

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.)

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

February Focus: Jesus shows He is God



FEB 1st: Jesus Calmed a Storm

Matthew 8, Mark 4-5, Luke 8

Story point: Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God



FEB 8th: Jesus Fed a Crowd

Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6

Story Point: Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish.



FEB 15th: Jesus Walked on Water

Matthew 14, Mark 6, John 6

Story Point: Jesus showed He is God by walking on water.



FEB 22nd: Jesus Showed His Glory

Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9

Story Point: Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James and John.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to discuss a time they felt afraid. What scared them? • We often feel afraid when we face situations that we don't understand or weren't prepared for. Today we will learn about a time Jesus' disciples felt very afraid. What do you think scared them? How do you think they handled their fears?

Big Picture Question

Jesus lived and traveled in the region we know today as Israel. 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 this month as you hear about Jesus' amazing miracles.

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Psalm 40:5. This psalm is a wonderful reminder that God is good. All He does is good. All His plans are good. We can trust Him through every trial and all hard times we face.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

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!

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

This story helps us see that Jesus is not like us. At His command, the wind stopped, and the waves calmed. Only God is able to make all of creation do as He says. Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people. After Jesus ended the storm, His disciples were safe from drowning, and they began to understand who Jesus is. Jesus calmed a storm and showed the disciples He is God.

We often feel we have a lot of control over our lives. As you grow up, it might be tempting to feel more and more in control. Many people think they can control their lives if they have enough money, the right friends, or a position of authority. But we have very little control over our lives.

The Bible teaches that God is in control of all things. He is good, loving, and just. We can trust that everything He does is for His glory and our good. Whenever we face difficult or scary situations, we can remember that God can use it for good.



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) Jesus did much more than saving His disciples from a dangerous storm. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sin, and rose to life on the third day. His work made the way for us to be saved from something much worse than drowning. When we have faith in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us new life with Him forever!

Jesus Calmed a Storm

Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8

**STORY POINT: JESUS CALMED A STORM TO SHOW
THE DISCIPLES HE IS GOD.**

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 got into a boat and began sailing. Jesus fell asleep on a cushion at the back of the boat.

All of a sudden, a storm came. The wind was strong. Water was coming into the boat, and the disciples were afraid!

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.

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

Jesus 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?"

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)

Discussion & Bible Skills

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. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **What was Jesus doing when the storm hit the boat?** (*sleeping, Mark 4:38*)
2. **How did Jesus calm the storm?** (*by speaking, Mark 4:39*)
3. **How did the disciples react to Jesus' miracle?** (*They were terrified and asked who Jesus was, Mark 4:41*)
4. **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 of 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.*
5. **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.*
6. **How can we know that Jesus is trustworthy no matter what?** *Remind them of characteristics of God. Jesus is God the Son, and the Bible teaches us that He has control over all of creation. Everything God does is for His glory and our good. Hard things God allows, He can be trusted to use for His glory and our good. Only God has the power to do that!*

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Powerful -In Control

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Key Passage Activity

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Select a kid to start the key passage and give him a beanbag or ball. He will say the first word then pass the beanbag to his left. The kid on his left will say the second word and pass the ball again. Continue in this way until kids have completed the key passage at least once and every kid has had a chance to hold the beanbag.

Indoor Storm

Split the group of kids into three smaller groups. Assign each group a role: rain, wind, or thunder. Ask each group to make noises that correspond to that sound in a storm. Kids can slap their thighs for rain, whistle for wind, and make thundering noises with their mouths. When you say “storm,” children should use their bodies to make a loud storm. When you say “silence,” children should freeze and be quiet and still. Play several rounds as time allows, calling out different elements assigned to each group.

- The Bible tells us amazing stories about Jesus’ power. Today’s Bible story is about a boat, a storm, and how Jesus did something amazing—something that only God could do.

Is it possible?

Instruct the kids to form a line in the center of the room. You may use masking tape to mark a line for the kids to stand on. Read a series of actions and instruct the kids to take a step to the left of the line if it is something they can do or could learn to do. Kids will take a step to the right of the line if it is something they could never do.

Suggested actions: play basketball, plant a tree, control the weather, lift a school bus, dance in a talent show

- Humans can do many things. But one thing we cannot do is control the weather. In fact, we can barely even predict the weather, even with all our modern technology! Today we learned about a time Jesus showed His power as God by controlling weather.

Storm Sticks

Provide each kid with a dowel. Help the kids tear lengths of blue paper streamers and tape them to one end of the dowel. Then work together to retell the story, allowing the kids to shake their storm sticks to simulate the wind and waves.

- Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen before they followed Him, so they probably had been through some rough storms before. However, the storm from our Bible story must have been very powerful because the Bible tells us the disciples were terrified! Thankfully, Jesus is more powerful than anything in creation because Jesus is the Creator! He rules over all things. When Jesus told the wind and the waves to be calm, they obeyed. We can know for a fact that when Jesus says we can have life through faith in Him, it is the truth. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is saved from sin and death.

Blow Boats Along the Water

Cut 2-inch sections from a pool noodle for each child. Cut triangle-shaped "sails" from foam sheets. Punch holes at the top and bottom of each sail. Thread a cut straw through the top and bottom holes of the sail. Tape the sail to the top of the noodle piece to create a boat. Give each child a boat and a straw. Invite children to take turns floating their boats in a shallow bin of water. Show a child how to blow through her straw to move her boat on the water.

- We blew our boats around on the water. Jesus and His disciples were on a real boat on the water when **Jesus calmed a storm**. Jesus said, "Silence! Be still!" The wind stopped blowing, and the waves stopped crashing. Everything was calm. That was a miracle—something only God can make happen. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show that He is the Son of God.***

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.

- 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.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don’t know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus’ light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



