

LESSON PLAN

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Mark 4:35-41

Lesson Memory Verse: Mark 4:40 - "And He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful?' How is it that you have no faith?"

Lesson Aim: We must learn to trust Jesus and not be afraid.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Has anyone in class been in a bad storm? (Let the children tell about their storm experiences. If they do not have any, you need to be prepared to tell about one of your storm experiences.) Storms can be very destructive and even kill you, so it is not unusual that some people are very afraid of them.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse suggests to us how we should handle things that can make us afraid like storms, men with guns, fierce animals and being alone in the darkness of night. Jesus asked His disciples, "How is it that you have no faith?" We need faith in the Lord that He will take care of us. Faith in the Lord will overcome our fears.

When the disciples were in a terrible storm, Jesus asked them why they were so fearful. Jesus did not want them to live in fear. He wanted them to be bold. Faith in His power would give them the boldness that they needed. So He exposed their lack of faith; not faith in themselves, but faith in Him. The reason for their fear was their lack of faith in Him. Jesus wanted them to get rid of their fear. They needed to believe that He would take care of them, even in a storm that threatened to kill them. If they could believe that Jesus could take care of them in a storm, then they could begin to have faith in Him to take care of them when they witnessed to hostile sinners.

As you memorize this verse, ask yourself, "Do I have faith that Jesus will take care of me when I am in a frightening situation?" When you can honestly say, "I have faith that Jesus will take care of me," then you will be free from your fear. Let this verse remind you not to be afraid, but to have faith in the Lord.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our Bible story will show us how well Jesus took care of His disciples. This will teach us how well He can take care of us so that we never need to be afraid.

I. The Storm - Mark 4:35-37

Jesus said to His disciples that he wanted to go over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. The disciples immediately made plans to take Jesus to the other side of the Sea. A few smaller ships went with them. It would take quite a while to make the trip, so Jesus lay down on a pillow and went to sleep. As they sailed across the Sea of Galilee, a sudden windstorm arose and struck them. It was common for sudden storms to erupt without warning on the Sea of Galilee, but this windstorm was more powerful than any that they had ever experienced. It was so powerful that the waves were rising higher and higher until they were coming over the sides of the boat so that it was filling up with water. It may be that Satan was causing this windstorm to destroy Jesus and His disciples in the Sea. We know that he caused a great wind to kill Job's sons and daughter (Job 1:18-19). He has great power.

WE: We need to do whatever Jesus tells us to do, but that does not mean it will be "smooth sailing" for us, that is, that all will go well for us and we will have no troubles. In fact, we may find the greatest troubles in our lives will come on us when we do what He tells us to do. He may allow these things to come into our lives to show us our weakness and His power.

LESSON PLAN

II. The Sailors (Disciples) - Mark 4:38

During the trip across the Sea of Galilee, Jesus was very tired from His work that day. He left the sailing work to His disciples. Some of them had been fishermen all of their adult lives and knew how to handle a boat in all kinds of weather. So He went to sleep in the back of the boat. Suddenly this windstorm struck them with a terrible force. The disciples tried everything they knew to keep their boat from sinking, but this storm was far too strong for them to handle. They became very fearful because they were sure that they were going to sink and everyone would lose his life. Then they saw Jesus was still sleeping. They frantically awakened Him and said, "Master, do you not care that we perish?" In other words, "Don't you care that we all are going to lose our lives?"

WE: God will allow some troubles (storms) to come into our life so that we will learn that we cannot take care of ourselves without His help. The troubles may get so bad that we may be afraid of losing our lives. God sometimes allows this to happen because He wants us to learn to trust in His Son to save us from our troubles. Can you trust Him when troubles come into your life and not be afraid? Conquer your fears one by one. If you become fearful, confess it as sin and ask Jesus to give you victory over that fear.

III. The Savior - Mark 4:39-41

When Jesus awoke, He stood up and told the wind to stop blowing and the sea to be peaceful, and immediately that is what happened. The wind stopped blowing and there was a great calm on the sea. Jesus showed His disciples that He has great power. Even if Satan was causing the storm, Jesus had greater power than Satan and He stopped the storm. Then He spoke to His disciples and asked them why they were so fearful and why they had no faith. Jesus wanted His disciples to learn to have faith in Him and never be afraid, even though their lives should be in danger. Now the disciples were no longer afraid of the storm, but they had a fear of Him. Which was better: to fear the storm or to fear the Lord? It was better to fear the Lord because "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 9:10). The fear of the Lord is a holy fear, a fear of His mighty power and what it could do. The disciples learned that even the wind and the waves obeyed His voice. Through this experience they learned to respect the Lord for His great power and have faith in Him to take care of them.

WE: We need to have the fear of the Lord, so that we respect His great power. Many people do not respect the power of Jesus. They think that He is an ordinary man and can take His name in vain without any fear of His power to send them to Hell. Or, maybe they think of Him as a great prophet, but do not believe that He is the almighty God that created all the things that His Father had planned. Since He created all things, all things will obey Him and every knee will bend before Him and confess that He is the Lord (Phil 2:9-11). When we fear the Lord for His great power, we should have faith that He can take care of us, even when our lives are in great danger. Why should we fear danger when we fear Him? Fear Him with respect and have faith in Him so that you will not be afraid of anything. It may take some time for you to have this kind of faith, but this the kind of faith that will give you peace in any kind of storm that may come upon you.

BE (for Action): What did you learn from this lesson that will help you overcome your fears? (Yes, you have to have faith in the Lord to take care of you.) Try not to be afraid of anything except sin. Tell the Lord that you have faith in Him to take care of you, because He has power over everything in His creation, even the wind and the waves. He has power over kings and their armies to stop them. He has power to defeat Satan and his fallen angels. "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph 6:10). If you should become afraid, confess this sin to the Lord; tell Him exactly what you are afraid of and ask Him to forgive you. Then look to Him to take care of you and forget about your fears. Will you do this?