

10. Jesus Calms the Storm



Dwell Flex, Story Symbols, www.dwellcurriculum.org, © 2020, Faith Alive Christian Resources, www.falife.com/resources

10

Jesus Calms the Storm

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Calms the Storm" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Close with this prayer, having the kids say the bold lines:

Jesus, Jesus,
You are God's Son!
Jesus, Jesus,
You are the powerful one!

Jesus, Jesus,
You calmed the sea.
Jesus, Jesus,
You take care of me!

Amen! Amen! Amen!

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #96 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Print a copy of [these story pictures](#) for each child to color. Cut them apart to form a book of today's story.

NOTE: Remember to email the file for parents to print out if you aren't meeting in person.

Story: Jesus Calms the Storm [Mark 4:35-41](#)

It had been another busy day. Large crowds of people followed Jesus and his disciples to the lake. So many people came. Some wanted to hear Jesus tell about God. Others wanted to be touched by Jesus and healed. Some just wanted to see Jesus and listen to him. Many people had heard about his power. There were people here, people there—people, people, everywhere! And Jesus and his disciples were tired.

(Open your Bible and read [Mark 4:35](#).) That's how this part of God's great story begins. Jesus needed to rest. The disciples climbed into the boat with him. They grabbed the oars and headed off for the other side of the lake.

It was a beautiful evening. The sun was going down. **Imagine a quiet night after supper on a hot day. Can you picture Jesus and his disciples quietly rowing across the water? What sounds do you think they heard as they rowed on this peaceful evening?** *(Pause for responses.)*

As they got out into the middle of the lake, a wind came up. The disciples noticed a cool breeze. Then waves started splashing against the boat. The boat began to rock from side to side. The sky grew very dark. The wind whistled across the water. Soon waves were pounding and crashing and splashing into the boat. The disciples were drenched!

But that's not all—the boat began to sink! The disciples—these grown men—some of whom were fishermen who were used to being out in bad storms—were scared! They tried to scoop the water out of the boat, but no matter how fast or how hard they scooped, their boat filled up.

What sounds do you think the storm made? *(Pause for responses.)* **What sounds do you think the disciples made?** *(Pause for responses.)*

While everyone else was scooping and yelling and tossing and turning in the boat, Jesus was fast asleep, his head on a cushion at the back of the boat.

What sounds do you think Jesus made? *(Pause for responses.)*

The disciples shook Jesus awake. They shouted to be heard above the storm: "Jesus, don't you even care if we all drown?"

Jesus woke up and saw the storm raging around their boat. He saw the terror in his disciples' eyes and heard the fear in their voices.

Then Jesus stood up and stretched out his arms over the waves. "Quiet! Be still!" he commanded the wind and the waves. The wind and the waves listened to Jesus—and they obeyed. In an instant the crashing waves melted into calm. The wind vanished. All was quiet and peaceful on the lake.

But in the small boat, the disciples' hearts were still pounding. **Imagine the expression on their faces. How do you think their faces looked?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Then Jesus spoke. "Why are you so afraid? Don't you believe that I have the power to save you? Where is your faith?"

For a minute the disciples were silent. They were still terrified. Their bodies had not stopped shaking. When they were able to speak, they didn't answer Jesus' question. But they had a question of their own. Listen to what the Bible says. *(Read [Mark 4:41](#).)*

Does that seem like a strange question to you? The disciples had been living and working with Jesus for a while by then—why do you think they might have asked who he was? *(Pause for responses.)*

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Jesus Calms the Storm](#)
 - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Calming a Storm](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Calms the Storm](#)
-