

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 01 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Miracles of Jesus / Jesus calms a storm
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Mark 4:35-41
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus is God

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that Jesus not only has the power of God, but that Jesus *is* God.
- To help kids realise that the same Jesus who calmed the storm is the same Jesus we sing and pray to; the same Jesus who takes care of us.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with a brick inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Water sprayer
- ✓ Room fan
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>Jesus in My Life / I Love You</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get a mat and sit down.	You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i>
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B. Message 15 minutes 1. Recap Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the brick you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain the significance of the brick and what it should remind us of today. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of the Tower of Babel and the importance of not thinking of ourselves as better than anyone else – God doesn't like pride, and no matter what good things we do, we can only get to heaven by asking God to forgive our sin and living for Him. If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>Loving God means obeying his commands. And God's commands are not too hard for us. 1 John 5:3</i> Finish by eliciting the concept: God wants me to obey. 2. Set the scene Does anyone remember the name of the little boy we learnt about a couple of months ago? His Mum and Dad were from Nazareth but he was born in another town. It was called Bethlehem. We celebrate His birthday every year on 25 th December. Have you guessed who He is? It's Jesus! Jesus didn't stay a baby for long. He grew up just like you and I did. At one time, He was a boy like some of you, helping His daddy – Joseph – in the workshop in Nazareth. When Jesus became a man, there came a time when He started to work for His heavenly Father – God. Jesus had good news to tell the people about God. God loved the people and wanted them to be His friends, and it was Jesus' job to tell them. Jesus was looking for some people to help Him tell people this good news. He chose twelve men to be His disciples. A disciple is someone who follows and learns from Jesus. These men were not really clever with exams and certificates. Some of them were fishermen! But Jesus could see their hearts. He could see that those men were happy to obey Him. And so, Jesus and His twelve disciples went around Galilee – the area where they lived – telling people about the good news of God's love. As Jesus and the disciples travelled around talking to the people, many wonderfully amazing things happened! Stories that still amaze us today when we read about them! Today, I want to tell you one of those stories.	You'll need ... <i>Treasure chest / brick</i>
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3. Tell the story

One day, Jesus was talking to some people on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and teaching them about God. More and more people came to hear what Jesus was saying, and soon there was a big crowd of people all around Him. Jesus needed some space between Him and the crowd, so He got into a boat and sat down in it out on the water, while all the crowds of people were along the shore on the beach. Jesus spoke to them from the boat and the people listened on the shore.

Have you ever sailed in a boat? Was it a big ferry or a little rowing boat? Did you like sailing? What was the best part? What was the worst thing about it?

Today, we're going to pretend we're in a boat. A fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. *Have the kids move and sit in a close group as if they are on board a boat.* You see, Jesus had spent the whole day talking to the people on the shore about God's love for them. It was getting late and Jesus was tired, so, in the evening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." (Mark 4:35) The disciples got into the boat with Jesus and they set out to cross the sea. *Pretend to climb into the 'boat' yourself and ask kids to help you 'row' the boat by miming a rowing action.* Jesus was feeling sleepy, so he went down to the back of the boat and lay down to take a nap.

The disciples continued to sail the boat. They noticed that the weather seemed to be changing. The wind was blowing a bit harder than before, and they could hear the water splashing against the sides of the boat. The boat was moving more and they were wobbling around a little. *Have the kids move around in the boat and make some sound effects to emulate the wind and the waves. Switch the fan to the first setting.* 'Uh-oh,' they thought. Would they make it to the other side before the weather got any worse? It wasn't long before the wind turned into a fierce storm! The boat was rocking from side to side and the waves were so huge that they rose up over the sides of the boat! There was water getting into the boat! They couldn't stop it! If any more water got in they would sink! They would drown! How could they save themselves? *Spray, or have an adult helper spray, kids in the 'boat' with water. Switch the fan to the highest setting.*

The men looked around for Jesus. Remember, this was the Son of God who had the power of God to do amazing things. Jesus could help them. But when the disciples saw Jesus through the wind and the waves crashing around them, where was He? He was still asleep! Curled up like a baby, asleep on a cushion in the back of the boat! Hadn't He heard the storm? Hadn't He felt the wind and the waves shake and rock the boat? The disciples shook Him and woke Him up. "Don't you care if we drown?" they shouted at Him!

Jesus got up and shouted at the wind and the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" *Stop spraying and switch off the fan.* The storm died down. The wind and the waves became calm and everything was quiet and settled once more. *Make sure kids have stopped rocking the boat at this stage.* Jesus looked at his friends in the boat and asked them, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40) The disciples were shocked! They were gripped with fear! They were

Fan

Water sprayer

amazed and terrified all at the same time, for they couldn't believe what had just happened. They started whispering to each other, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" (Mark 4:41)

4. Explain

Boys and girls, the disciples, Jesus' friends, were so afraid and panicked because they thought that the storm was going to kill them, and Jesus lay sleeping. It seemed as though He didn't care. But they didn't realise that Jesus was going through the storm with them, that He was right there in the boat alongside them. Of course Jesus cared about the disciples! He loved them! He just wanted them to trust Him to take care of them.

You might not be looking for Jesus in a boat, going through a terrible storm with wind and waves like that day on the Sea of Galilee. But you might be going through another kind of storm – maybe you're having problems at school, maybe you're worried or scared about something, maybe it seems like everything is going wrong and you just don't know how it's going to work out for you. Boys and girls, our story today teaches us that Jesus goes through the storms and the problems and worries with us. He loves us and takes care of us, and He wants us to believe in Him and trust Him no matter what we're facing. Jesus promised that He would never leave us, so we can be sure that He is always with us, every day, whatever is happening in our lives.

When we believe that God is with us, we can help our belief and our trust in God to grow bigger and stronger by reading about those stories in the Bible, and by praying. And remember, it's the same Jesus who calmed the wind and the waves who helps us today!

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things.
5. Ask kids to imagine they are in the boat with Jesus. Jesus has calmed many storms for people. Ask them What they want to talk about with Jesus today?
6. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.
7. Encourage kids to believe in the power of Jesus to calm the wind and the waves, and to take care of our 'storms'.
8. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so)

You'll need ...

*Net (with last week's prayer cards)
Small cards / postcards
A pen*

before they place their card into the prayer net.	
9. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group.	

D. Conclusion (with puppets) 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. Sing a closing song. (<i>Jesus in My Life</i>) 3. Put the water sprayer into the treasure chest to be taken out next week. 4. Challenge kids to remember that the same Jesus who calmed the storm is the same Jesus who takes care of us. 5. Remind kids to come back this evening. 6. Ask kids to put their name tags into the box before they leave.	7 minutes 	<i>You'll need ...</i> <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i> <i>Treasure chest / water sprayer</i> <i>Name tag box</i>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

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HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making a rainmaker.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory verse task: Large sheet of paper, or a whiteboard – marked with spaces for Bible verse hangman (you could include the book of the Bible where the verse is found, but perhaps not the chapter and verse!)
 Pen or whiteboard marker
 Memory verse slide (Psalm 56:3)
- ✓ Activity: Tables
 Pre-made rainmaker (see below for instructions and photos)
 Cardboard tubes (one per child – these could be kitchen paper towel rolls, or crisp/snack containers)
 Pre-cut card circles (two per child – make these by drawing around the end of the cardboard tube you are using. If you use snack containers, you won't need these as the bottom and lid will close off the two ends.)
 Sticky tape
 Tin foil (pre-cut in lengths, about twice the length of the cardboard tube – one per child)
 Rice or seeds
 Decorating materials, e.g. stickers, colouring pens and pencils, glitter, ribbons, etc.
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

