

LESSON 20

# Jesus Calms the Storm

LUKE 8:22-39



**BIBLE TRUTH**

**JESUS HOLDS ALL AUTHORITY**

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

**1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Luke 8:22–39 from the Scriptures or read story 98, “Jesus Calms the Storm,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**A Creative Retelling**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ old, tattered shirt and pants

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**What Makes You Afraid?**

**6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 17—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

**8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**His Authority, Our Humility**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a basin
- ✓ a portable oscillating fan

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

**Jesus holds authority over nature**—Jesus slept as he and the disciples sailed across the Sea of Galilee. A storm blew in quickly and threatened to capsize the boat. Afraid for their lives, the disciples awakened Jesus. Upon waking, Jesus commanded the wind and waves to be quiet, and immediately calm returned to the sea. In Colossians 1:16–17, Paul tells us that Jesus created all things, and that “in him all things hold together.” Jesus created the earth and controls the earth; he created the sea and controls the waves. After his resurrection Jesus told his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18).

**Jesus holds authority over demons**—When Jesus and the disciples reached the other side of the lake, they were confronted by a demon-possessed man. (Matthew 8:28 mentions two demon-possessed men. Luke tells the story of the more vocal of the two.) Not only did the demons know who Jesus was, they knew they were subject to Jesus’ authority. The demons knew that Jesus held the authority to condemn them and send them to the abyss (Luke 8:31), and asked his permission to enter a herd of pigs. Jesus gave his permission, and immediately the demons entered the pigs, which then rushed down a steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

**Jesus is God**—Although the disciples were not sure who Jesus was (Luke 8:25), the demons knew exactly who he was. Jesus never even spoke his name, but the demon shouted, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?” (Luke 8:28). The demon’s amazing statement affirmed Jesus’ humanity and then testified to his deity as the Son of God. Jesus was fully man; as a man he required rest on the boat. Jesus was also fully God; the waves and wind obeyed his command and the demons cowered at his presence.

With his parting words, Jesus affirmed that he was God, saying to the man, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you” (Luke 8:39). It was Jesus who healed the man, and therefore when Jesus told the man to “declare how much God has done for you,” Jesus was claiming to be God himself. The man understood and left, telling everyone how much Jesus had done for him.

## Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The reason the disciples could be assured of their safety in the midst of the raging storm was because the promised Messiah was in the boat with them. Yet they still didn't know who he was. After calming the wind and the waves, the disciples must have reasoned that Jesus was no ordinary rabbi, no ordinary teacher, no ordinary prophet. Later they would understand that Jesus was the Messiah, but even more than that, Jesus was God.

Jesus was fully man and slept from authentic exhaustion as a man on the boat. It would be this humanity that enabled him to hang as a man in our place and receive from the Father the punishment for our sin. But Jesus was also God. He had authority over the wind and the waves and the demons that possessed the man on the shore. Jesus lived a sinless life and after dying on the cross conquered death by rising again on the third day.

Notice the theme of salvation that follows Jesus everywhere he traveled. Jesus saved the disciples from the storm and Jesus saved the man from the demons that possessed him. Today, if we place our trust in Jesus who died on the cross to take the penalty for our sins, we too can be saved by his power.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Luke 8:22–39 from the Scriptures or read story 98, “Jesus Calms the Storm,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**A Creative Retelling**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ old, tattered shirt and pants

Put on the old, tattered clothes and assume the role of the healed demoniac. Tell how Jesus calmed the storm and how he healed you. Here are some things to consider to add interest to your retelling.

Have the man remember the storm that quickly blew in.

Have the man talk about how he was drawn to Jesus even though the demons wanted to stay far away from Jesus.

Use different voices to help indicate the words of the demon as though the man remembers just how the demon spoke through him. (Note: Be careful not to make this activity too scary or grotesque for the children.)

Have the man go to great lengths to describe his life before and after Christ. Feel free to embellish the details of living among the tombs as long as you stay within the general description from the text.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**What Makes You Afraid?**

When you talk about how the disciples were afraid as they rode in the boat in the midst of the storm, ask the children to think about times they have been afraid. Give opportunity to anyone who wants to share. Turn the conversation around and then ask them if they fear God. At first they might be confused. Read Proverbs 1:7 and 2:1–5.

Explain to the class that apart from Christ we are enemies of God. We should fear the Lord's wrath and judgment. Christ saves us from God's wrath. We should never forget that God is

holy and we are called to a holy life as well. God retains the power, even over Christians, to end our lives at any time.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 20—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why are the disciples afraid?**  
*(They thought they would die because the boat was filling with water and the wind was tossing the boat around.)*
- **Where was Jesus?**  
*(Jesus was sleeping in the boat.)*
- **What did Jesus tell them after they woke him up?**  
*(He asked them where their faith was. They should have known that Jesus would protect them.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 15 MIN**

**His Authority, Our Humility**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a basin
- ✓ a portable oscillating fan

Set the basin up half full of water. Plug in the fan. (For safety, keep the fan well away from the basin of water.)

Ask for two volunteers: one to operate the fan at your signal and one to gently shake the basin of water back and forth to create waves, again at your signal.

Ask for another volunteer to come forward. Explain that you are going to give the signal for the wind and waves to begin and then you want them to speak to the wind from the fan and the waves in the basin to stop. Tell the two operators that they should keep the fan going and the waves moving because you want the volunteer to speak directly to the wind and the waves. Of course your students will think you are crazy, but proceed anyway.

After the wind and wave action begins at your signal, have the third volunteer speak to the wind and waves. Invite the class to comment on the volunteer's effectiveness to calm the wind and the waves. When it becomes apparent that he has no power over them, invite him to sit back down. Then casually ask the fan operator to turn off the fan and the basin shaker to stop the shaking. Have them both return to their seats.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why couldn't (the volunteer's name) stop the wind and the waves?  
*(He didn't have authority over them.)*
  
- Remind the class that you stopped the wind and the waves just fine. When you told the volunteers to stop, they immediately stopped. How was it that the wind and the waves obeyed you as the teacher?  
*(You had authority over the two students. They had to listen to you.)*
  
- Why could Jesus stop the wind and the waves?  
*(He had authority over them.)*

Discuss what Jesus' authority over the wind, waves, and demons says about who he is.

LESSON 20 - JESUS CALMS THE STORM

