

Use Week of:

Unit 24 • Session 1

Jesus Calmed a Storm

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8

STORY POINT:

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

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 40:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit ministrygrid.com/gospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

After a long day of teaching, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When their short sailing trip was interrupted by a violent storm, the disciples found themselves in danger with nowhere to turn—except to the One who created all things.

Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen. They had spent significant time on the Sea of Galilee, but this storm was so strong that the waves overtook the boat. The disciples were afraid they would drown. As the disciples panicked, what was Jesus doing? He was sleeping!

The disciples woke Jesus. The situation was out of their control, and perhaps they felt forsaken by God. But their reaction was full of irony: “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?” (Mark 4:38).

The disciples obviously did not know why Jesus had come to earth. Jesus had come to rescue people from sin. In dying on the cross, Jesus would truly be forsaken by God. (See Matt. 27:46.) Jesus would die the death the disciples—and all sinners—deserve so that they could live forever with God. Did Jesus care that the disciples were going to die? Absolutely. But He was going to rescue them from something worse than drowning. Jesus would save them from spiritual death.

Jesus calmed the wind and the waves. He displayed His power over creation and demonstrated that He is truly God. God has power over the wind and the waves. (See Job 12:15; 28:25; Ps. 33:7; 107:25-30; Amos 4:13.)

As you teach kids this Bible story, seize the opportunity to share the gospel. Help them understand the truth the disciples did not yet fully grasp. Who is this man? He is the Messiah, the Savior, and the Son of God.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Calmed a Storm

Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8

Jesus spent all day teaching crowds of people near the Sea of Galilee. That evening, Jesus wanted to cross over to the other side of the sea.

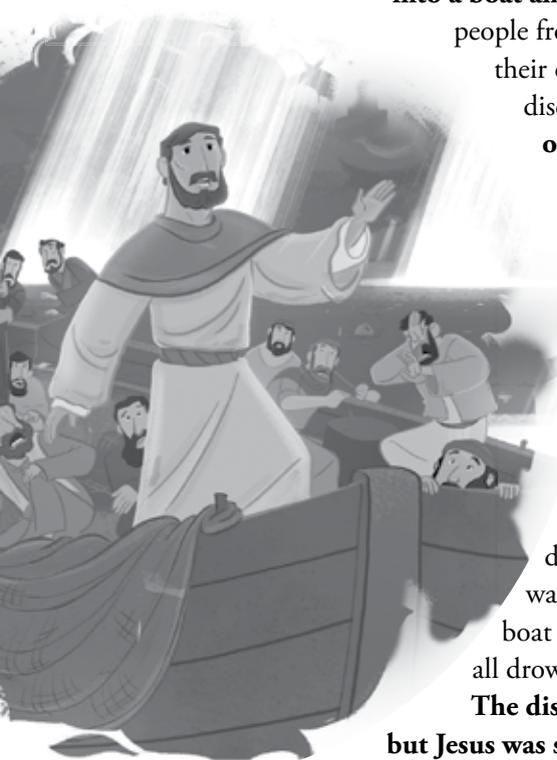
So Jesus and His disciples left the crowds. They got into a boat and began sailing. Some of the people from the crowds followed in their own boats. While Jesus and His disciples traveled, Jesus fell asleep on a cushion at the back of the boat.

All of a sudden, a storm came. The wind was strong, and the waves crashed into the boat. Water was coming into the boat, and the disciples were afraid! Many of the disciples were fishermen. They had survived storms on the sea before, but this storm was different. It was so strong. If the water kept coming in the boat, the boat would sink. Surely they would all drown!

The disciples looked to Jesus for help, but Jesus was still fast asleep at the back of the boat. He didn't seem to even notice the storm.

Did Jesus care that they were about to sink into the sea?

The disciples woke up Jesus. "Lord, save us!" they said. "We are going to die!"



Jesus opened His eyes and saw that His friends were afraid. He **got up and spoke to the wind. Then Jesus said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!”**

At the sound of Jesus’ voice, the wind stopped blowing and the waves stopped crashing. Everything was calm. The disciples were safe.

Jesus looked at His disciples and asked, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” Did the disciples not trust Jesus to take care of them?

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

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. God rules the sea and stills its waves. (Psalm 89:9)

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use lighting effects:** Dim the lights to portray nighttime as you set the scene for the Bible story.
- **Play sound effects:** Play sound effects as you tell the story such as blowing wind or crashing waves.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share how they feel about bad weather. Do they like or dislike storms? Why?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Key Word Unscramble” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Key Word Unscramble” on the activity page. Guide kids to unscramble the key words from today’s Bible story.

SAY • All the words you unscrambled are found in today’s Bible story. Listen carefully to find out how these words fit together to tell an important story about Jesus.

LOW PREP

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Noisy orchestra

Guide kids to stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder. Explain that you will give them instructions. The first kid in line should begin. Then the second kid, third kid, and so on until all kids are performing an action. Then prompt the first kid to begin a new action. Kids will join in one by one.

Complete all the actions to simulate the sound of a storm.

Steps: 1. Rub your hands together; 2. Snap your fingers; 3. Clap hands in a random pattern; 4. Pat hands on legs; 5. Stomp feet; 6. Pat hands on legs while stomping feet; 7. Stomp feet; 8. Pat hands on legs; 9. Clap hands in a random pattern; 10. Snap your fingers; 11. Rub your hands together; 12. Be still.

SAY • Many of Jesus' disciples were experienced fishermen, but in the story we will hear today, they encountered a powerful storm on the water and didn't think they would survive. We'll find out how Jesus helped.

OPTION 2: Who is this?

Give each kid three index cards. Explain that on each index card, a kid should write his name and an unusual fact about himself. Encourage kids to think of facts the other kids might not know about them.

• index cards
• pencils

Tip: If your group is large, distribute one or two index cards per kid.

Collect the cards and instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Begin by reading aloud a fact written on one of the cards. Then ask, "Who is this?" Kids should point to the person they think wrote the fact about himself.

Remind kids that if they hear their own fact, they should point to someone else so they don't give away the answer. Reveal the identity of the true "fact writer" after kids all point to someone. Play until you have read each fact.

SAY • In the Bible story we will hear today, Jesus' disciples witnessed something that made them say, "Who is this?" They realized something amazing about Jesus. We'll find out what it was.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Simulate a travel agency by positioning a table or desk at the front of the room. Put a computer monitor on the table and two chairs at the opposite side of the table. Arrange travel brochures on the table. Display a world map and a calendar. Hang posters and photos of various international locations on the walls. Consider creating a sign with a travel company name and logo. You may also project the theme background slide.

Countdown

- countdown video

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

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- travel brochures
- Bible

[Leader enters wearing business casual attire and a headset. He or she also carries travel brochures and a Bible.]

LEADER • Greetings! Welcome to The Big Picture Travel Agency. My name is [*your name*]. Are you interested in booking a vacation? How about a weekend getaway? You'll be amazed at some of the great deals I have to offer. Flight prices to Greenland are at an all-time low, and the views in Botswana are just stunning this time of year. Or—if group travel

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

is more your thing—I am actually organizing a group trip to Monaco in a couple of months. [*Smile enthusiastically at the kids, but react with surprise at their lack of plans to travel.*]

You didn't come here to plan a trip, did you? Well, that's understandable. There are rules about traveling without a parent, and international trips can cost a lot of money—especially when you start adding up travel, lodging, meals, and entertainment. [*Set down the travel brochures.*]

Well, if we aren't planning a trip, let me at least tell you about some places I've visited before. [*Hold up the Bible.*] Have any of you ever been to Israel? Some very exciting things happened there long ago. You can read about them in the Bible. Let me tell you more.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Now, before we get started, raise your hand if you've heard of Jesus. [*Pause for kids to respond.*] Ah, I see! You are familiar with Him. So, as you might know, Jesus lived and traveled in the region we know today as Israel. [*Point to the area of modern-day Israel (G8, G9) on the New Testament Mediterranean Map.*]

During His ministry, Jesus performed many miracles. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles?*** Well, that is what I call our big picture question. And here's the answer: ***Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.*** Keep that in mind as you hear about one of Jesus' amazing miracles.

• Small Group Timeline
and Map Set
(005802970)

• Giant Timeline

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

LEADER • When Jesus came to earth, people didn't know who He was. The Old Testament prophets had said that the Messiah would come, but people did not recognize Him. Jesus spent three years in public ministry. He taught people about God and His kingdom. He also performed miracles. Today's Bible story is called "Jesus Calmed a Storm." Now that sounds pretty miraculous!

• Bibles
• "Jesus Calmed a Storm" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster
• Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Calmed a Storm."

LEADER • Jesus had been teaching all day. When He got into the boat with His disciples, He fell asleep. Have you ever slept through a storm? Maybe you slept through it in the comfort of own bed. Could you imagine sleeping through the storm while you were outside? The storm was so intense that Jesus' disciples thought they were going to die. Where did they turn? Look at Mark 4:38. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] The disciples assumed Jesus didn't care about what might happen to them.

Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the waves. Immediately, the storm stopped. **Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.**

How did the disciples react to this miracle? Look at Mark 4:41. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*]

They knew Jesus was no ordinary man. The wind and waves obeyed Him!

Christ connection

LEADER • 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. God rules the sea and stills its waves. (Psalm 89:9)

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 165 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 24, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why we have bad days. Guide them to discuss how they can encourage someone who is having a bad day.

• “Unit 24, Session 1” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

LEADER • One church in North Carolina made a big difference to a people group in Myanmar (mee-ANN-mar), a country in Southeast Asia. They made it possible for people to hear about the amazing things that Jesus has done. When Jesus shows His power, we know that He is the one true God. As you watch the missions video, look for ways that people travel and also ways that missions offerings are used.

• “Good News for the T People” missions video

Play the missions video. Then ask the following questions:

1. What kinds of transportation did you see in this video? (*bicycles, motorcycles, boats, cars, walking*)
2. What are some things mentioned in the video that missions offerings provide? (*Bibles, tools, transportation*)

- Key Passage Poster
- “None Can Compare with You (Psalm 40:5)” song

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Psalm 40:5.

LEADER • Jesus’ calming a storm is just one of many miracles Jesus performed when He was on earth. Let’s work on memorizing our key passage over the next few weeks so we can remember what is true about God: He has done many wondrous things! No one can compare to Him. Let’s sing.

Lead kids in singing “None Can Compare with You (Psalm 40:5).”

Sing (4 minutes)

- “Miracle Maker” song
- Bible

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 66:1-4.

LEADER • When we see God’s amazing work, we can respond in worship. He is worthy to be praised. One day, every tongue, tribe, and nation will worship Him together. Let’s sing.

Sing together “Miracle Maker.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • 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.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 40:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- marker

Write words or phrases of Psalm 40:5 on six or more separate index cards. Prepare at least one card per kid. If your group is large, make multiple sets.

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading Psalm 40:5 aloud together.

Mix up the cards and challenge kids to arrange them in the correct order. When kids finish, guide them to read the cards aloud to check their work. If time remains, mix up the cards and play again.

SAY • Great job! Keep working this week to memorize our key passage.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Mark 4. Explain that the Gospel of Mark helps us see that Jesus is the Son of God. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 4:39-41.

SAY • Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. [*Point to the Sea of Galilee (D6) on the New Testament Israel Map.*] The disciples were afraid they would die in the storm. **Jesus calmed a storm to**

show the disciples He is God. The Bible says God rules the sea and stills its waves. [See *Psalm 89:9*.]

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What would you have thought if you saw Jesus sleeping through the storm that day? *Invite kids to share their thoughts. Perhaps Jesus' sleeping might seem like He did not care. Emphasize that even if God seems silent in our difficult situations, He is always near and always at work—often in ways we do not expect. He does everything for His glory and our good.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 17:27.)

2. What can you do when you feel afraid of what is happening around you? *Remind kids that when the disciples were afraid during the storm, they turned to Jesus for help. We can look to Jesus in faith every day. We can look to Him to rescue us from sin, and we can ask for His help to live in a way that honors Him. Even when we feel afraid or doubt God, we can cry out to Him. Jesus cares. He will answer, and—like the disciples did—we can worship Him.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 41:10.)

3. What do you know to be true about God that can help you have peace in hard situations? *Lead kids to recognize that we can trust that God is in control and has power over everything, even when times are hard. Trusting God gives us peace that can show the world that He is mighty. Jesus proved that He can be trusted. His miracles, teaching, death, and resurrection showed that He is who He says He is. Only Jesus can save us when we look to Him in faith.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 56:3-4.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- “Motorcycle Picture” printable
- “Missions Message to Parents” printable
- crayons

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Motorcycle missions

SAY • Missionaries all over the world are grateful for the support of churches. They want all people to know Jesus, who is so powerful that He can calm storms and do other miracles. In the missions video, we saw how kids in one church raised enough money to buy a motorcycle that a missionary could use to reach villages with the gospel. We can raise money for missions, too!

Set an offering goal appropriate for your class. Show the motorcycle picture and explain that each week, you will color a part of the motorcycle to represent how much money was raised.

Distribute the missions message and allow kids time to decorate it. As they color, discuss extra chores that they could do at home to earn money for missions. Encourage them to take home the message. Hang the motorcycle picture in your room as a reminder of the missions offering. Plan to collect money each week until kids reach the goal. Then give the money to your church’s missions offering.

OPTION 2: Make calming jars

Give each kid an 8-ounce bottled water and a cup. Instruct kids to pour the water into a separate cup, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water in the bottle. Invite kids to squeeze about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of glitter glue into their bottles.

Help kids use funnels to add more water to the bottle, leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of space at the top. Let kids add 1 or 2 teaspoons of glitter to the bottle. Use hot glue or duct tape to secure the lid to the bottle. Shake well.

Tell kids that when they are feeling afraid or anxious,

- 8-ounce bottled water
- funnels
- cups
- measuring cups and spoons
- glitter glue
- craft glitter or confetti
- hot glue or duct tape

they can shake the bottle. As they watch the glitter settle, they can take deep breaths and pray, asking God to give them peace.

SAY • As the storm raged, Jesus' disciples were terrified.

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. God rules the sea and stills its waves.

Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God. When life feels out of control, we can turn to the One who is always in control. Jesus is powerful, and He loves us.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, acknowledging God as more powerful than anything that terrifies us. Thank Him for showing His love by sending His Son, who died on the cross to bring us peace with God.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Sea Scene" on the activity page. Kids should draw scenes for each passage of today's Bible story.

Note: The glitter glue may take time to fully dissolve.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

• pencils
• Journal Page
• "Sea Scene" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.