

Reality – Bible Lesson for June 7, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

New Testament Section Two: His Love for All People Lesson 2: Jesus Calms the Storm

- 1. Lesson: Jesus Calms the Storm**
- 2. Scripture:** Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
- 3. Memory Verse:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- 4. Mission Story:** Next Week
- 5. Bible Skills:** Books of the Bible Bingo
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity – Object Lesson:** paper clip; a small section of paper towel; an empty bowl; water **Bible Skills Game – Books of the Bible Bingo:** downloaded templates – cards and books (Old Testament or New Testament); scissors; glue; construction paper squares for markers; list of the books of the Old and New Testaments

Books of the Bible Bingo:

<https://ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/OT-Books-of-the-Bible-Bingo.pdf>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/NT-Books-of-the-Bible-Bingo.pdf>

<https://www.pleacher.com/forwards/religion/biblelst.pdf>

Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzPwRXytr7U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHAVs1GEUzc>

1. Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the object lesson:

1. Fill a bowl of water about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
2. Drop a paper clip in the bowl of water. What happens? (It sinks)
3. Tear off a piece of paper towel that is larger than the paper clip but smaller than the rim of the bowl.
4. Gently place another paper clip on the piece of paper towel and slowly lower it into the water. Try to lay the paper towel down as evenly as possible. If the center gets wet first, the experiment may not work. Wait a few seconds and watch what happens. (The paper towel segment will sink, but the paper clip will float.)

Explanation: If you drop a paper clip in water, the paper clip sinks. But if you put the paper clip on a piece of paper towel, and then lower it into the water – after about 30 –

45 seconds the paper towel sinks, and the paper clip floats. This is because water particles are attracted to each other in all directions, making them “stick” together. However, because there are no water particles above them, the water particles at the surface “stick” only to particles next to and below them. This makes the surface have “surface tension.” The paper towel helps you to lower the paper clip onto the surface gently without breaking the surface tension.

Say: Sometimes we seem to think we’re “sunk” – when we have a problem. If we think of ourselves as the paper clip and we think of Jesus as the paper towel, we know that Jesus guards us and keeps us in His arms when we have troubles – and that will keep us “afloat.”

Now let’s listen to a story about a time when Jesus kept His disciples from sinking.

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

Have you ever been afraid of something you couldn’t control...like maybe there was a power outage and the electricity in your house wouldn’t work so you couldn’t turn on the lights. Or maybe you were frightened by a big strange dog that was barking at you? Sometimes these things happen suddenly so we sort of feel helpless. Today we are going to hear about a time when that happened to Jesus’ disciples. They suddenly were caught in the middle of a terrible storm. What they learned during that storm will help us too when we feel afraid.

Our story comes from the Books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These Gospels tell us that Jesus had been teaching and healing people all day. He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. But He was getting tired and needed to rest. So, He stepped into a boat to go out on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. Some of His disciples were seasoned fishermen, so they knew a lot about handling a boat on the Sea, even though the Sea of Galilee is a little different than most seas. This sea has 2000-foot-tall mountains on one side. On the west side there are hills with valleys and gullies. When a cool wind comes from the west, these valleys and gullies act like gigantic funnels. Because the Sea of Galilee is small, the winds move directly to its center with violent results. Storms come up very suddenly. The Sea is also relatively shallow, just 200 feet at its greatest depth. This causes it to be “whipped up” by wind more rapidly. The calm of one moment can become the raging storm of the next.

Jesus and His disciples all settled into the boat and Jesus lay down to take a nap. Even though He is God, He is also human – and He was tired from teaching, preaching, and healing all day. We see in **Mark 4:37-38** that a furious storm came up. Suddenly, without warning, a giant storm was raging upon them. It began filling the boat with water and waves rose up around them like giant walls. In **Luke 8:24**, Scripture says, that the disciples thought they were going to die. Throughout all this, Jesus slept

peacefully. Let's read what Proverbs 3:24 and Psalm 4:8 say about being afraid in the midst of a storm.

The disciples cried out, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" (**Matthew 8:25**) When Jesus was awakened, He showed His disapproval of His disciples' fear and unbelief with the question found in **Mark 4:40**, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Jesus arose and rebuked the winds and the sea. He didn't just quiet them; He rebuked them by saying, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Psalm 89:8-9 reads, "Who is like You, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and Your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them." The disciples were amazed at such a powerful display over creation. It led them to ask, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" (**Matthew 8:27**)

Jesus told them that they were afraid because they didn't have enough faith - Faith in Him. How quickly they forgot and how quickly we forget who we have in the boat with us when the storms of life come. He had healed blind and crippled people, raised the dead, and fed the multitudes. The disciples had faith when Jesus worked in other people's lives, but they doubted Jesus when the storm was in their own lives. As long as Jesus is with us, we never have to be afraid (**Romans 8:31**)

When Jesus got in the boat and told His disciples to go over to the other side, He knew the storm was coming. He never promised that we would never see a storm in life. In **John 16:33**, He has told us to expect problems, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world." He has promised that He will be with us in the storm.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

- What happened that made the disciples feel afraid? (Their boat was in a bad storm; they thought they were going to drown.)
- What did they do to get help? (They awakened Jesus.)
- What did Jesus do to make things okay again? (He told the wind and the waves to be still.)
- How could he do that? (He's God—He's the Creator. He has authority over everything.)
- Can Jesus help us the way he helped the disciples in the storm? Why or why not? (Yes, Jesus can still do anything; we just need to pray to Him...He always hears us)
- Can Jesus help us even though we can't see him or touch him? Why or why not? (Yes, He's always with us; we just need to remember to ask Him for help.)

4. Prayer/Journaling:

Remind the children that God has promised to be with us always, even during the “storms” of our lives, but it is important that we take the time to talk to him about them, about how we are feeling, what we are hoping, what we are afraid of. Spending time with God in stormy times helps us to feel calmer and grow closer to God.

Let’s take turns reading the following Scripture verses out loud:

Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 27:1; Psalm 56:3; Psalm 118:6; Isaiah 41:10; and Hebrews 13:6

Now, use one of these verses to write a prayer that will calm you during “storms” in life.

Pray: Silently – say the prayer you just wrote. [Let’s take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

5.Mission Story: Next Week

6.Bible Skills: Books of the Bible Bingo

1. Print out the BIBLE Bingo blank cards and the cards containing each book of the Old or New Testament (or both).
2. Copy a set for each child in your class, give them scissors and glue, and they can make their own game board. This way each child’s page is different as they play the game.
3. Give them squares of construction paper to cover their spaces as you call the names of the Books of the Bible from your list.
4. As you call out each Book of the Bible – put a check beside it on your calling chart so you know which books you have called.
5. Play the rest of the game as you would a normal Bingo game – the children can win with the titles covered vertically, horizontally, diagonally, or full card.

7.Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Play: What’s Next?

Divide the kids up into two groups. Have the two groups on opposite sides of the room. Taking turns, from one group to the next, have each child recite the next word of the verse. Go back and forth reciting the verse several times.

7.Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don’t forget to pray for missionaries.

Extra Game: Interactive Story – (If you want a review game all of your children can play, you can use this interactive version of the story to reinforce the lesson.)

Say: Now, we're going to review the story about what happened to Jesus' disciples when a great storm came up while they were in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. And you're going to help me tell it.

The first thing I need you to do is sit together, in the middle of the floor, and pretend you're in a boat. (They can sit on the floor or you can use chairs.)

Practice each of these cues and responses with your children:

- Whenever I say "**boat**" everyone say "creeeak" and pretend you're pulling hard on the oars
- Whenever I say "**disciples**," count to 12 really fast (For youngest children, just have them say the number "12")
- Whenever I say "**wind**," cup your hands around your mouths and blow.
- Whenever I say "**waves**," put your hands side by side and make waves in front of you.
- Whenever I say "**Jesus**," point upward and say, "The Son of God."

As you tell the Jesus Calms the Storm story, be sure to put an emphasis on each of the bold words; then pause for the kids to respond.

The **disciples** were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following **Jesus**, listening as he taught and watching as he healed the sick. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his **disciples** were, **Jesus** said, "Let's get in a **boat** and go over to the other side of the lake." It would be good for all of them to get away from the crowds for a while.

The **disciples** rowed away from the shore while **Jesus** went to the front of the **boat** and lay down on a cushion. The **waves** lapped gently against the side of the **boat**, lulling **Jesus** into a peaceful sleep. But suddenly a **wind** began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The **waves** weren't so gentle anymore. The little **boat** began to pitch and rock.

The **disciples** began to get a little worried. But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**. Then the **wind** grew stronger still. The spray from the **waves** got the **disciples** all wet. This was getting to be a bad storm! But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**. By the time the fishing **boat** reached the center of the lake, the **wind** had turned into an angry gale that whipped the **waves** so high they washed right over the **boat**. The **disciples** were terrified. They thought they might drown. But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**.

Finally, someone went and shook **Jesus**. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" **Jesus** looked around. He listened to the howling **wind**. He felt the cold, stinging spray as **waves** crashed over the little **boat**. He saw the fear in the faces of his **disciples**. Then he asked the **disciples**: "Why are you so afraid? Where is your faith?"

Jesus stood, stretched out his arms to the **wind** and the **waves**, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!" And all at once the **wind** died down and the **waves** became completely calm. **Jesus** showed his power over the **wind** and the **waves** that day on the Sea of Galilee. Just as he cared for his **disciples** in that little storm-tossed **boat**, he will care for you.