

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

Act It Out

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ tattered and worn shirt and pants
- ✓ simple costumes for some of the children, such as flat sheets and towels

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

His Authority, Our Humility

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a basin
- ✓ a portable oscillating fan
- ✓ a tarp

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Jesus Is God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Harmonize Scripture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ photocopies of Luke 8:22–39 and Matthew 8:18–34—enough for each student to have both
- ✓ pencils

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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Harmonizing the Bible

God used real people to write the Scriptures. These writers often told the same stories from their own perspectives. Some, like Matthew and John, were eyewitnesses. Some, like Luke, wrote about things that others saw. When we compare the stories of these different writers, they are often different in some details. Trying to make sense of these differences is called “harmonizing.” In music we can add a harmony to the melody. Two separate notes can sound beautiful together and create a sound much fuller than the melody alone. The same is true for different people telling the same story—they complement each other. In today’s story, Matthew records there were two demon-possessed men; Luke, in his account, mentions only one. When we harmonize the two different stories we should remember that Scripture does not contradict or disagree with itself. That means there really were two men possessed by demons. Some theologians, John Calvin for example, compared all the gospel stories in their commentaries to help us harmonize the Scripture.

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

Act It Out

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ tattered and worn shirt and pants
- ✓ simple costumes for some of the children, such as flat sheets and towels

Pick volunteers to play the parts of the demon-possessed man and Jesus. Divide the remainder of the class up as disciples on the boat and the people on the shore. Read through the text ad-libbing the scenes as you go. Encourage the disciples in the boat to act afraid and the demoniac to act crazy until healed.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

His Authority, Our Humility

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a basin
- ✓ a portable oscillating fan
- ✓ a tarp

Spread out the tarp and set the basin on it 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.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Jesus Is God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of the boat in the storm or the pigs rushing down the cliff. Talk to the class about each of these stories and how they reveal that Jesus is God.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Harmonize Scripture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ photocopies of Luke 8:22–39 and Matthew 8:18–34—enough for each student to have both
- ✓ pencils

The idea of harmonizing Scripture is to go through the two passages and create a compilation of them. (See “A Little Bit More.”)

Distribute the copies of the two Scripture passages—Luke 8:22–39 and Matthew 8:18–34. Have the class read through both passages and underline the details that appear in either (not both) of the passages. Then decide which account should serve as the base account and simply add the unique details from the other in chronological order. Discuss how these two different accounts may have come from the same events.

Try this exercise. Have two children go to a window in your class. Tell them you want them to look out and take in as much of the surroundings as they can. Have them look at everything. Then have them write a description of what they saw—while they are separated from one another without talking. Compare the two paragraphs to see that two people can write about the same thing very differently.