

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

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My God, Always With Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! Today I'm curious about storms. Being a cat, I don't love rain ... or thunder and lightning. What causes those things to happen?

Leader: That's a good question, Tac. There are different things that cause different types of storms. What are some kinds of storms you've heard of?

Tac the Cat: I've heard of wind storms, dust storms, blizzards or snow storms, rain and thunder and lightning storms, hurricanes or tropical storms, floods, tornadoes I think that's all I can think of now.

Leader: You've thought of a lot of things! Different types of storms are caused by different things. Snow storms, called blizzards, come when the air is super cold and it gets windy and snows a lot.

Tac the Cat: What about rain storms?

Leader: When the air gets so full of water, it can cause a rain storm or even a hurricane, if it's near the ocean.

Tac the Cat: What about tornadoes?

Leader: Tornadoes happen when lots of air moves and crashes into each other until it forms a funnel that blows around. It can be super strong. There are lots of kinds of storms. Some can be very powerful.

Some storms can have lightning and thunder. What kinds of storms have you seen, kids?
(Allow the kids to respond.)

Tac the Cat: Well, storms can definitely be powerful and big.

Leader: But who is more powerful than the storms?

Tac the Cat: God is!

Leader: That's right! It reminds me of our God's big story for today. We'll learn about a time when Jesus' friends were in a storm, and they were scared.

Tac the Cat: Well I understand why they'd be scared in a big storm! What happened?

Leader: We'll learn about how Jesus showed that He is more powerful than the storms, the weather, and everything.

Tac the Cat: That sounds like a really good thing! I'm going to go watch the clouds and see what's happening in the sky.

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever been curious about the weather? Allow the kids to respond. **What kind of weather do you like? What do you not like?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all are curious about the weather sometimes. But did you know that Jesus has power over all creation—including the weather?**

Today's Wonder Truth is JESUS HAS POWER OVER CREATION. Today, we'll discover that Jesus has power over creation!

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the [Early Childhood Declaration Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

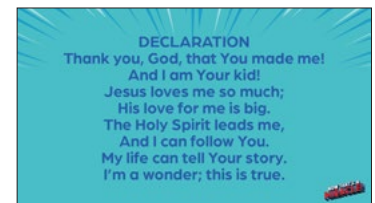
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words: **God, thank You for being with us now and always. Help us understand more about Your power and help us remember that You're always with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how Jesus has power. Let's sing about Jesus and praise Him!

Play [My God, Always With Me worship videos](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Make It Inclusive: If you have kids who are unable to dance or sing, offer instruments or ribbons to twirl in place as they worship with the group.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Today we are learning about a moment when a huge storm could not stop Jesus. Watch how Jesus shows His power over the wind and the waves and brings calm in the middle of fear. As you watch, think about how trusting Jesus can help you when life feels scary.

Play the [God's Big Story Video](#).

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: parachute or bedsheet, toy boat, blue streamers (1 per kid), spray bottle of water (optional)

Spread a parachute or bedsheet on the ground. Invite kids to sit on it with you and pretend they are riding in a boat. Put a toy boat in the middle of the parachute or bedsheet where the kids can see it. Hand out blue streamers to the kids and explain they will use the streamers to represent the wind in today's story. Let the kids practice waving their streamers around slowly and quickly, then have them put the streamers down in front of them until it's time to use them in the story.

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching people about God's kingdom. He told simple stories to help people understand God and His kingdom. One night after Jesus taught a lot of people all day, He invited His closest followers, His disciples, to go away with Him. They needed to cross a large lake called the Sea of Galilee on their trip. Jesus was probably tired after being with people and teaching all day. Jesus went to the back of the boat and fell asleep. Everyone lie down and pretend to be asleep. Pause to allow the kids to respond.

Suddenly, a really big storm came. Huge waves crashed over the side of the boat. Demonstrate how to wave the streamers and invite the kids to do it too. **Wind rushed and rain came down. The boat almost sank! But Jesus stayed asleep. The disciples were very scared.** Move the toy boat around or use the parachute or bedsheet to bounce the toy boat. If using a spray bottle of water, spray some water on the boat or on the kids. **Even the disciples who were fishermen and had been on stormy seas were scared. They did not know if they would make it! They went to Jesus and woke Him. Everyone can sit up now.** Pause to allow the kids to sit up. **"Don't you care if we drown?" they asked.** Encourage the kids to keep waving the streamers.

Jesus did care. His disciples did not understand yet who He truly is. Jesus stood up and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" (Mark 4:39). Then the storm stopped. Encourage the kids to stop waving their streamers and stop moving the boat. **The wind and water became completely calm.**

Jesus asked, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have any faith at all yet?" (Mark 4:40). The disciples were amazed. They realized that the wind and waves obey Jesus! What the disciples saw was miraculous—an amazing sign that God was at work! Jesus is more powerful than any storm. Jesus has power over creation.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS HAS POWER OVER CREATION. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

All through the Bible, we see God's power over creation! He speaks, and the universe is created! He parts the Red Sea and causes bread to rain on His people. So when Jesus calmed the storm, He showed great power that only belongs to God. Jesus showed that He is more than just a man—He is God!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His power.

When I say the word “afraid,” you can make a scared face. When I say “Jesus,” you can show your muscles to remind us that Jesus is powerful. Let's talk to God.

God, thank You for taking care of us when we're afraid (scared faces). Thank You for reminding us that Jesus (show muscles) has power over everything. We love You. In Jesus' (show muscles) name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you remember that the Jesus who controls the wind and waves also walks with you. There is nothing too big for Him to handle.