

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 9

Jesus Calms the Storm

Jesus Calms the Storm

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word

Objective This lesson will use the story of Jesus calming the storm to show that Jesus both cares about our problems and is powerful enough to help us in them.

Key Verses

Mark 4:35-41—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25(Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - Psalm 121:2

“My help *comes* from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Psalm 119:140.

Ask a volunteer to do a silly, impossible task (e.g. stack three pencils on top of each other, point to end). When they fail, tell them they can choose a friend (the task should still be impossible with two people).

A friend is only helpful if they are able to help fix your problem. Otherwise, you can only struggle together. Luckily, there is no problem that Jesus is unable to help us with because He is all-powerful.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

To this point, we have seen Jesus do some pretty crazy miracles. He healed a man who was paralyzed and a servant who was sick. However, today's miracle is even more stunning. After preaching one of His greatest sermons, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus asked the disciples to take the boat across the Sea of Galilee. As they set sail, Jesus fell asleep at the back of the boat. While they sailed, a great windstorm arose causing deadly and putting the lives of Jesus and His disciples in danger. The disciples rushed to Jesus and woke Him up, begging Him to save them. They asked if He even cared that they were about to die. Jesus then did something that may have seemed crazy but was truly remarkable: He spoke to the wind and waves and told them to stop... and they did! Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the same result, that there was a great calm. Jesus had not only delivered the disciples from the storm, but also He had stopped the storm itself and restored the sea to normal. Then He turned to His disciples and asked them why they were afraid. Didn't they have faith that He could save them from the storm? The disciples were amazed at what had happened. They wondered, "Who is this man, that even the wind and sea obey Him?" They already knew Jesus was powerful and that He could perform miracles, but they had never seen or heard of someone who could command the wind and waves to do what He wanted.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Several times in the Gospels, the disciples encounter storms through which Jesus had to deliver them. These literal storms offer us a good analogy of "stormy" times in our lives when we face some sort of difficulty. It could be a sickness, a death, stressful circumstances, persecution, or any number of bad things, but all people face storms in their lives. Today we see two important truths about these storms we face: Jesus cares about our storms and He is able to fix them.

Evidently the disciples needed to learn both of these lessons. While they certainly had enough faith to go to Jesus when they were in danger, their reaction of shock seems to indicate they had at least some measure of doubt as to whether or not He could save them. Their question, "Don't you care that we're dying?", reveals what may be the greater area of unbelief. They were unsure if Jesus knew or cared about the storm. After all, He seemed pretty content to sleep at the back of the boat while the disciples were trying to figure out what to do.

LOOK (Continued)

Jesus' response illustrate both His power and care. He was not worried about the storm because He knew that He was going to stop it, but that should not be mistaken for a lack of care for the disciples. He was very concerned for their safety. More obviously, Jesus demonstrated His power in calming the storm simply by speaking to it. Think about how crazy that sort of power is! All He had to do was say the word and the wind and waves listened. Both of these elements are necessary. If Jesus were powerful but didn't care, He may have let the disciples drown. If He cared but wasn't powerful, He could do nothing to save them. The disciples were saved because Jesus is powerful *and* He cares.

Consider the "storms" you and your class might face. Perhaps it is a sick family member, the death of a loved one, bullying in school, or any other things. In these situations, it is important to remember the two lessons from the storm. Jesus knows and cares about the problems we face in life. He wants to help you. He also is powerful enough to help you through the storm. Whenever you face the "storms" of life, these two truths about Jesus can help bring you through.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

As a class, memorize Psalm 121:1.

Review the lesson by asking the class how Jesus saved the disciples. What two lessons do we learn about Jesus in this story?

Pray: Take prayer requests from anyone going through "storms" in their life. Lift these storms up to the Lord, thanking Him that He is able to save us and asking Him to help us trust in Him.

Parent Question: How does the story of Jesus calming the storm help me when I face hard times in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Mark 4:35-41 by David Guzik

D. Jesus calms a storm on the Sea of Galilee.

1. ([Mar 4:35-39](#)) Jesus rebukes the stormy Sea of Galilee.

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

a. **Let us cross over to the other side:** Jesus made a promise to His disciples. He didn't say, "Let us perish in the middle of the Sea of Galilee." He promised His disciples that they would **cross over to the other side**.

i. "The Lake of Galilee is 13 miles long at its longest, and 8 miles wide at its widest. At this particular part it was about 5 miles across." (Barclay)

ii. "Jonah ended up in a storm because of his disobedience, but the disciples got into a storm because of their *obedience* to the Lord." (Wiersbe)

b. **They took Him along in the boat as He was:** Jesus taught the multitude from a boat just off the shore of the Sea of Galilee. When the teaching was finished, He didn't return to shore. He just said to the disciples, "**Let us cross over to the other side.**"

i. "The disciples sailed off with him just as he was in the boat out of which he had been teaching the people; and they did not wait to provide any accommodations for the passage." (Clarke)

ii. "Now the teaching was over; He was weary; He was craving for a period of rest. And so He bade His disciples to cross the lake, and that is the moment to which our text refers - they took Him even as He was ... They had not waited till any cloaks were brought. They had not sent a messenger ashore. Weary, and probably hungry, they had taken Him even as He was." (Morrison)

iii. We must take Him as He was.

- Not as we wish Jesus was.

- Not as others may present Jesus.

- Not as you might see Him in the lives of others.

c. **And a great windstorm arose:** The Sea of Galilee is well known for its sudden, violent storms. The severity of this storm is shown by the reaction of the disciples (**we are perishing**). Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen on this very lake, and they were frightened and feared **perishing** in this storm.

i. "Stirred up, likely, by the devil to drown Christ and his disciples." (Trapp)

d. **But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow:** Jesus' true humanity is shown by His sleep on the boat. He became weary, and sometimes caught a bit of sleep wherever He could.

i. Think of all the worries that might have kept Jesus awake. He could worry about the religious and political leaders who plotted against Him. He could worry about His family who thought He was crazy. He could worry about the overwhelming crowds with their overwhelming needs. He could worry about the disciples He chose. He could worry about the future, because He knew what His destiny was. With all these things to worry about, Jesus wasn't worried. He slept in a rocking boat.

ii. "The Lord's sleep was not only the sleep of weariness: it was also the rest of faith, for there is a rest of faith as well as a watch of faith." (Cole)

e. **And they awoke Him:** The wind didn't wake Him, the arguing of the disciples didn't wake Him, and water splashing over the boat didn't wake Him. But at the cry of His disciples, He instantly awoke. Jesus is like the mother who sleeps through all kinds of racket, but at the slightest noise from her little baby, she instantly awakes.

f. **Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?** Notice the "**we**." Their idea was, "Hey Jesus, You're in trouble here too. Maybe You had better wake up, get a bucket and start bailing along with us, because **we are perishing!**"

i. "It was not a request to Him to do anything; but a protest against His apparent indifference." (Morgan)

ii. The disciples were afraid, but at the same time there were several experienced fishermen among them. They knew they were in jeopardy ([Luke 8:23](#)), but probably felt they knew what to do. They worked hard at bailing out the water, at rowing in a certain rhythm, at piloting the boat in a certain direction. They were annoyed that Jesus didn't help them.

iii. We are often the same way. We feel we know the situation. We're experts on this one, and all we want Jesus to do is help us bail out our boat. We want Jesus' help, but we want His help to work out our plan. "I am afraid, too, that we rely too much upon ourselves. Was it not Dr. Gordon who, when he lay a-dying, said that the secret of strength in faith in Christ was having no faith in ourselves? I am inclined to think that the secret of weak faith in God is our having a good deal of self-reliance; but when you cannot trust to yourselves, then you hang upon Christ, and cling to him as your only hope; then you give the grip of a sinking man, and there is no hold like that." (Spurgeon)

iv. "There is great trouble in some minds about the church, for everything is going badly, all things are in commotion. The signs of the times are dark. To me the worst trouble is that Jesus seems to be asleep; there is nothing doing, no great revival of religion, and but little power with the ministry. I am, however, comforted by the reflection that Jesus slops, but he never oversleeps. When we fall asleep we do not know how to awake, but Jesus Christ does - he sleeps, but he does not oversleep. Glory be to his name, he sleeps, but he is not dead: and as long as he is alive our joy is alive. While there is a living Christ there will always be a living church. There may be both a sleeping Christ and a sleeping church, but neither Christ nor his church can perish. If our Lord be asleep, he is asleep near the helm - he has only to put his hand cut and steer the vessel at once. He is asleep, but he only sleeps until we cry more loudly to him. When we get into such trouble that we cannot help ourselves, and feel our entire dependence on him, then he will reveal his power." (Spurgeon)

g. **Then He arose and rebuked the wind:** Jesus didn't merely quiet the wind and the sea; He **rebuked the wind and the sea**. This, together with the disciples' fear and what Jesus will encounter at His destination, give the sense that Satan had a significant hand in this storm.

i. **Rebuked ... "Peace, be still!"** The same terminology is used when Jesus rebuked and silenced demons. This was a spiritual battle as much as a weather crisis. "Jesus addressed the raging storm as a 'force' threatening him and his disciples. The force of the sea was muzzled as Jesus subdued it with his sovereign word of authority." (Lane)

ii. Gayle Erwin tells the story of a boat trip across the Sea of Galilee with a tour group when the wind, rain, and waves began to kick up. A young man on the boat thought "What Would Jesus Do?" and stood up to rebuke the storm. When he spoke out, "Peace, be still" the rain and wind kept coming but the engine of the boat immediately cut out.

iii. As well, Mark tells us **other little boats were also with Him**. When Jesus calmed the stormy Sea of Galilee, He did not only rescue Himself and the disciples, but all the others in the **little boats**.

2. ([Mar 4:40-41](#)) Jesus rebukes His disciples.

But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

a. **Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?** Jesus didn't say, "Wow, what a storm!" Instead, He asked, "**Why is it that you have no faith?**" The storm could not disturb Jesus, but the unbelief of His disciples disturbed Him.

i. It was not their *fear of the storm* that made Jesus say they had **no faith**. A small boat in a big storm is a scary place, and the initial fear itself isn't wrong. What the disciples chose to *do* with the fear made all the difference.

ii. Jesus could say they had **no faith** because they did not believe His word. They each heard Jesus say, "*Let us go over to the other side of the lake*" ([Mark 4:22](#)). Jesus did not say, "Let's do the best we can and maybe we'll all drown." He promised a safe arrival, and the disciples *could have* chosen to trust in that promise, but they didn't. In this sense they had **no faith**.

iii. Jesus could say they had **no faith** because they accused Jesus of a lack of care towards them. When they woke Him, they said, "*Do you not care that we are perishing?*" ([Mark 4:38](#)) When we think Jesus doesn't care about us, it shows we have **no faith**, because we don't believe the truth about Jesus. It takes great faith to trust the sleeping Jesus, to know that He cares and works for us even when it does not *seem* like it. But this is the kind of trust God wants to build in us.

iv. Jesus could say they had **no faith** because they forgot the big picture. The disciples should have known that God would not allow the Messiah to perish in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. Could the story of Jesus possibly end with Him drowning in a boat accident on the Sea of Galilee? "Was it reasonable for these men to think that he, who could foresee the future, would take them on board a ship when he foreknew that a storm would wreck them? Would so kind a leader have taken them to sea to drown them? Was it reasonable to think that he who was so favored of God would be left to perish? Would he have gone to sleep if they had really been in danger? Was it reasonable to believe that the King of Israel was about to be drowned, even he whom they knew to be the light of the world? Our unbelief, my brethren, seldom deserves to be reasoned with. Our fears are often intensely silly, and when we get over them, and ourselves look back upon them, we are full of shame that we should have been so foolish. Our Lord kindly censured their unbelief because it was unreasonable." (Spurgeon)

v. We could put the emphasis: **How is it that you have no faith?** Of all people, Jesus' own disciples should have had faith. Would Jesus put the same question to us? "After all I have done in you and for you, **how is it that you have no faith?**"

b. **They feared exceedingly:** The total calm of the sea should have filled them with peace, but instead, they were just as afraid when He calmed the storm as when they were in the midst of it.

c. **Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!** The disciples ask a good question: **Who can this be?** It can only be the LORD, Jehovah, who only has this power and authority. *O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness surrounds You. You rule the raging of the sea; when waves rise, You still them.* ([Psalm 89:8-9](#))

i. In the span of a few moments, the disciples saw both the complete humanity of Jesus and the fullness of His deity. They saw Jesus for who He is: truly man and truly God.

d. All this shows the abiding care Jesus has for His people. "There are many Christians today who seem to think the boat is going down! I am tired of the wailing of some of my friends who take that view. The boat cannot go down. Jesus is on board." (Morgan)