

Vacation Church School
Life of Christ #1

Lesson: Jesus Stills The Storm

Memory Verse: storms/doubt/fear/ trust in the Lord...

Goals:By the end of the Lesson the student should be able to:

1. Know the story came from the Bible.
2. Remember the name of the main characters.
3. Relate the events of the story.
4. Remember the memory verse.

Vocabulary:

1. paralyze
2. treacherous

Materials Needed:

Introduction:

- Bible

Story:

- Color the following pictures: Jesus and disciples on Sea of Galilee, Storm coming upon the water, disciples fearful of sinking, disciples awake Jesus, Jesus calming the storm, disciples realizing even wind and sea obey Him, disciples acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of God.

Activity: ***Body Tick-Tack-Toe***

- Chalk/Masking tape
- Poster board
- Pen/pencil
- Scissors

Activity: ***Galilee Gazette Newspaper***

- Copies of Layout sheet for Galilee Gazette for each student.

Craft: ***Storm on Sea of Galilee picture***

- Powdered blue and green tempera paint
- Tablet of newsprint paper or for Mural use long sheet of newsprint or butcher paper.
- Crayons
- Ice Cubes

Introduction:

What does fear do to people? Fear often paralyzes people. They sometimes cannot carry on a normal life because the fear consumes their thoughts and actions. Fear can cause us to concentrate only on the fear. When that happens we have difficulty hearing God or carrying out His plan for our lives. Everyone is usually afraid of something. Our fears may differ but they affect us much the same.

Share a personal experience in which you were afraid and God helped you or someone you know. Ask students if they would like to share a time when God helped them with a fear.

Our story today is from the Bible.

Hold up the Bible.

The events of this story took place in a place called the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is actually a small lake. Wind blows from the north onto the Sea of Galilee. They can become violent with little or no warning by clouds or rain. Tempests are caused by wind alone. Waves up to twenty feet high, two and one-half stories tall, can whip up and make the sea very dangerous. When a storm struck in all its fury, the Sea of Galilee was a treacherous place!

Story:

Hold up picture of Jesus and disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

One day, Jesus was traveling to the land of the Gadarenes to teach them about God. Jesus and the disciples were headed there by ship, peacefully sailing across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had been preaching and teaching all day. He was very tired. The sky was calm and all was well. Jesus went to the back of the ship and lay down to sleep. Suddenly, without warning a terrible storm struck.

Show picture of storm arising.

Furious winds whipped the waves higher and higher! They crashed against the boat, splashing across the deck. The boat began to fill with water. “We’re going to sink!” The disciples cried.

Show picture of disciples afraid they will sink.

“Master, wake up!” Don’t you care that we’re going to die?

Picture of disciples waking Jesus.

Jesus awoke and heard the howling wind and saw the huge waves washing over the deck.

Picture of Jesus calming the sea.

He was not afraid. Jesus stretched out His hand and said, “Peace be still.” Immediately the wind quieted. The sea became still. The disciples were amazed.

Show picture of disciples in awe that wind and sea obey Jesus.

“Even the wind and sea obey Him.” They marveled. “Truly He must be the Son of God.”

“Why did you not have faith? Jesus asked His disciples.

Show picture of Jesus talking to disciples.

Overcome by fear the disciples had forgotten God. They forgot to ask God to help them and to believe that He could.

Discussion:

Four of the Apostles were career fishermen. They knew how to read the signs of approaching storms and would not have set sail if they had seen one coming. But this one came suddenly with no warning. They were seagoing men who had been in storms and survived before, but this one was so violent that they felt certain that the boat was going to sink and they were going to drown.

The fears we have are like storms in our lives. They threaten to defeat us. We often experience our worst times when we don't expect them. People tend to keep a watch out and prepare themselves for trouble when they see its signs. The unexpected storms of life can take us off guard and destroy us. Those are the times when we need to call upon God most of all. There isn't any problem in life that God cannot take care of just like he calmed the wind and sea so long ago.

Review Activity: Body Tick-Tack-Toe

Prepare:

1. Use masking tape to mark off Tick-Tack-Toe board.
2. Cut out six X's and six O's written on poster board.
 - Divide class into two teams. If class has an odd number of children, have the winner of previous game play the next set of children until everyone has had a chance to play.
 - If you have to repeat questions, extra review won't hurt.
 - Give each team six X's or six O's.
 - Each team member takes one turn.
 - The teacher will ask the first player a question from the story. If student answers correctly, he places an X or O on the square of their choice.
 - Play switches to opposing team. Students take turns answering questions.
 - Students can either place X's and O's in places or stand in spot holding their X or O.

Questions:

1. What was the name of the sea Jesus and His disciples were traveling across? (*The Sea of Galilee*)
2. How did Jesus feel that day? (*Tired*)
3. Why was Jesus tired? (*He had been preaching all day*)
4. What was the weather like as Jesus and His disciples started to sail across the sea? (*Calm*)
5. What did Jesus do since everything was peaceful? (*Sleep*)
6. What suddenly came from nowhere? (*A terrible storm*)
7. The wind whipped up a huge.....? (*Wave*)
8. What were the waves doing to the ship? (*Starting to fill the ship*)
9. What did the disciples do? (*They woke Jesus*)
10. What did the disciples say to Jesus? (*"Master, don't you care that we're going to die?"*)
11. What did Jesus do? (*He told the winds and the waves to be still.*)
12. What happened to the wind and the sea? (*They become still.*)
13. What did Jesus say to the disciples? (*You have little faith.*)
14. Seeing Jesus could make even the wind and the waves obey Him, the disciples said, "Truly He is the....of....? (*The Son of 3God*)

Activity: Galilee Gazette

1. Pass out Galilee Gazette sheets. The second sheet is only needed if child needs more space.

2. Read first part of the article as class follows along on their sheets. Have each child imagine he was one of the disciples there that night.
3. Have him finish the article in his own words.
4. Ask kids if they would prefer to write their own or dictate to the teacher, while the teacher writes it. (This may avoid embarrassments for those with learning difficulties with writing or spelling.)

Craft: Storm on the Sea of Galilee Picture(Picture will be used in Peter Walks on Water lesson)

*Messy, may need to be done outside.

1. Pass out sheets of newsprint.
2. Tell the class that the bottom part of the paper will be the Sea of Galilee. Have them draw fish and plant life on the bottom half of the papers.
3. Sprinkle blue and green tempera paint over the area where the Sea will be.
4. Set out a bowl of ice cubes and have kids swirl the paint to look like waves in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Warn children that swirling in one spot could damage that section.
5. Set out papers to dry, perhaps outside.

*If you prefer to do long mural, layout a large sheet of newsprint or butcher paper and have two or three children work on the pictures while others work on Galilee Gazette activity and then switch.

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