

Story: **Jesus Calms the Storm**

Bible Reference: **Matthew 8:23-27**

YOU WILL NEED: *No items needed.*

BIBLE LESSON

Tell your students that you are going to need every one of them to help you with the Bible story today. Then divide your class into two parts. (You can divide them either by using two sides or by using boys and girls.) Lead them in making the following sound effects:

Side 1--Make a sound like wind. Have them start out gentle and get louder and louder.

Side 2--Make a sound like waves. Again, start out gentle and get louder.

Everyone--Show them how to put their hands on their knees. Begin tapping your fingers

louder and then patting your knees louder and louder to make a sound like rain.

Everyone--When you say, "Thunder," they say, "Boom!"

Everyone--When you say, "Lightning," they say, "Bright Light!"

Everyone--When you say, "Boat," they say, "Row, row, row your boat!"

Everyone--When you say, "Jesus," they say, "Have no fear, Jesus is near!"

Everyone--When you say, "Stop," they stop all the sounds.

Now you're ready to tell the story, but first practice with them a few times. For example, say, "Thunder / Boat / Jesus / Wind / Stop." etc. Make stopping almost like a game to see how quickly they can "Stop the Storm." Practice again: Wind / Waves / Boat / Jesus / Stop!

TELL THE STORY: One day Jesus and His disciples were in a boat and Jesus had fallen asleep when a storm came. It probably began with a **gentle wind** and some **gentle waves**, but they grew **louder** and **louder**. Then there was probably some **gentle rain**, but it got **heavier**. (At this point you should have the wind, waves, and rain all happening at the same time.) Then there was probably some **thunder** (Boom!) and **lightning** (Bright Light!) And some more **thunder** (Boom!) and the **boat** (Row, row, row your boat!) was going back and forth and the disciples were scared. **STOP!**

Ask the students: **Have you ever been scared during a storm?** (Take a couple of answers.)

Ask the students: **What did you do?**

SAY: Watch what the disciples did...

BACK TO THE STORY: The **wind** was blowing. The **waves** were crashing. The **rain** was pouring. **Louder** and **louder**. There was **thunder** (Boom!) and **lightning** (Bright Light!) and more **thunder** (Boom!) and even more **thunder** (Boom!) and the **boat** (Row, row, row your boat!) was going back and forth and the disciples were scared. But **Jesus** (Have no fear, Jesus is near!) was asleep in the back of the boat. So they woke up **Jesus** (Have no fear, Jesus is near!) and said, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown!" **STOP!** (If they don't stop quickly, tell them they can do better than that. Tell them you

want to see how quickly they can stop. Then start the noise again and loudly say, “Stop.” If someone is disrupting and not stopping, the teacher that is not leading the group needs to pull him aside and give him a warning. If him still continues to disrupt, send him to Kolby.)

SAY: The disciples asked Jesus if He cared they were going to die. That’s how scared they were.

Ask the students: **Do you think Jesus cared about how scared they were?** (Yes, and He cares about any time you’re scared too. God doesn’t want you to live in fear.)

Ask the students: **After the disciples woke Jesus up and He looked around at the storm, do you think He was afraid? Why or why not?** (No, He wasn’t afraid. Why? Because even in the storm, He was in control. And if you’ve given your life to Jesus and are living for Him, you don’t have to be afraid either because Jesus is always in control.)

Ask the students: **Since Jesus is in control, does this mean bad things won’t ever happen to you?** (No, bad things sometimes happen to good people, but if you’re walking with Jesus, you can always trust that He can take any bad thing that comes your way and turn it to your good.)

FINISH THE STORY: The **wind** was blowing. The **waves** were crashing. The **rain** was pouring. **Louder** and **louder**. The **boat** (Row, row, row your boat!) was going back and forth and was starting to fill with water. There was **thunder** (Boom!) and **lightning** (Bright Light!) and more **thunder** (Boom!) and **lightning** (Bright Light!). So they woke up **Jesus** (Have no fear, Jesus is near!) and said, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown!” Then **Jesus** (Have no fear, Jesus is near!) said, (Say this loudly over all the storm noise) “Quiet. Be still.” In other words, **STOP!** (The students should become quiet.) And just as quickly as that, the storm stopped. The waves stopped. The wind and the rain— everything stopped.

SAY: The disciples should have known that everything would be okay because Jesus was right there with them.

REPEAT AFTER ME: Have no fear, Jesus is near!
Tell those who did the wind to say, “Have no fear.”
Tell those who did the waves to say, “Jesus is near.”
Go back and forth several times to see which side can be the loudest.