

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Matthew

LESSON 11

**JESUS CALMS THE
STORM**

MATTHEW 8:23-27

Life of Christ

Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27

Younger Verse

I put my trust in you.

Psalms 56:3

Older Verse

But when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Psalms 56:3

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus has power over all things, including nature
Recognize that the disciples were still learning to trust Him completely
Learn that we can turn to Jesus in times of trouble

Welcome Time

Ask: Have you ever been in a scary situation? What did you do? What should you do? Jesus' disciples experienced a storm that made them fear for their lives. Let's see what happens. (If desired, bring a rainstick to make rain noises during the story, and/or bring a spray bottle with water.)

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned about how Jesus healed a Roman officer's servant. Many people came to Jesus so He could heal them, too. Soon a large crowd followed Him wherever He went.

Jesus led His disciples to a boat, and they went out on a lake. Suddenly, a HUGE storm came up on the lake! The storm was so big that waves splashed into the boat! Even though the disciples were experienced fishermen, they were afraid that they were going to drown!

Jesus, probably tired from helping all the people, was asleep. The disciples quickly awakened Him. They begged Him to save them from drowning!

Jesus asked the disciples why they were so afraid. It was as if they had forgotten all the miracles they had seen Jesus do. He told them they did not have much faith. Then Jesus stood up and told the storm to "STOP." The storm was gone. Just like that. The water was calm again!

The disciples were amazed that Jesus could calm a storm! They said, "Who is this, that even the wind and waves obey Him?" They had seen Jesus heal people's sickness, but this was the first time they had experienced His power over nature.

Like the disciples, we may have times in our lives that feel like "storms." Problems can be like storms, coming in and taking away our peace. But Jesus is with us in these storms, just like He was with the disciples in the boat. We don't need to panic or be afraid. Jesus is still in control!

Ask: Why did Jesus allow the storm to come? Couldn't He have stopped it from coming? Jesus was still trying to teach His disciples who He was. They needed to see that they could trust Him when things got tough. Simi-

larly, God does not always take away our problems, but He does promise to be with us through them and to provide strength and help.

In today's lesson we can learn to trust Jesus and ask Him for help when we are in trouble. Just like Jesus' friends came to Him when they were scared, we can pray and ask Him for help with our needs.

The Bible tells us that Jesus wanted us to be able to go to Heaven. He knew that because we are dirty with sin, that we could never get to Heaven by ourselves. He knew that there was one way to help us, to make us clean--if He died in our place for the wrong things we have done. So, that's what Jesus did. He died for us.

The best news is that Jesus came back to life 3 days later. He is alive now. Just like Jesus' friends trusted Him with their lives, we can trust Jesus, too. If we believe in Jesus and trust Him with our lives, we will be in Heaven too! If you would like to know more about how you can go to Heaven, talk to us.

Review Questions

1. **What was Jesus doing when the big storm came up? (sleeping)**
2. **How did Jesus stop the storm? (He spoke and the water became calm)**
3. **What do we need to do when problems come in our lives? (trust Jesus and ask for His help)**

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us trust Him more. Pray for those in the class who are going through storms in their lives.

Life Application

Like the disciples, we may not trust Jesus completely. We may become afraid and panic in moments of fear. **Ask: How can we learn to trust Jesus more?**

Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ." Reading the Bible and going to Bible Study are very important for many reasons. God's Word is so encouraging. God speaks to us through the Bible and gives us strength and courage for every situation!

The story is told of a young boy who was about to have surgery. He was a little scared, so he said a Bible verse to the nurse: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Let's be like this little boy and always turn to God and His Word when we are afraid! He wants to help us.

Planning for Next Lesson
Jesus Eats and Prays
Matthew 26:17-40

Preschool Lesson For Jesus Calms the Storm

Bring a fish cut out of construction paper.

Hi! I'm a little fish and I want to tell you a BIG story that happened one night while I was swimming in the lake.

While I was swimming with my friends, I saw a fishing boat go by. It had people in it and they were rowing it to the other side of the lake.

Suddenly, the sky grew very dark and the winds started to blow. The waves began to splash against the boat. I could tell that the men were trying their best to row the boat. I was glad that I was in the water. It looked scary up there!

You won't believe what happened next! Some of the men woke another man up. His name was Jesus. He had been sleeping during the storm.

When He said, "STOP," the storm stopped. I couldn't believe it! The storm was gone.. It was calm and quiet.

I knew that Jesus was someone special. No one else could make a storm stop.

The men knew it too. They bowed down and told Him that He was God's Son. They showed Him how much they loved Him.

We can show Jesus how much we love Him too. We can sing songs to Him. We can pray and tell Him how much we love Him. We can also tell others about Him and invite them to church. Let's try to show Him we love Him this week.

Hands-on Activities For Jesus Calms the Storm

The best way for kids to remember this story is to act it out. It is so much fun to pretend to sound like a storm. You may want to use a blue tarp as the “water.” Bring metal containers or cookie sheets to make sounds like lightning and thunder. You can also have the kids make clapping and snapping sounds for rain and thunder and blowing noises for the wind.

Sing the song “With Jesus in Your Boat You Can Smile Through the Storm.” This summarizes the lesson!

Bring a bowl of water and let kids test things that float and sink. Try some things yourself beforehand so that you have objects that both float and sink (Examples: Little bar of soap, plastic tub toys, coins, cork, craft stick etc.).

Make pretend storms. Fill a plastic bottle 2/3 full with water. Add tsp. of Salt, drop of dish-washing liquid and two drops of blue food coloring. Glue lid on bottle and shake! The mixture will form a funnel like a storm. (Idea courtesy of Sundayschoolcrafts.com)

Bring Lifesaver candies and talk about how Jesus is our Lifesaver.

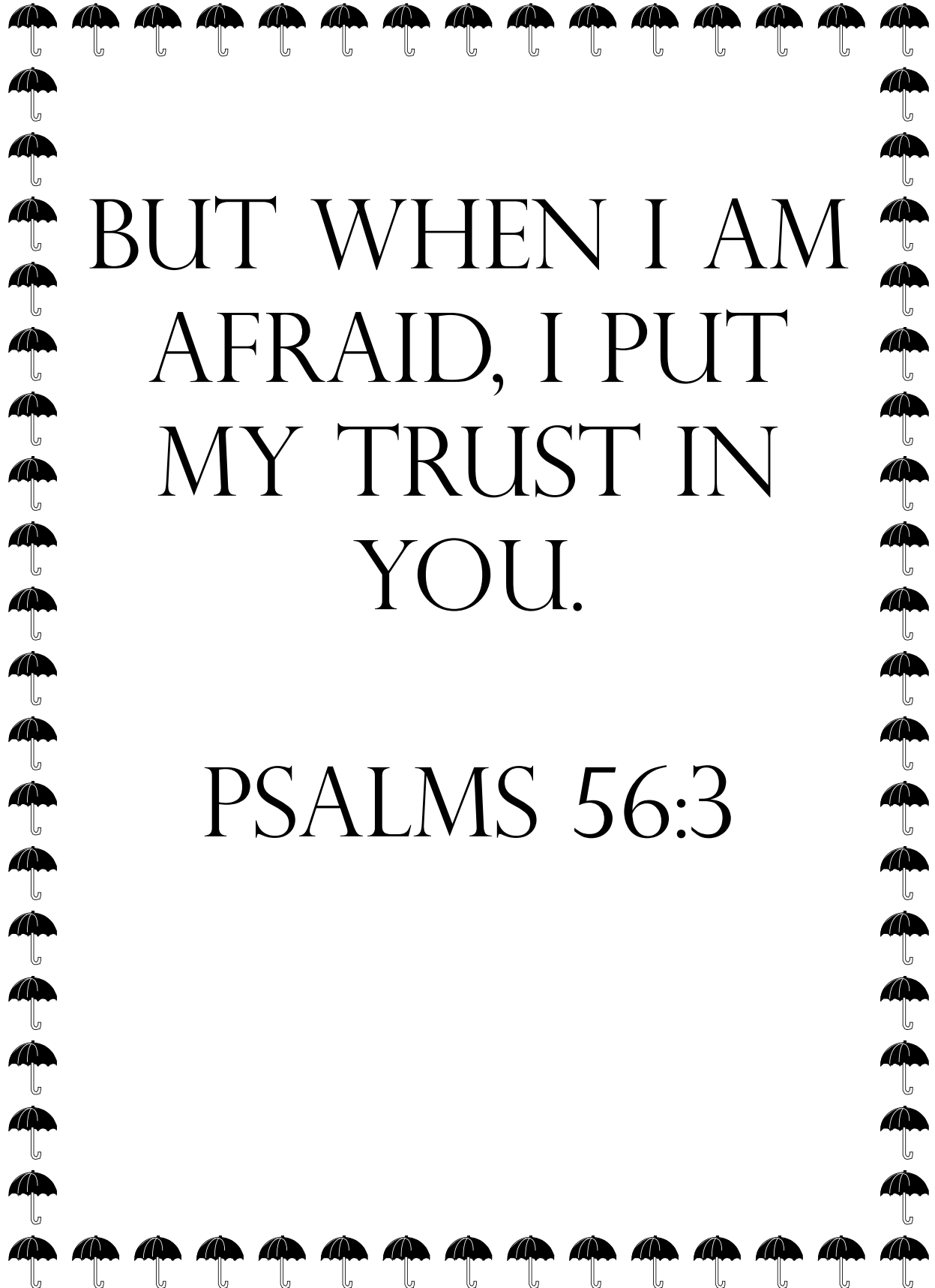
Before class, put masking tape on the floor to make lines to represent the water. As you are taping, occasionally make a gap in the tape. The kids will pretend they are crossing the water and must jump over the gaps. As they jump across, they must try to say the memory verse. (Idea courtesy of Group Publishing)

Fill little plastic cups with blue Jell-o. Add fish-shaped crackers if available. Talk about the story.



I PUT MY TRUST
IN YOU.

PSALMS 56:3



BUT WHEN I AM
AFRAID, I PUT
MY TRUST IN
YOU.

PSALMS 56:3

D P O T B O N Y E N D R
S J M D O J O R E W O P
W I N D A N D W A V E S
I S A I T D S Y A D O E
S U N A Y G E N N O N L
L S R R E N A S L E E P
V S E F B F A T T H R I
I E P A F J V O T E D C
G C A I V E S P N A O S
R A C E T S C T U L O I
O L N H S U N O O E T D
R M R O T S E G U H S M

huge storm

Jesus

afraid

wind and waves

asleep

stop

boat

disciples

calm

