

# Jesus Calms a Storm

## Matthew 8:23-27



New Testament 2  
Part 1: Miracles Show Jesus' Great Power

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 2 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

### MEMORY WORK:

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear" (Hebrews 13:6a).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Jesus is Our Friend"](#)
- ["Do Not Fear"](#)
- ["Jesus Stilled the Storm"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Miracles & Teachings of Jesus](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 2 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Matthew Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- "[Map of New Testament World](#)" (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- "[Map of Palestine](#)" (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Later Ministry of Jesus A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; skip card CD 4.3)
- AP's short videos, "[Jesus and Miracles](#)" and "[6 Reasons to Believe in Jesus](#)" by Kyle Butt and "[One Proof of God: Jesus](#)" by Eric Lyons
- Jesus Calms a Storm flannel graph
- Miracles of Jesus flannel graph
- Our Friend Jesus bulletin board set



- **Audio recording of storm noises**
- **Small pool or washtub half-full of water, along with a toy boat, and a fan for stormy winds**

## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can trust God to help me when I am afraid.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Have you ever been afraid? (Discuss with children for a few minutes.) What did you do when you were afraid? Who took care of you? One time, Jesus' apostles were afraid, and He took care of them just like He takes care of us.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

We have all been afraid and trusted someone else to take care of us when we were afraid. (Discuss with students for a few minutes.) It's usually our parents who take care of us when we're afraid. There is someone who cares for us all the time, especially when we're afraid. Jesus took care of His apostles when they were scared, and He takes care of us when we're scared.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus had been healing the sick and preaching to crowds of people all day. He knew that there were many people who needed His help, but He also knew that many of the people following Him were only interested in the "signs" or miracles He did—not in obeying His words. He was very tired and needed to get away from the crowds for a while. When evening came, Jesus told His disciples to get into a nearby boat with Him so that they all could go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, away from the crowds for a while.
2. Because He is God's Son, Jesus undoubtedly knew that a storm was coming. But He was not worried or concerned at all. He went to the back of the boat and fell asleep. As is common on the Sea of Galilee, a fierce storm came up suddenly. The storm was so overwhelming that the boat in which they were sailing began to fill with water.
3. Remember that at least four of these disciples (the apostles) had been fishermen all their lives, making their living on this dangerous body of water. They were expert seamen, but they were afraid because the storm was so severe. They could not understand how Jesus could sleep through such a terrible storm. If He wasn't concerned for His own safety, they thought He should have stayed awake and paid attention for their benefit. They had been with Jesus for quite some time and had seen Him perform many miracles. But in this situation, when they needed His help, they seem to have forgotten what great power He had.
4. In desperation and fear, the disciples finally woke Jesus, saying, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die? Save us, Lord!" (Mark 4:38; Matthew 8:25). Jesus got up and spoke to the blustering wind and the surging waves, saying, "Peace [hush]; be still!" And immediately, everything became quiet and calm again. The storm was stopped by His word—just as God created all things in the beginning by His word. Then He turned to the disciples and said, "Why are you so afraid? Why do you have so little faith?" The disciples should have known by then,

after hearing Jesus' words and after all the miracles they had seen, that even in the most awful storm, Jesus was in control and had the power to help them. Read 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:6-7.

5. When the disciples saw the water and the wind become suddenly calm, they were even more afraid. They said to each other, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?" In spite of every miracle they had seen and every sermon they had heard Jesus preach, they still didn't quite understand that Jesus was the all-powerful Son of the one and only, all-powerful God.
6. There are real dangers that we should be aware of and concerned with so that we can protect ourselves as best we can and stay safe. But there are other scary things around us, like big dogs, scary TV shows, bad dreams, thunder, the dark, etc. which usually aren't really dangerous. When we are afraid, we should remember that the all-powerful Creator (the Master of the entire Universe) is with us, just like Jesus was with the apostles in that small boat. He has promised to be with us all the time. And He always keeps His promises! Read Titus 1:2.

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Keys](#).

#### Ages 2-5:

- "[Jesus Calms A Storm Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Help children make small sailboats from small Styrofoam blocks, small Ivory soap bar boxes, or banana split "boats" (use toothpicks for the "mast" and paper/glue for the "sails"). Write questions or clues on the sails of each boat for review, or use the boats before class to introduce thoughts about the lesson (i.e., talking about being in a boat during a storm, being afraid, etc.). Put the sailboats in a small pool (or washtub).
- Help the kids make sailboat magnets on which the memory verse for this lesson is written. (Do this by cutting out sailboats from construction paper, writing the memory verse on them, and then gluing a piece of magnet on the back.)
- Boat Review Game: Have toy boats in a tub of water with a number written on the bottom of each boat. Let a child pick a boat and the teacher read that number's review question and see if the child can answer it correctly (alternatively, [sail boat and sea cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets).
- Ocean in a Bottle: You will need rubbing alcohol, mineral spirits, blue food coloring, and a water bottle. Fill half of the bottle with rubbing alcohol. Put two to three drops of food coloring into the bottle and shake. Fill remainder of the bottle with mineral spirits. Put top on. Do not shake. Hold bottle horizontally until clear, then raise and lower ends to create waves. (Add a small plastic boat for more effect.)
- Fill a clear, 2-liter bottle with blue-dyed water. Have the children make large waves by turning the bottle. (A simpler version of the above.)
- Have children share a time when they were scared.
- Have the children read *Jesus Calms the Storm*, by Connie Morgan Wade and Diane Stortz, Rhyme Time Bible Stories, Standard Publishing

#### 1st-2nd Graders:

- Help the kids make sailboat magnets on which the memory verse for this lesson is written. (Do this by cutting out sailboats from construction paper, writing the memory verse on them, and then

- gluing a piece of magnet on the back.)
- Boat Review Game: Have toy boats in a tub of water with a number written on the bottom of each boat. Let a child pick a boat and the teacher read that number's review question and see if the child can answer it correctly.
- Ocean in a Bottle: You will need rubbing alcohol, mineral spirits, blue food coloring, and a water bottle. Fill half of the bottle with rubbing alcohol. Put two to three drops of food coloring into the bottle and shake. Fill remainder of the bottle with mineral spirits. Put top on. Do not shake. Hold bottle horizontally until clear, then raise and lower ends to create waves. (Add a small plastic boat for more effect.)
- Fill a clear, 2-liter bottle with blue-dyed water. Have the children make large waves by turning the bottle. (A simpler version of the above.)
- Have children share a time when they were scared.
- [Sail Boat Activity](#) (provided in activity sheets): Make two different colored sets of sailboat cutouts. Write review questions on them. Put magnetic tape on the back of each sailboat so you can attach them to a metal sheet or magnetic board. Put a "shoreline" on each edge of the board. Divide the class into two teams, and have each team place its sailboats at the "shoreline" of its side. The kids should take turns answering the questions on the sailboats. For every correct answer, each team gets to move one of its sailboats to the opposite team's shore. The team with the most sailboats on the shore opposite the beginning point wins.
- ["Jesus Calms a Storm Matching Activity"](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- ["I Will Trust God Word Puzzle"](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read *Jesus Calms the Storm* Arch Book, by Jean Thor Cook

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- [Sail Boat Activity](#) (provided in activity sheets): Make two different colored sets of sailboat cutouts. Write review questions on them. Put magnetic tape on the back of each sailboat so you can attach them to a metal sheet or magnetic board. Put a "shoreline" on each edge of the board. Divide the class into two teams, and have each team place its sailboats at the "shoreline" of its side. The kids should take turns answering the questions on the sailboats. For every correct answer, each team gets to move one of its sailboats to the opposite team's shore. The team with the most sailboats on the shore opposite the beginning point wins.
- Give small groups of students children's Bible concordances and ask them to find at least one Scripture with weather related words, such as lightning, cloud, rain, snow, hail, and wind.
- ["Jesus Calms a Storm Matching Activity"](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- ["I Will Trust God Word Puzzle"](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
  - *Discovery* magazine issue (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): [August, 2021](#)
  - Matthew 8, Mark 4, and Luke 8 (can be assigned Sunday to be completed by Wednesday or the following Sunday)
  - *Jesus Does Miracles and Heals People*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing House, pp. 10-13

## SONGS:

### **“JESUS IS OUR FRIEND” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook  
(Tune : chorus of “Blessed Be the Name”)

Jesus is our friend, Jesus is our friend,  
Jesus is the best friend of all;  
Jesus is our friend, Jesus is our friend,  
Jesus is the best friend of all.

Jesus is God’s Son, Jesus is God’s Son,  
Jesus cares for us all the time.  
Jesus is God’s Son, Jesus is God’s Son,  
Jesus cares for us all the time.

### **“JESUS STILLED THE STORM” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook  
(Tune: “Peter, James, and John in a Sailboat”)

Once there was some stormy weather, (3X)  
Out on the deep blue sea.

Jesus was asleep in the sailboat, (3X)  
Out on the deep blue sea.

Waves and winds did rock the sailboat, (3X) Out on the deep blue sea.

Jesus spoke to the wind and water, (3X)  
Out on the deep blue sea.

Then the stormy weather ended, (3X)  
Out on the deep blue sea.

### **“DO NOT FEAR” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook  
(Tune: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”)

Do not fear for God is near us.  
All the twinkling stars do say.  
Do not fear for God is near us,  
All the night and all the day.

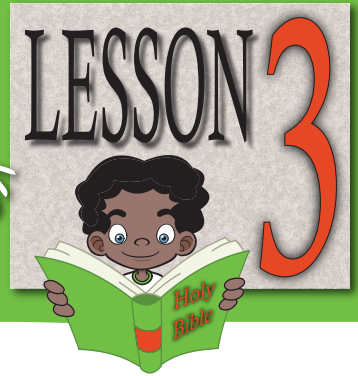
He will ever be our Father,  
And He’ll care for us, we know;  
If we’ll do as He commands us,  
He’ll go with us where we go.

**\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE  
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CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



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Matthew 8:23-27



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Part 1: Miracles Show Jesus' Great Power

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

### MEMORY WORK:

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear" (Hebrews 13:6a).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Jesus is Our Friend"](#)
- ["Do Not Fear"](#)
- ["Jesus Stilled the Storm"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

See Sunday morning's lesson.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can trust God to help me when I am afraid.

### INTRODUCTION:

Briefly review Sunday morning's lesson (see [N.T. 2 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

[N.T. 2 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 2 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Talk about scary weather phenomena, like lightning, tornadoes, etc., for which we should try to be prepared. With OLDER CHILDREN, talk about what causes lightning, for example.





[See the articles “What Causes A Tornado?” and “Be Ready Before It Happens” in *Discovery Magazine*, [May, 2002](#).] Remind the children that we can’t be prepared for everything, just as the disciples in that boat with Jesus weren’t prepared for the storm. But we can learn to trust Him more every day so that when scary times come, we won’t have to feel alone and helpless.

2. Use the following story by Mary Ann Barnes. Draw simple illustrations of the words in all caps on the board as you read the story.

Once there was a PUDDLE. When the SUN shone on the puddle, it became smaller and smaller [erase puddle each time and redraw] until it disappears. Where did it go?

It went up into the sky in droplets too tiny to be seen. There is water in the air of this room right now that we cannot see. Blow some air into your hand [demonstrate, as you would clean eyeglass lens]. Do you feel a little dampness on your hand? Water is RISING invisibly from puddles and rivers and oceans all over the Earth. High in the sky, the droplets form a CLOUD. More and more droplets collect in the cloud and then begin to grow cool and heavy. Soon they are bumping into each other.

When things bump or rub together, there is friction, and friction makes heat. Rub your hands together quickly and see if they become warmer. If you rub quickly enough and hard enough, you can make a spark of electricity. That is what happens in a cloud. Each BUMPING of raindrops in the cloud makes a tiny charge of electricity. By and by, a spark is made which is too large to be held inside the CLOUD [draw lightning through the cloud]. The big spark looks for something to travel to. It may be ANOTHER CLOUD, or a tall building, or a tall TREE. This giant spark is what we call lightning.

People used to be afraid of lightning because they did not know how to guess where it would strike. But men began to study the way lightning behaves, and they found that it has rules from God about the way it travels. It always goes to something close and tall. If you are in a boat on the lake when a storm cloud appears above you, you are in danger because you and the boat are closer and taller than the water. If there is a storm cloud above a field with a tall tree, you should not stand under that tree during the storm because the lightning is likely to go to the tree. Men who have used the fine minds God gave them have also found ways to protect tall buildings from the damage of lightning (lightning rods).

God has put us in a world where there are things that can be dangerous. But He has promised to take care of us, and he has given us a good brain that can plan to avoid danger. God takes care of us!

What is thunder? It is nothing more than noise made by hot lightning heating the cool air it is traveling through, a little like the pop of cold water landing in a hot skillet. Thunder can only scare us if it surprises us. And it cannot hurt us at all. Thunder always happens after lightning. When you know to expect it, it won’t surprise you!

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

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