

# A WEATHER WONDER

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mark 4:35–41

AD 31

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

Our God Jesus has power over creation.

### BIBLE VERSE

Fear not, for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that Jesus, the Second Person of our triune God, has power over His creation.

### LAW & GOSPEL

Sin causes us to fear and doubt God's power to care for us.

Jesus takes away our fear, proving by His actions that He will always care for us.

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

“Peace! Be still!” (v. 39). With this simple command, Jesus proclaims His power over a storm strong enough to shake even these experienced fishermen. With the disciples, we must ask, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (v. 41). Jesus is making it clear that He, who was present at creation, is Lord over all, including the wind and the waves.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Mark 4:35–41 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the article “Biblical Miracles at Work Today” in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 1679.

**IN DEPTH** Read parallel accounts of the miracle in Matthew 8:18, 23–27 and Luke 8:22–25.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Video clips of storms
- Blue blanket and toy boats

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities



### LEADER NOTE

Bring in video clips of news coverage of bad wind and rainstorms. If you live in an area where students have experienced firsthand the trauma of this type of storm, no need to show pictures or video.



### GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 11.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page description of “Storm in a Bottle” to extend the learning with a science-based activity.

## LAUNCH

**PRAY** Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us Your Word to guide our lives and show us how much You love us. Guide our time together today that it might strengthen us and glorify You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**SING** “These Things Are Written”  
“Praise Him, Praise Him”  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**SAY** Have you ever been in a bad wind and rainstorm? What did that feel like on your body? Were you cold? Was your heart racing? What could you see? How did all that affect your emotions? What did you do in that situation? How did you stay safe? How did the Lord protect you during that storm?

## LEARN

### READ “A WEATHER WONDER”

Read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

### DO SOMETHING

**FOR ALL AGES** Act out this Bible narrative. Arrange chairs in the shape of a boat. Have some students be the sound effects and others do the actions, while still others read the various parts of the story. Make sure everyone gets in on the action of being in a rocking boat.

**FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS** Use a small blue blanket to represent the Sea of Galilee. Have students stand around the edges of the blanket, each holding the edge. Put small toy boats on the blanket and then, with everyone holding the

blanket taut, rock the water up and down to simulate the storm that tosses the boats around. Start out gentle, and then as you tell the story, increase the intensity of the storm. Students can make sound effects such as “whoosh, whoosh.” Have students also repeat the words of the disciples as you tell the story. Then call out the words of Jesus, “Peace! Be still!” and immediately make the blanket stop moving. Roll up the blanket, and have students sit down while you finish the story and discussion.

### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- At the beginning of this account, Jesus left the northwestern side, the Jewish region, around the Sea of Galilee to travel across to the more Gentile region. He was on a mission to reach all people, just as we should be.
- Fear is a very real emotion. Fear is a result of sin, and all people have fear. Jesus calms our fears, just as He calmed the storm for the disciples.
- Jesus doesn’t take away storms, either real (as in hurricanes or tornadoes) or metaphorical storms in our lives. But He does promise to be with us during those storms. He is not “sleeping” or uncaring when we are going through the storms of life.

# LIVE

## EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about the Sea of Galilee.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ Weather was very mysterious in the ancient world before all the technology that we have in modern times. For Jesus to calm the weather really showed His divinity. Why does that matter?
- ▶ Think about the question that the disciples asked Jesus in verse 38. Jesus cared for the disciples even when He was napping, but their fear had crowded out their faith. Does that ever happen to us?
- ▶ Is it okay to loudly ask the Lord for help in a storm? (It sure is!)

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

Fear not, for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Jesus met the physical safety needs of the disciples in the boat. But even more than that, He met their eternal needs. The same is true for us today. God meets more than our physical needs; even more important, He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from eternal death.
- Everyone has storms in their life. It's just part of living in a broken world, this side of heaven. Sometimes things go from being calm in our lives to being "stormy." This doesn't mean that Jesus has left us. Jesus will continue to care for us in both types of "weather."
- Just as Jesus calmed the storm for the disciples, He ends the storm of sin and certain eternal death for us by taking on that sin on the cross in our place.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Direct students to look out the window at creation. Ask the students to tell you how God shows His power over creation.

# LEAVE

**SAY** Our God Jesus certainly showed His power over creation in this miraculous event.

**SING** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
"The Lord's Prayer"  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**PRAY** Dear Jesus, thank You for protecting us in the storms of life. Thank You for Your Word, which reminds us of how much You love and care for us. Help us to share this amazing good news with everyone we know. In Your name we pray. Amen.



## DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page, found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is true God, and He has all power over creation. But despite this, He humbled Himself and took on human flesh to live, die, and rise again so that we might have life with Him.

## DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page by accessing the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

This Bible puzzle can help students remember today's Bible verse. If you have extra time, students can color in the bottom of the page and cut out the Bible verse to display at home.

Answer: Fear not, for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10



### CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

#### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God created all things, including me. He has control over all things, including my life. I am safe in Him.

#### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I am called to obey the Lord, just as the wind and the waves obey Him. I can live without fear because Jesus is Lord of all creation. I can share this truth with others.

### GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.*

#### ADULT

I can express why God's power over nature demonstrates His care for His creation.

#### YOUTH

I can relate Jesus' power over nature to His ability to care for me and all creation.

#### ELEMENTARY

I understand that Jesus, the Second Person of our triune God, has power over His creation.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus has power to help me.

## BONUS ACTIVITIES

### STORM IN A BOTTLE

10 minutes

Search online for science experiments called "storm in a bottle." Reproducing this experiment with students will help them visually connect with the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

### MASTERPIECE ART

5–10 minutes

Search online for the Dutch painter Rembrandt's portrayal of this event, titled "Storm on the Sea of Galilee." Show this painting on your digital device. Talk about what the students see in the painting and why it is so famous.

### DISASTER RELIEF RESEARCH

Times may vary

Research places that have had bad storms recently. Search the key words "relief," "disaster," and "LCMS" to discover how our church has responded to those storms. Find ways that you and your students can support disaster relief ministry.