



December 9, 2020
Small Group Kinder- 3rd grade

JESUS CALMED A STORM | *Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8*

Memory Verse: ²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

JOHN 14:25-26

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Bottom Line: I depend on Jesus because He is in charge.

Christ Connection: Jesus' disciples knew Jesus was a good man and a good teacher. But when Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed His disciples that He is also God.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

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Next Steps As we continue our journey through the Bible, it is important to always remember that we are studying the bible so that we will grow to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We aren't just learning to know things. We are learning so that we will do things that honor God. What is your next step? You can talk about this in your group, but begin to think about it now:

- Believe: believe that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and Jesus is your Savior because He died for you and rose again.
- Get baptized: show your faith by getting dipped back in the water and raised out of the water.
- Read your Bible and pray: read your Bible and pray every day so that you get to know God personally
- Serve others: serve others at home, at school, and at church.

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect (40 Minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Bible Skills and Discussion

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do: Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Mark 4. Remind them to use the table of contents to find Mark and the large chapter numbers to find Mark 4. Discuss the purpose of Bible divisions, and ask a volunteer to tell which division Mark is in. (to help us organize and understand the Bible, Gospels) Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God. When we understand who Jesus is and put our faith in His work on the cross, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life with Him.

Discussion Questions

- **What was Jesus doing when the storm hit the boat?** (sleeping; Mark 4:38)
- **How did Jesus calm the storm?** (By speaking; Mark 4:39)
- **How did the disciples react to Jesus' miracle?** (They were terrified and ask who Jesus was, Mark 4:41)
- **Why do you think the disciples were afraid?** Direct the kids to think more deeply than the simple answer of the storm they faced. Help them see that their fear came from a lack of understanding and trust in who Jesus is. If they had known who Jesus is and trusted Him completely even in the storm, they would not have been afraid.
- **How do you react to scary or hard situations?** Guide kids to answer honestly. Discuss when it is hard or easy to trust God. Be sensitive if any kids share about abuse or neglect, and ensure you follow all proper reporting procedures according to the laws where you live and Parkway's policies. Talk to your campus director if you have questions or need help.
- **How can we know that Jesus is trustworthy no matter what?** Prompt kids to provide ways we can know Jesus is trustworthy. Remind them that God's Word is true, and it teaches us to trust Jesus. Jesus is God the Son, and the Bible teaches us that He has control over all of creation. We also know that God only does what is good and right. Everything He does is for His glory and our good.

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, numbered cube(die), square stickers for die

What You Do:

Assign to each face of the die a way to read the memory verse, such as quietly, loudly, in a deep voice, in a high-pitched voice, in an operatic voice, in a robot voice. Invite a kid to roll the die and lead the group saying the memory verse in the designated way rolled on the die. Play multiple times, allowing other kids to roll and lead.

What You Say: " Jesus spoke the memory verse to His disciples before He went to the cross. Jesus wanted them to know what to expect. Jesus knew that they would have trouble remembering all the wonderful things He taught about God and God's kingdom. That's why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us. He lives within us when we have faith in Jesus, and He helps us understand and remember God's truth.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do: Distribute journal pages and pencils. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What do we learn about following God from today's passage?
- What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?
- Where is one area that you would like to be closer to God?
- What is your next step to keep loving, following and obeying Jesus? (Believe, Baptism)

When your kids identify their next steps, take note and circle back to them so that you can help them and give them/their parents resources to help them take their next step.

- Pray for your group. Lord Jesus, You are the Messiah, the Savior, and the Son of God. When the storms of this life feel rough and overwhelming, help us trust in You. You care for us and came to save us from something worse than drowning. You came to save us from our sins. Calm our hearts and give us peace. We love You. Amen.