

LESSON 1

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Creation

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus demonstrates His power over creation when He commands the wind and the waves to be still, and they obey!

WORD OF WONDER: How great God is! We'll never completely understand him. —Job 36:26a

- Welcome Question: If you could be in charge of anything, what would you choose?
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Curiosity Questions
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Seaside Mural
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Jesus in the Storm Bracelets



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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I was soaked, and there was nowhere to go. It was a simple day trip, and I wasn't expecting a storm. Then almost as quickly as the first clap of thunder roared and sheets of rain commenced, the storm stopped.

Most of my friends had spent the night nearby so they had a change of clothes. They calmly went off to find dry clothing. I ended up sitting through dinner still mostly wet.

I remember that storm every time I'm packing for a day trip now. The result? I always pack an extra set of clothes.

Read Mark 4:35–41.

I wonder how the disciples' lives were changed and what they recalled after that day. Someone sleeping through a furious squall like Jesus did? That may have stayed with them.

Jesus demanding the daunting seas to be quiet and then immediate stillness happens? Never seen that before.

Every one of Jesus' responses was in stark contrast to what was happening all around them. Terror? Peace. Lack of faith? A deep knowing that everything is at His command. He is steady when we're not. He is steady when the world around us rages. Because He has power over the wind and waves.

Who is this? The One who knows you. The One who cares for you in every way with a calm and secure presence. How might knowing this change you?

—Rebecca Stone

Children's Ministry Leader and Author

Wonder Ink Development Team

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The book of Mark, which emphasizes Jesus' actions, begins by introducing Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of God" (1:1). This description answers the question the disciples asked after He calmed the storm: "Who is this?" (4:41). This is the Son of God!

WHAT?

Jesus' calming of the storm is a miracle that proves His power over creation and points to His divinity as the Son of God. The sea was seen as a threat in the ancient world, and when Jesus rebuked the wind and waves, the disciples were amazed.

WHERE?

The Sea of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake on earth. Because this lake is surrounded by mountains, this area is susceptible to sudden, violent storms.

WHEN?

Many scholars believe Mark was the first of the written Gospels, and some believe that Matthew and Luke used Mark as a source for their Gospels. It was likely written between AD 55–70.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

From creation to the flood to manna falling from the sky, God showed His power over creation throughout the Old Testament. When Jesus calmed the storm with His words, He demonstrated a power the people believed belonged to God alone, and in doing so, He demonstrated His divinity.

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

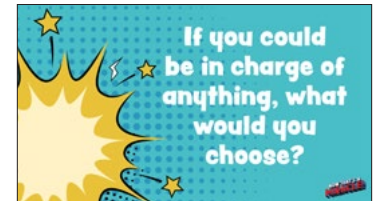
As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- What are some things you're in charge of at home?
- What are some things that are out of your control?



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

How great is God—beyond our understanding!

—Job 36:26a (NIV)

How great God is! We'll never completely understand him.

—Job 36:26a (NIRV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, pen (prep only), sticky notes, stopwatch (optional)

Ahead of time, write the words of Job 36:26a onto sticky notes, one word per note. If groups are small (2–5 kids), make one verse set of sticky notes per small group. If each group has more than five kids, prepare two sets of sticky notes per group. For younger kids, write a phrase of the verse on each note and station a volunteer near the wall to help kids read their sticky notes and put them in verse order.

Today in God's big story, we saw God's great power on display through Jesus when He calmed the storm! Our Word of Wonder for the Now That's a Miracle! series declares how great God is! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to Job 36:26a. Introduce kids to Job 36:26a by reading it several times together.

Now let's practice our Word of Wonder with a relay game! If your group has two verse sets of sticky notes, help kids form two teams. Line both teams up on opposite walls where they can place the sticky notes. Set a verse set of sticky notes on the floor in front of each team. (Mix up the notes so they aren't in verse order!) When you say, "Go!" the first kid on each team will grab the first sticky note, run to the wall, stick the note on the wall, run back, and tag the next person in line. That person will grab the next sticky note, run to the wall, and stick it to the wall in the order it belongs. Each team's goal is to put the notes in verse order. The first team to stick all the notes to the wall in verse order wins! (If your group is small and only has one set of verse notes, have everyone work together on one team. Consider using a stopwatch to time each round and challenging kids to beat their previous time!)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Explain to the kids that today's story comes straight from the Bible and can be found in Luke, one of the four Gospel books that tell the true story of Jesus' life and ministry. Invite kids to open their Bibles to Luke 5 and encourage volunteers to help kids find the passage.

After a long day of teaching, Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee. A sudden storm put them in danger, and the disciples were terrified. Jesus showed His authority by calming the storm with His words. As you read, think about what this story teaches us about who Jesus is and how we can trust Him when we are afraid.

[Read Mark 4:35–41 together](#)

Elementary Questions

- **Who was on the boat with Jesus?** (*Jesus' disciples, who were His closest followers*)
- **Where was Jesus, and what was He doing when the storm started?** (*He was at the back of the boat sleeping on a cushion.*)
- **How might the disciples have felt as huge waves crashed over the side of the boat?** (*Possible answers: scared, terrified, helpless*)
- **What did Jesus do when the disciples woke Him up?** (*Jesus stood up and told the waves to be still, and everything became calm.*)
- **A miracle is an amazing sign that God is at work! What does this miracle show us about Jesus?**
- **When have you felt scared or helpless? What can you do when you're afraid?**

Being unable to control what's happening can feel scary or frustrating. Jesus showed He is God by stopping the storm. Jesus has power over creation! We can trust Him to take care of us through the things we can't control. Let's talk to God together right now.

Preteen Questions

- **Where was Jesus, and what was He doing when the storm started?** (*He was at the back of the boat sleeping on a cushion.*)
- **What did Jesus say when the disciples woke Him during the storm?** (*He told the storm to be still, and it was! Then He asked His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have any faith at all yet?" [Mark 4:40].*)
- **Why were the disciples still afraid after Jesus calmed the storm?** (*They realized that Jesus has power over the wind and the waves!*)
- **Some of the disciples were fishermen, but they still couldn't control the boat in the storm. When did you think you could handle something, but it turned out to be harder than you imagined?**
- **What can you do when you feel helpless or are in a situation you can't control?**
- **What do you think you would do if you saw Jesus control a storm?**

When things are hard, it can feel like God might not be powerful enough to help. But He is. Jesus has power over creation, and we can trust Him to take care of us through the things we can't control. Let's talk to God together right now.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Have each kid pray for the person on their right. Some kids may not feel comfortable praying out loud, and that's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank Jesus for having power over the hard things in our lives.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Elementary Responding in Worship: Seaside Mural

SUPPLIES: butcher paper (blue paper and tan/brown paper, if possible); tape; permanent marker (prep only); coloring utensils; kid-safe scissors; paper cutouts of seaweed and fish (optional); whiteboard (optional); dry-erase marker (optional); additional art supplies such as glitter glue, stickers, jewels, etc. (optional); glue (optional)

RESOURCES: [Seashell Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), “Our God” from the [Now That’s a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print one Seashell Sheet for each kid. Tape a long sheet of butcher paper to the wall to serve as a mural. If you have blue and tan/brown paper, make a mural that resembles the shore along the Sea of Galilee by placing the tan/blue paper along the bottom to represent the sand/shore and taping the blue paper just above it to represent the water. Consider adding decorative touches like fish and seaweed cutouts on the blue paper. Across the top of the mural, use a permanent marker to write the Wonder Truth in large letters: Jesus Has Power over Creation.



Today in God’s big story, the disciples were afraid because Jesus wasn’t who they thought He was. They knew Jesus was a good leader and teacher, but they didn’t know that Jesus had power over creation. Ask kids the following questions. Invite them to share their responses to each one. Consider writing their answers on a whiteboard.

- What do you know about Jesus?
- How did Jesus show His power over creation in today’s story?
- What does Jesus’ power show us about God?

Jesus is more powerful than the strongest storm, and when we follow Him, He promises to be with us always! Give a Seashell Sheet to each kid and set out coloring utensils and any other art supplies you have available. Invite kids to think quietly about this question and to draw a picture of their answers on their shells: **When have you experienced Jesus’ power in your life or known He was with you?**

Play “Our God” from the [Now That’s a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids draw on their seashells. As kids finish drawing, invite them to cut out their shells and tape or glue them onto the mural on the wall as a reminder that the same Jesus who has power over the wind and the waves is with us!

Make It Inclusive: Cut out the seashells from the Seashell Sheets ahead of time for any kids who have fine motor skill challenges. Also have simple adaptive art supplies available, such as jumbo crayons and markers, crayon rocks, and pencil grips for colored pencils.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Jesus in the Storm Bracelets

SUPPLIES: bracelet string/chord (about 10" per kid), scissors (prep only), beads (including seashell and letter beads, if possible)

RESOURCES: "Our God" from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, precut 10" lengths of bracelet string/chord for each kid. Set out various beads, including seashell and letter beads, if possible.

Leader Tip: Different types of seashell beads are available in bulk from online retailers and at many craft stores. Using seashell beads for this activity helps kids connect Jesus' power to today's story, where the wind and waves obeyed Jesus' command!

Today in God's big story, the disciples were afraid because Jesus wasn't who they thought He was. They knew Jesus was a good leader and teacher, but they didn't know that Jesus had power over creation. Ask kids the following questions. Invite them to share their responses with a neighbor or small group before they share with the large group.

- What do you know about Jesus?
- How did Jesus show His power over creation in today's story?
- What does Jesus' power show us about God?
- When have you experienced Jesus' power in your life or knew He was with you?
- What is a situation you're facing now that is difficult ?

Sometimes we call hard times and situations "storms" in life. How do you feel knowing that Jesus is more powerful than that situation, or storm? Invite several kids to share their answers.

Let's make bracelets that can help us remember that Jesus is more powerful than anything we might face. Invite kids to create bracelets that will remind them that Jesus calmed the storm and has power over creation. Point out the bracelet-making supplies and show kids how to start their bracelets by tying a knot at one end of their chord/string. They might use seashell beads to remember how Jesus calmed the storm at sea, letter beads to spell out "Jesus" or another word that describes Jesus, and any other beads they choose. Play "Our God" from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work on their bracelets. Be available to help kids tie their bracelets to their wrists when they're finished.

Gather the kids when they're finished and invite them to hold up their bracelet-wearing wrists so you can admire their creativity! **Every time you look at your bracelet, remember that Jesus is with you when you follow Him. When you're scared or feel helpless, remember that Jesus is more powerful than any storm! You can talk with Him anytime, and He will give you peace and wisdom!**

Make It Inclusive: Arrange for a volunteer to be available to help kids who with fine motor skills. The kid can point out which beads she wants on her bracelet, and the leader can help her with stringing beads, tying knots, etc.