fan. Talk about which items make the biggest waves. Let the kids try to blow the boat across their water using their straws.

We made waves in water! In our story today, people were on the boat when big waves came, and we’ll learn how Jesus showed that He is more powerful than anything—including, waves, wind, and storms.

Leader Tip: If any kids in your ministry have experienced trauma from a storm (flooding, tornado, lightning, hurricanes, etc.), be sensitive to their feelings or fears. Validate their feelings without trying to explain why it happened. Remind them that God is always with us, and that someday, every bad thing will become right again.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Tac the Cat Picture or puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

Cut out the Tac the Cat picture and glue it to a craft stick to make your own stick puppet. Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! Today I’m curious about storms. Being a cat, I don’t love rain ... or thunder and lightning. What causes those things to happen?

Leader: That’s a good question, Tac. There are different things that cause different types of storms. What are some kinds of storms you’ve heard of?

Tac the Cat: I’ve heard of wind storms, dust storms, blizzards or snow storms, rain and thunder and lightning storms, hurricanes or tropical storms, floods, tornadoes I think that’s all I can think of now.



Leader: You've thought of a lot of things! Different types of storms are caused by different things. Snow storms, called blizzards, come when the air is super cold and it gets windy and snows a lot.

Tac the Cat: What about rain storms?

Leader: When the air gets so full of water, it can cause a rain storm or even a hurricane, if it's near the ocean.

Tac the Cat: What about tornadoes?

Leader: Tornadoes happen when lots of air moves and crashes into each other until it forms a funnel that blows around. It can be super strong. There are lots of kinds of storms. Some can be very powerful. Some storms can have lightning and thunder. What kinds of storms have you seen, kids?

(Allow the kids to respond.)

Tac the Cat: Well, storms can definitely be powerful and big.

Leader: But who is more powerful than the storms?

Tac the Cat: God is!

Leader: That's right! It reminds me of our God's big story for today. We'll learn about a time when Jesus' friends were in a storm, and they were scared.

Tac the Cat: Well I understand why they'd be scared in a big storm! What happened?

Leader: We'll learn about how Jesus showed that He is more powerful than the storms, the weather, and everything.

Tac the Cat: That sounds like a really good thing! I'm going to go watch the clouds and see what's happening in the sky.

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever been curious about the weather? Allow the kids to respond. **What kind of weather do you like? What do you not like?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all are curious about the weather sometimes. But did you know that Jesus has power over all creation—including the weather?**

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS HAS POWER OVER CREATION**. Today, we'll discover that Jesus has power over creation!

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or Slide (optional)

Show the Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

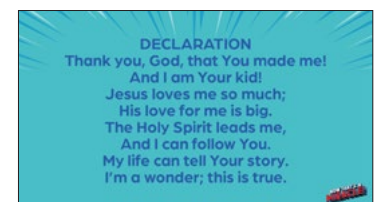
Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.



His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Creation

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for being with us now and always. Help us understand more about Your power and help us remember that You're always with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Now That's a Miracle! Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how Jesus has power. Let's sing about Jesus and praise Him!

Play music from the [Now That's a Miracle! Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Make It Inclusive: If you have kids who are unable to dance or sing, offer instruments or ribbons to twirl in place as they worship with the group.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Mark is in the New Testament, in the first four books of the New Testament called the Gospels.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read Mark 4:35–41 from the Bible. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: parachute or bedsheet, toy boat, blue streamers (1 per kid), spray bottle of water (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jesus Calms the Storm God's Big Story Video](#)

Spread a parachute or bedsheet on the ground. Invite kids to sit on it with you and pretend they are riding in a boat. Put a toy boat in the middle of the parachute or bedsheet where the kids can see it. Hand out blue streamers to the kids and explain they will use the streamers to represent the wind in today's story. Let the kids practice waving their streamers around slowly and quickly, then have them put the streamers down in front of them until it's time to use them in the story.

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching people about God's kingdom. He told simple stories to help people understand God and His kingdom. One night after Jesus taught a lot of people all day, He invited His closest followers, His disciples, to go away with Him. They needed to cross a large lake called the Sea of Galilee on their trip. Jesus was probably tired after being with people and teaching all day. Jesus went to the back of the boat and fell asleep. Everyone lie down and pretend to be asleep. Pause to allow the kids to respond.

Suddenly, a really big storm came. Huge waves crashed over the side of the boat. Demonstrate how to wave the streamers and invite the kids to do it too. Wind rushed and rain came down. The boat almost sank! But Jesus stayed asleep. The disciples were very scared. Move the toy boat around or use the parachute or bedsheet to bounce the toy boat. If using a spray bottle of water, spray some water on the boat or on the kids. **Even the disciples who were fishermen and had been on stormy seas were scared. They did not know if they would make it! They went to Jesus and woke Him. Everyone can sit up now.** Pause to allow the kids to sit up. **"Don't you care if we drown?" they asked.** Encourage the kids to keep waving the streamers.

Jesus did care. His disciples did not understand yet who He truly is. Jesus stood up and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" (Mark 4:39). Then the storm stopped. Encourage the kids to stop waving their streamers and stop moving the boat. **The wind and water became completely calm.**

Jesus asked, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have any faith at all yet?" (Mark 4:40). The disciples were amazed. They realized that the wind and waves obey Jesus! What the disciples saw was miraculous—an amazing sign that God was at work! Jesus is more powerful than any storm. Jesus has power over creation.

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS HAS POWER OVER CREATION**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

All through the Bible, we see God's power over creation! He speaks, and the universe is created! He parts the Red Sea and causes bread to rain on His people. So when Jesus calmed the storm, He showed great power that only belongs to God. Jesus showed that He is more than just a man—He is God!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, ball, parachute or bedsheet

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Now That's a Miracle! Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

How great God is! We'll never completely understand Him.

—Job 36:26a

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Now That's a Miracle! series is Job 36:26a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GREAT**—Put one arm straight up for each word.
- **GOD IS!**—Point up.
- **WE'LL NEVER**—Cross arms back and forth in front of you.
- **COMPLETELY**—Bring both arms down from above you, to your sides.
- **UNDERSTAND** —Point to your head with both hands.
- **HIM.**—Point up.
- **JOB 36:26a**—Hold your hands together in front of you, palms open, as if opening a book.



Gather the kids sit in a circle. Practice the Word of Wonder together as a group several times. Then spread out the parachute or bedsheet and invite everyone to take a hold of the edge.

We're going to play a game to help us learn our Word of Wonder! In our story today, we learned that Jesus showed His power when He calmed a storm in the water. We're going to pretend this ball (show the ball) is a boat in the water, and we're going to use the parachute (or sheet) to make waves. Everyone will gently shake the parachute (or sheet) when I say, "storm." But when I say, "Be still," you'll freeze, and we'll all say the verse together. Invite the kids to shake the parachute (or sheet). Periodically say, "Be still," and have the kids freeze, and then say the verse together.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some things you know about God?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: God is powerful; God created everything; God can do anything; God loves us.)
- **What are some things that you don't understand about God?**



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Has Power over Creation**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 4**WORD OF WONDER:** Job 36:26a**Circle Time: Picture Story Review****SUPPLIES:** whiteboard, dry-erase marker, eraser, scissors (prep only, optional)**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Circle Time Pictures (optional)

If you plan to use the Circle Time Pictures, print a copy of this resource and cut them apart.

Gather the kids to sit in a circle in front of a whiteboard. **I'm going to draw a simple picture of something from today's story, and you'll get to guess what I'm drawing. After each picture is guessed, whoever correctly guessed the picture first can answer a question about the story.**

For older kids, you can allow them to draw pictures from the story.

You can also show the Circle Time Pictures instead of drawing the pictures yourself.

Hold up or draw the following pictures.

- A lake
- Boat
- Jesus
- Big wave
- Lightning
- Disciples/people



What did Jesus do in the story that showed His power? Allow the kids to respond. **He calmed the storm. We can remember that this shows us how amazing and powerful Jesus is. He can do anything!**

After the kids have guessed what each picture depicts, ask them a question from the list below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What was the name of the sea that Jesus and His disciples were crossing?** (the Sea of Galilee)
- **What was Jesus doing in the boat before the storm came?** (sleeping)
- **What caused the waves to get really big?** (a storm)
- **What did Jesus say to the storm?** ("Quiet! Be still.")
- **How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus told the storm to stop?**
- **Share about a time when you were scared. What made you feel better?**
- **What does this story show us about Jesus?**

We can remember that Jesus has power over all creation—even storms! Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Leader Tip: If any kids in your ministry have experienced trauma from a storm (flooding, tornado, lightning, hurricanes, etc.), be sensitive to their feelings or fears. Validate their feelings without trying to explain why it happened. Remind them that God is always with us, and that someday, every bad thing will become right again.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God.

Craft: Storm in a Bottle

SUPPLIES: water bottles or unbreakable clear containers with lids (1 per kid), water, dish soap, glitter, food coloring (blue)

In our God's big story today, we heard about Jesus having power over a storm. Have you ever seen or heard a big storm? What was it like? Allow the kids to respond. **We're going to make a storm in a bottle, and we'll remember how Jesus had power over the storm in our story.**

Give each kid a water bottle filled approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Add a squirt of dish soap into the bottle, along with a spoonful of glitter and a drop or two of blue food coloring. Make sure the lid is on tight.

Show the kids how to move their bottles rapidly in a circular motion. After a few moments, the water should start twirling and resemble a tornado or storm.



Leader Tip: To prevent spills, consider adding some glue around the bottle lids to seal them shut.

Take your storm bottle home, and if you're ever worried, take a moment and shake your bottle. When you see the water in your bottle spinning, you can stop and remember that Jesus is with you, and He is all-powerful!

Game: Toss the Boat

SUPPLIES: parachute (or blanket or bedsheet), toy boat

Gather the kids around a parachute (or blanket or bedsheet) and have each of them hold onto the edge. Place a small toy boat in the middle of the parachute or sheet. Show kids how to move their hands up and down to shake the parachute and move the boat. When they shake harder, the boat should move more.

In today's story, the boat that the disciples were on was moving the storm and waves, kind of like the boat in our parachute. When I say, "Go," you can move the parachute and make the boat move, but when I say, "Be still!" you should stop moving and hold the parachute still. The disciples were scared at first because of the storm, but after Jesus told the storm to be still, they saw how powerful Jesus is. And just like you stop moving the parachute when I say, "Be still," the storm listened to Jesus, and it stopped. Let the kids move the parachute gently to bounce the boat around, until you say, "Be still" periodically.

Jesus and the waves became calm because Jesus has power over creation. We can remember that Jesus is always with us, and He is all-powerful!

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Creation

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Responding in Worship: Peace, Be Still!

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, parachute (or blanket or bedsheet)

Give each kid a piece of paper and coloring utensils. **Everyone spread out and find a quiet space in the room to sit and draw. Think of something in creation that is scary or powerful—a thunderstorm, an earthquake, a tornado, or anything you can think of, and draw a picture of it on your papers.**

Once the kids complete their pictures, have the kids wad their drawings into balls and place the balls in a pile in the middle of the parachute (or blanket or bedsheet). Choose some kids to sit around the parachute and have the others hold the sides and shake it. Explain to the group that the parachute represents the boat from our story. The kids sitting around the “boat” will start tossing the paper wads onto the parachute, while the other kids will shake the parachute and try to keep the balls off. Let this go on for a little while, and then say, “Be still!” When you say, “Be still,” encourage the kids to hold the parachute very still.

In our story today, a storm made big waves. The waves may have even made water go into the boat. The disciples got scared of the storm. They knew Jesus was with them and they already knew that He is powerful, but they were focused on the storm instead of Jesus. When Jesus woke up and told the storm to be still, they didn't have to worry anymore because Jesus has power over creation! We can remember that Jesus is powerful, and He is with us too.

Who told the wind and waves to be still? Allow the kids to respond. **Jesus!**

Jesus is more powerful than all of creation and more powerful than all the things in your pictures.

Have each kid grab a wadded-up piece of paper (it doesn't have to be their own) and stand on the parachute. **Toss your paper wad out and say, “Jesus says, ‘Be still!’ ”**

We can thank Jesus because He is powerful!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His power.

When I say the word “afraid,” you can make a scared face. When I say “Jesus,” you can show your muscles to remind us that Jesus is powerful. Let’s talk to God.

God, thank You for taking care of us when we’re afraid (scared faces). Thank You for reminding us that Jesus (show muscles) has power over everything. We love You. In Jesus’ (show muscles) name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you remember that the Jesus who controls the wind and waves also walks with you. There is nothing too big for Him to handle.

Closing Activity: Weather Game

Today we learned from God’s big story that Jesus has power over creation. When a big storm came and the disciples were on a boat and were scared, Jesus told the storm to stop, and it did!

Let’s play a game where we pretend to be different kinds of weather. I’m going to call out a type of weather and you can act it out. So, if I say, “thunder!” clap your hands or stomp your feet. You can keep going until I say, “Be still!” and then you can stop until I call out another type of weather. Let’s play!

Play multiple rounds by calling out different kinds of weather.

- **Rain:** Pat your hands on your lap, which resembles pitter-pattering rain.
- **Thunder:** Clap your hands.
- **Wind:** Blow and move your hands in “whoosh” motions.
- **Tornado:** Spin around in circles.
- **Lightning:** Shake your whole body like a jolt.

Leader Tip: You can also show pictures of each type of weather, and let the kids act out the weather as you hold up each picture, or the kids can take turns holding up the pictures.