

WSC SG G23 | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule

Small group : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Activity One

Activity Two

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



Bible Story

Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:36-41

Bottom Line

God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Memory Verse

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

• Psalm 46:1 NIV

Greeting & Prayer

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 - Storm in a Bottle

What You Need

	Clear plastic bottle or jar with lid	1
	Blue food coloring	1
	Glitter, sequins, beads, or small waterproof objects	Several
	Plastic tablecloth	1

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Spread out the tablecloth.
- Fill the bottle about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.
- Set supplies where kids can help add items.

During the Activity:

- Gather kids around the bottle.
- Say: "Today we're going to create our own storm in a bottle!"
- Invite kids to help:
 - Add a few drops of blue food coloring.
 - Sprinkle in glitter or small objects.
 - Add one small drop of dish soap if desired.
- Secure the lid tightly.
- Hold up the bottle and gently swirl it first.
- Ask:
 - "What does the water look like right now?"
 - "Does it seem calm or stormy?"
- Then begin shaking the bottle harder.
- Say: "Now let's pretend a huge storm is blowing across the water!"
- Continue shaking while describing the story:
 - "The wind was strong."
 - "The waves crashed against the boat."
 - "Water splashed everywhere."
- Ask: "Do you think the disciples felt calm or afraid during the storm?" Allow a few responses.
- Say: "The disciples thought everything was out of control. But then Jesus stood up and spoke to the storm. 'Quiet! Be still!' He said. And just like that, the storm calmed."
- Hold the bottle still in your hands and gently set the bottle down.
- Ask:
 - "What do you notice happening inside the bottle now?"
 - "How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus calmed the storm?"
 - "How is this like the story we heard today?"
 - Allow a few responses.

What You Say:

"When we shook the bottle, everything inside moved around wildly! The water splashed, the glitter spun everywhere, and it felt messy and out of control. That's probably how the disciples felt during the storm. The wind was loud, the waves were huge, and the boat was filling with water. They were afraid because they thought the boat might sink! Meanwhile, Jesus was asleep in the boat. The disciples woke Him up and asked, 'Don't You care if we drown?' They were terrified. But Jesus stood up and spoke to the wind and the waves. He said, 'Quiet! Be still!' And immediately the storm stopped. The water became calm. That's incredible! The disciples realized that Jesus wasn't just an ordinary person. Even the wind and waves obeyed Him! Jesus showed that He has power over creation because He is God. Sometimes our lives can feel stormy too. Maybe you feel worried, upset, scared, or overwhelmed by something happening around you. But just like Jesus was with the disciples in the boat, He is with you too. And even when life feels out of control, God is still in control. That doesn't always mean the hard thing disappears right away. But it does mean we can trust that God is with us, helping us, and taking care of us through every storm. **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

5 min

Activity Two

5 min

23 - Hidden in the Storm | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Hidden in the Storm" Activity Page	1
	"Hidden in the Storm Key" Activity Page	1
	Coloring supplies	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Hidden in the Storm" on cardstock, one per kid.
- Print "Hidden in the Storm Key" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Set out coloring supplies.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Psalm 46:1.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Pass out the Activity Pages and coloring supplies.
- Say: "This picture is filled with hidden parts of our Memory Verse! As you color, search carefully to find every hidden phrase."

- Encourage kids to:
 - Circle or color each hidden phrase when they find it.
 - Work together if they get stuck.
 - Continue coloring the storm scene as they search.
- As kids work, ask:
 - "Which part of the verse have you found?"
 - "What do you think it means that God is our refuge?"
 - "How can God help us when life feels stormy or difficult?"
- Once most kids finish, invite everyone to say the verse together one more time.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job searching carefully for the hidden parts of the verse. Some of them were easy to spot right away, and some took a little more time to find. You had to slow down, pay attention, and keep looking. Our Memory Verse says, 'God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.' A place of safety is somewhere you can go when you need protection or help. That means when life feels scary, overwhelming, or stormy, God is with you and helping you. In today's Bible Story, the disciples were in the middle of a huge storm. The wind and waves were loud, and they were so afraid that they forgot who Jesus really is. They forgot how powerful He is and how much He cared about them. But Jesus spoke, and even the wind and waves obeyed Him. Can you imagine what that must have felt like? One second the boat is shaking and the water is wild—and the next second everything is still. The disciples were amazed! In fact, they looked at each other and said, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!' That's what makes this story so powerful. The disciples realized Jesus wasn't just a teacher or a helper. He is God. Even creation obeys Him. And that changes everything. If Jesus is powerful enough to command the wind and waves, then He is powerful enough to help you through anything you face too. When life feels scary, loud, confusing, or out of control, you can remember that Jesus is still with you, still powerful, and still in control. That's why Psalm 46:1 says God is our place of safety and strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble. **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

Prayer

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank You that You are powerful and good. Thank You that You care about us, even when we feel afraid. Sometimes life feels stormy, and we don't know what to do. Help us remember that You are always with us. Help us trust You when things feel hard or out of control. Thank You for being our place of safety and strength. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

23 - Storm in a Bottle		Quantity
1.	Clear plastic bottle or jar with lid	1
2.	Blue food coloring	1
3.	Glitter, sequins, beads, or small waterproof objects	Several
4.	Plastic tablecloth	1

23 - Hidden in the Storm Made to Create		Quantity
1.	Bibles	1
2.	"Hidden in the Storm" Activity Page	1
3.	"Hidden in the Storm Key" Activity Page	1
4.	Coloring supplies	Several