

JESUS CALMED A STORM

MATTHEW 8; MARK 4; LUKE 8



KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 40:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true and has no error.

CHRIST CONNECTION: The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior. One day, Jesus would show His greatest power—not by calming a storm, but by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save people from sin. Jesus saves everyone who trusts in Him.

STORY POINT: Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

A friend of mine recalled a childhood memory when he jolted out of bed in the middle of the night, ran into the hallway, and put his head between his knees. A tornado was ripping through his neighborhood.

As the storm passed over his family's house, it sounded like a train was roaring above them. And yet, when the winds and rain finally died down, my friend realized his brother never made it out of his bedroom. When my friend went to check on him, he was sound asleep. He had slept through the entire storm.

This image of peace amid chaos is similar to Jesus' disposition in this week's story of Him calming the storm. The disciples were experienced fishermen, but this storm on the Sea of Galilee was fierce. The waves crashed into their small boat, and the wind howled. They were convinced they were going to drown. Meanwhile, Jesus—the Son of God, their teacher and Lord—was asleep in the boat.

In panic, they shook Him awake and shouted, “Lord, save us! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?” Jesus stood up and said to the wind and the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Instantly, everything stopped. The sea became as smooth as glass.

Then Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” Jesus was reminding them it doesn’t matter how strong the storm is outside the boat when Jesus is inside the boat.

When the storms of life rise—whether it’s a health crisis, financial struggle, broken relationship, or deep anxiety—it’s easy to feel like Jesus is “asleep” in your life. This story, however, reminds us that He is still in control—and He never loses His sovereign grip.

As you teach kids this week, help them see that the same Savior who calmed the wind and waves that night still speaks peace into the chaos of our lives today.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Maze at Sea" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ balloons
- ☐ empty cardboard tube, 1 per kid
- ☐ Allergy Alert



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ shaving cream
- ☐ water
- ☐ blue food color
- ☐ clear cups, 1 per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Calmed a Storm" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ box fan (optional)
- ☐ spray bottle (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 25, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Carter and Wanda Bearden Photo" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ masking tape
- ☐ index cards
- ☐ "Forever (Isaiah 40:8)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What is your favorite type of weather? What do you like to do when that weather comes?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Maze at Sea” activity page.

SAY “You did an awesome job navigating through the maze! Jesus is with us even when life is confusing or scary. In today’s story, we’ll learn how Jesus showed the disciples He is in control by calming a storm.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WACKY WEATHER



Designate one side of the room as the shelter. Explain that you will call out different types of weather and the kids must do a different action depending on the weather called: sunny: hop; windy: spin around; rainy: jumping jacks; stormy: run to shelter. When you call stormy, the kids must run to one side of the room as fast as they can. The last kid to reach the shelter is out. Bring everyone back to the middle of the room and repeat the actions again. The last kid remaining wins.

SAY “What was your favorite type of weather to act out? [Allow responses.] Weather can be unpredictable! In today’s story, we will learn how **JESUS CALMED A STORM TO SHOW THE DISCIPLES HE IS GOD.**”

☐ OPTION 2: STORM CLOUD CROSSING



Group the kids into two teams. Line the teams up on one side of the room. Give each kid an empty cardboard tube. Blow up two balloons and hand one to each team. Explain that the balloons represent storm clouds. Instruct the kids to work together as a team to move their balloon, or storm cloud, to the other side of the room by blowing through their cardboard tubes. The first team to get their storm cloud to the other side of the room wins. Note: If you don’t have enough cardboard tubes, you can have kids use paper fans or fan heavyweight paper to move the balloons.

SAY “Sometimes we face actual weather storms, and other times life can just feel scary, like a storm. Today we will learn that **JESUS CALMED A STORM TO SHOW THE DISCIPLES HE IS GOD.**”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m so excited to explore another story in God’s Word with you! If you brought your Bible to church this morning, go ahead and take it out now. (Use this time to distribute a Bible to any kid who needs one.) We have been learning about the different parables that Jesus shared. These stories were used to help people understand more about God’s kingdom. Today’s story shows that Jesus is God. He has power over all creation!

Let’s pray together as we open God’s Word. ‘God, thank You for revealing Your power through Your Son, Jesus. Open our hearts and minds to understand Your Word and apply it to our lives. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Through our big picture question, we have been reminded that the Bible is God’s Word and can always be trusted. Can anyone share what our big picture question is? [Allow responses.] **Is the Bible true?** [Allow responses.] Together we have learned that, **yes, the Bible is true and has no error.**

The Bible is inspired by God, which means ‘God-breathed.’ Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, different human authors wrote down God’s message for His people. We can turn to God’s Word for comfort and peace when we are afraid. Today, we will learn how Jesus calmed the sea with His words. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “As Jesus continued to teach, the truth of what He said was not understood by all those who heard. Jesus shared that God’s kingdom is for all those who repent and turn to Him. At the end of the age, God will separate those who accept Him from those who have rejected His offer of salvation. The disciples continued to travel with Jesus as He revealed more about who He is. In today’s story, Jesus shows His power as God by calming a storm. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Calmed a Storm.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS CALMED A STORM

“ One evening, **Jesus said to His disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.” They set out and began to sail across,** and other boats were with them. **Jesus lay down in the back of the boat and fell asleep on a cushion.**

While Jesus slept, the wind began to blow. Suddenly **a powerful storm arose on the sea.** The wind became so strong it caused waves to pour into the disciples’ boat. **The disciples, many of them fishermen, had been in storms before—but this storm was fierce. They thought they might drown!**

The disciples rushed to Jesus and woke Him. “Lord, save us!” they shouted, “Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”

Jesus stood up. He looked at the roaring wind and the crashing waves **and said, “Silence! Be still!”**

Right away, the wind stopped. The waves became calm. Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

Christ Connection: The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior. One day, Jesus would show His greatest power—not by calming a storm, but by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save people from sin. Jesus saves everyone who trusts in Him. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Storm simulation:

Consider dimming the lights and plugging in a box fan. Use a spray bottle to mist water as you simulate a storm.

Line up: Have the kids sit in rows of two as though they are in a boat. Encourage them to react as the disciples would have as you read through the story.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Though the disciples had traveled with Jesus and seen many miracles, they still did not fully understand who He is. What did Jesus do once He got into the boat? [Allow responses.] Even as the storm began to rage around the boat, Jesus slept, revealing that He was tired, but not fearful. The disciples, however, were full of fear! Who did the disciples go to when the storm began to rage? [Allow responses.] The disciples did the right thing by turning to Jesus.

Why was Jesus able to calm the storm? [Allow responses.] In the Old Testament we see God’s power as Creator. The disciples knew these stories and were aware of God’s control over creation. By calming the wind and waves, Jesus showed His power as God. Jesus reminded the disciples that their lack of faith is what caused



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

them to fear. When we are afraid, it is easy to only focus on what we can see. But Jesus showed there is no need to fear. We can trust that He is in control because He is God. He is in control not only of the sea, but of our lives too!

The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior. One day, Jesus would show His greatest power—not by calming a storm, but by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save people from sin. Jesus saves everyone who trusts in Him. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Jesus saves us from something much greater than a physical storm. Because Jesus is God, His death and resurrection offer forgiveness from sin. When we repent and trust in Him as Lord, He saves us and promises us life forever with Him. To learn more about what it means to trust your life to Jesus, you can see one of your parents or a church leader. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 25, Session 3” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we become less fearful?
2. What is a fear you can trust God with today?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “Carter Bearden preached for 48 years, but he didn’t use his mouth to tell others about Jesus; he used his hands. He was deaf, and he preached powerfully using American Sign Language (ASL).”

Show the “Carter and Wanda Bearden Photo” printable.

Carter became a Christian when he was a boy living in Dallas, Texas. Carter said his local church greatly influenced his life through their ministry to Deaf children. After Carter graduated from the school for the Deaf, college, and seminary, he served as a missionary to the Deaf, primarily in Georgia and Tennessee. Soon he was being asked to preach to the Deaf community all around the country. During his career, Carter preached regularly, helped churches start ministries to the Deaf, and assisted in starting new Deaf churches. He also helped train interpreters for the Deaf to serve in churches.

Carter wrote several books and Bible studies for both Deaf and hearing populations. Even in his 90s, Carter was still teaching Bible study courses at two churches near him.

Pray, thanking God for people like Carter Bearden, who helped many Deaf people learn about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 40:8 together.

SAY “While the things of this earth will fade away, God promises that His Word is everlasting. Let’s review this truth more through our key passage.”

Place two strips of masking tape along the floor. Create two sets of index cards by writing each word of the key passage on a separate index card in large letters. Group the kids into two teams. Scramble each set of cards and give each team a set. Encourage the kids to work together with their team to place the words of the key passage in order on the line of tape. When finished, invite the kids to read the key passage aloud together.

Lead kids to sing “Forever (Isaiah 40:8).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “God, we trust that You are everlasting. You sent Your Son, Jesus, who is the Word, to die so that we can live through Him. Help us to boldly share this good news with those who don’t know You. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 8. Explain the Gospel of Luke is found in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, we read about God as the Creator and Ruler over everything. In the New Testament, Jesus revealed Himself to be God as He displayed His power over creation.

Consider pointing out the location of the Sea of Galilee [D6] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 8:24-25 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ Think about your biggest fear. Whether it’s spiders, the dark, or maybe speaking to groups of people, Jesus is greater than all these fears. Why? Because He is God. Though the disciples thought they had been forgotten, Jesus never left them, and He promises that He will always be with us if we have trusted in Him. We have no reason to fear because He has already conquered our greatest enemies: sin and death. Jesus reminded His disciples that believers are called to have faith, not fear. Those who are in Christ Jesus should not fear. Believers have been promised eternal life! And Jesus calls us to share the peace He gives with others. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ What does Jesus calming the storm reveal about His character? ”

Share that because Jesus is God, He holds God’s attributes. Invite kids to consider God’s sovereignty. Explain that He is in complete control of all things including nature! (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 135:6.)

SAY “ How can knowing that Jesus is God help us to not fear? ”

Explain that Jesus being God means that He is in control of our lives. We don’t have to fight for control or worry about what will happen, because God is over everything. Invite kids to rest in the truth that He is working all things for His good purposes. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 1:11.)

SAY “ What are some storms in our lives that we need to trust Jesus with? ”

Lead kids to think about situations they face that may be scary or challenging. Remind kids that we can trust that Jesus never leaves those who have placed their faith in Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 28:20.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: STORM SOUNDS



Guide the kids to sit down in a line facing forward like they are in a boat. Sit in front of the group and encourage them to follow your lead. Share that you will be making storm sounds together. Start by having them rub their fingers together like light rain. Next, have them tap their fingers on the ground like raindrops. Now, have the class pat their hands on their thighs like heavy rain. Finally, have them clap their hands together like thunder. End by inviting the kids to pick one of these motions and do them all together. Finally, create a rhythm of different sounds and say the story point to the rhythm.

SAY “ Storms can sound frightening, but as today’s story showed us, Jesus has power over nature and our lives, too! He invites us to trust that He is God. Jesus offers salvation for all who believe in Him. ”

☐ OPTION 2: CLOUD CUPS

Instruct the kids to have a seat at the table. Give them each a clear cup. Fill each cup $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full with water. Top each cup the rest of the way full with shaving cream. Allow the kids to place 3 or 4 drops of food color on top of the shaving cream. Let them watch as the food color drips through the foam and into the water like rain. Encourage the kids to think about Jesus’ power and control. After the activity is over, lead the kids to pour the liquid into a sink.

SAY “ Jesus calmed the storm for the disciples, and He can calm the storms in our life, too. When we face scary things, we know that Jesus is in control because He is God. We can trust Him! ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.