

Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4: 35-39)

Has anyone here ever been in a boat? Where were you/what were you doing? What was the weather like? I'm going to share with you a really scary but true story from the Bible about something that happened to Jesus and his disciples when they were in a boat.

Quick re-cap :

- who is/what do know/remember about Jesus (5 facts ?)
- who were the disciples (Jesus' followers, friends, helpers, 12 of them, some of them were fishermen)

I'd like you to help me tell the story. *Sit the children in a circle if space allows.*

Let's choose some people to help me:

- *select (or ask the class teacher to) a child to be Jesus - they need to be ready to repeat what Jesus said, and to listen out for and do all the actions implied in the story as you read*
- *3? to represent the disciples.*
- *assign somewhere to be a boat - upturned table, 4 (sensible) children sitting and holding hands in a circle, paddling pool...*

Let's practice the bits I want you all to help me with:

Whenever I say "**boat**" everyone say "creeeak" and pretend you're pulling hard on the oars

Whenever I say "**disciples**," I want all the boys count to 12 really fast (why?)

Whenever I say "**wind**," I want the girls cup their hands around their mouths and blow.

Whenever I say "**waves**," everyone put your hands side by side and make waves in front of you.

Whenever I say "**Jesus**," everyone point to upward and say, "He's in charge."

Okay, here's what happened!

The **disciples** were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following **Jesus**. They had all gathered together by the Sea of Galilee - really a very, very big lake. They'd listened as he taught and told stories, and they'd watched as he made lots of sick people better. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. **Jesus** could see that the **disciples** were very tired, so he said, "Let's get in a **boat** and go over to the other side of the lake. It would be good for all of them to get away from the crowds for a while. **Jesus** was tired too!

They all clambered into the **boat**. The **disciples** rowed away from the shore. **Jesus** went to the front of the **boat** and lay down on a cushion. The **waves** lapped gently against the side of the **boat**, sending **Jesus** into a peaceful sleep.

But then, suddenly, a **wind** began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The **waves** weren't so gentle anymore. The little **boat** began to pitch and rock. The **disciples** began to get a little worried. But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**. Then the **wind** grew stronger still. The spray from the **waves** got the **disciples** all wet. This was getting to be a bad storm! But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**!

By the time the **boat** reached the middle of the lake, the **wind** had turned into an angry gale that whipped the **waves** so high they washed right over the **boat**. The **disciples** were terrified. They thought they might drown. But still **Jesus** lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**!

Finally, one of the **disciples** went and shook **Jesus**.

"Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" (*choose one of the child disciples to act/say this*)

Jesus opened his eyes and looked around. He listened to the howling **wind**. He felt the cold, stinging spray as **waves** crashed over the little **boat**. He could see that the **disciples** were very frightened. Then **Jesus** stood, stretched out his arms to the **wind** and the **waves**, and ordered:

"Peace! Be still!"

And all at once the **wind** died down and the **waves** became completely calm. Then he asked the **disciples**: "Why are you so afraid? Where is your faith?"

Jesus showed his power over the **wind** and the **waves** that day on the Sea of Galilee. Just as he cared for his **disciples** in that little storm-tossed **boat**, he will care for everyone.

Then ask:

What happened that made the disciples feel unsafe? (*Their boat got in a bad storm; they were afraid of drowning.*)

What did they do to get help? (*They woke Jesus up.*)

What did Jesus do to make things okay again? (*He told the wind and the waves to be still.*)

How could he do that? (*He's God's son-he can do anything.*)

Can Jesus help us the way he helped the disciples in the storm? Why or why not? (*Yes, Jesus can still do anything; no, he doesn't work that way now.*)

Can Jesus help us even though we can't see him or touch him? Why or why not? (*Yes, he's always with us; no, sometimes we don't ask him.*)