

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-29



Christ, our treasure, is worth everything we have.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Jesus has authority over nature – While Jesus and the disciples traveled across the Sea of Galilee, a storm blew in quickly and threatened to capsize the boat. Afraid for their lives, the disciples awakened Jesus, who was sleeping. Jesus commanded the wind and waves to quiet, and immediately calm returned to the lake. 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 later told His disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18).

Jesus has authority over demons - When Jesus and the disciples reached the other side of the lake, they were confronted by a demon-possessed man. (Matthew tells us in Matthew 8:28 that there were two demon-possessed men present. Luke tells the story of the more vocal of the two.) Not only did the demons know who Jesus was, they also knew they were subject to Jesus’ authority. They didn’t even begin to fight Jesus, instead pleading that He would not destroy them. Jesus gave the demons permission to enter a herd of pigs. Immediately they fled into the pigs, and the pigs rushed down a steep bank and were drowned.

Jesus is God – The man who was freed from the demons wanted to travel with Jesus. But Jesus told him to return home. Imagine the delight of his family and friends when they saw him well again. There is an important exchange between Jesus and the man. Jesus told the man to tell his family how much God had done for him. Though Jesus did not directly say that He is God, He revealed it in His direction to the man. The man was not confused. He reported how much Jesus had done for him. In this passage, Jesus and God are used interchangeably because Jesus is God.

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Why was it that the disciples could be assured of their safety in the midst of the raging storm? It was because the promised Messiah was in the boat with them. It is clear they did not yet understand who Jesus was. Jesus was no ordinary rabbi, no ordinary teacher, no ordinary prophet. Jesus was the Messiah, and He had come to save Israel from their sins.

When Jesus rebuked the wind and the water, the disciples questioned again, "Who is this?" Who is Jesus? That is the most important question anyone could ask. And getting the answer right is absolutely crucial. Jesus is the Son of God, who was fully man and fully God. As a man, He needed His rest, and so He fell asleep on the boat. As God, He held all things together by the power of His Word and was able to command the wind and the waves. It was not until after Jesus died, rose again, and then appeared to His disciples that they would begin to fully understand the answer to the question, "Who is this?"

When they reached the other side of the lake, Jesus was met by two demon-possessed men. Unlike the disciples, the demons needed no introduction to Jesus. One of the demons shouted out, calling Jesus, "Son of the Most High God" (Luke 8:28).



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Psalm 23

Connecting the passage to Christ:

David calls the Lord his shepherd. Jesus is revealed to us as the Shepherd. David is satisfied in the Lord because He provides rest. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). In Revelation 7:17 we read that one day the Lamb, who is Jesus, will lead us to springs of water and wipe every tear from our eyes. Although this passage does not claim to be a prophetic announcement of Jesus, it certainly points to Him. It is only because of the sacrifice of Jesus that David could walk on paths of righteousness. And it is only through Jesus that David could dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Questions for reflection:

- How can this psalm of David comfort us today? (David trusted the Lord in his time of trouble. So can we. The Lord is also our shepherd.)
- What advantage do we have over David? (When David wrote the psalm and trusted the Lord, he did not know how God would work salvation for him. We know the whole glorious, wonderful story of the Savior. If David could trust the Lord with the little he knew, we have no excuse for not trusting. All the mysteries of the gospel have been shown to us.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

A CREATIVE RETELLING

Supplies:

a tattered and worn shirt
and pants

Tell the stories of the wind and the waves and Jesus' cleansing of the demon-possessed man from the perspective of the man now cleansed. Pretend that you are this man telling his family and friends what Jesus had done. Here are some things to consider making your retelling more interesting.

- Have the man remember the storm that quickly blew in.
- Have the man talk to you about how he was drawn to Jesus even though the demon wanted to flee and that Jesus drew him to the shore.
- Use different voices to help indicate the words of the demon as though the man remembers just how the demon spoke through him.
- 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.

(Teachers, be careful to not make this activity too scary or grotesque for the children.)



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

WHAT MAKES YOU AFRAID?

Draw out the children as to when they have experienced fear. 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.



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

HIS AUTHORITY, OUR HUMILITY

Supplies:

- a basin
- a portable oscillating fan

Set the basin up half full of water. Plug in the fan.

Ask the class for two volunteers. One will run the fan at your signal and one will gently shake the basin back and forth to create waves, again at your signal.

Ask for another volunteer to come forward. Explain to them 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 shut off the fan and the basin shaker to stop and sit back down.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why couldn't _____ (your 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.



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

PRAYER

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

IN CLASS PROJECT

AN ACTIVITY

Supplies:

pencil and paper

Draw a picture of the boat in the storm.

FOR THE OLDER GRADES

HARMONIZE LUKE 8:22-39 WITH MATTHEW 8:18-34

Supplies:

- white board and markers
- photocopies of both passages

See "A Little Extra" below for a description of Bible harmonization.

Go through the two passages and create a compilation of the two. Have the class read through both passages and determine what is unique in each. Underline those details. Then decide which account should serve as the base account and simply add the unique details from the other in chronological order. Come up with your own theory as to how these two different accounts may have come from the same events.



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 8:22-39

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Harmonizing the Bible – God used real men to write the Scripture. These men often told the same stories from their own perspectives. Some, like Matthew and John, were eyewitnesses. Others, like Luke, wrote about things that others saw. When we compare the stories these different men wrote, 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 sung alone. So two different people telling the same story complement each other. In this story Matthew records there were two demon-possessed men but Luke 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, like Calvin, compared all the Gospel stories in their commentaries to help us harmonize the Scripture.

