

WE NEED JESUS

**We need
to be safe**

MATTHEW 8:23-27

faith  **kids**

We need Jesus – We need to be safe

MATTHEW 8:23-27



Big Idea:

Jesus has power over creation. I am safe with him.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who know Jesus is with them, so they are not afraid.



Where are we going?

Life following Jesus will not always be plain sailing, as this story shows us. Jesus warns us elsewhere that sometimes it will be quite the opposite – we are in for a rocky ride! Despite this, we can be certain that we are completely safe no matter what we face, because King Jesus is with us. Jesus is the King of creation. He speaks, and the wind and waves listen to his voice. The one who spoke to set the boundaries of the sea and

sky commands them to be still and they listen. The disciples haven't fully grasped who it is that is with them. If they knew, they would know they were safe no matter what.

What made the disciples safe in the boat that day was not the absence of wind and waves, but that Jesus who rules creation was with them and cared for them.



Be still

Have a quick game of musical statues. When the music stops, you have to be still. Well done, you listened and stopped because you listened to the instructions. Now imagine we add some more players to the game – your pet, the birds in the garden, a giraffe, a lion, the wind ... Would we be able to tell them what to do? Why not?

 **Link:** Today we see Jesus telling a storm what to do, and the storm listens.



**Click here
to watch**

or scan the code





Teaching Time

Younger children

Have a bowl of water (as your lake), a plastic tub (as your boat) and some pieces of dried pasta (as the disciples) ready.

Have you ever been on a boat ride? Perhaps you could find a family boat trip photo.

In today's Bible story Jesus and his disciples were on a boat on a lake. Ask your children to put your boat on the lake and put the pasta disciples into the boat. Suddenly a terrible storm came up on the lake. Get your children to shake the tub and blow on the water. The storm was so bad that the waves were splashing over the sides! Get them to flick some water into the boat. How do you think the disciples felt? Show me the face you think they were pulling at the time. Yes, they were very scared, they thought they were going to fall in, sink and drown! So, while they were looking

like that, let me show you what Jesus was doing. See if you can guess. Lie your head down and snore. YES! Jesus was sleeping.

They woke Jesus and asked him to save them. Do you think he can help? Do you think he will help? Shake the tub again to make the waves start. Jesus came up and told the wind and waves off. "Stop it!" Stop shaking. There was a great calm. The wind and the waves did what he said!

The disciples were amazed that Jesus had the power to tell the wind and the water what to do. No ordinary man could do that. Jesus is in charge of creation. The disciples were safe in the storm because they were with him. We live in his world. He has complete power over the world he made. We are safe with him.

Older children

Read the Bible verses together

Be ready to look up online a map of Lake Galilee and a video clip of a storm.

Read Matthew 8:23-27 together and look up more information to help you picture the reality of the scene – where was the lake? What would a 1st century boat have looked like? Nothing like your average car ferry! Remember that many of the disciples were fishermen before they followed Jesus.

- What word is used to describe the storm v24
- What is happening to the boat? v24
- What do the disciples think is going to happen? v25
- What does Jesus say about their faith? v26
- How did Jesus save them? v26

Last week, Jesus said that the centurion had great faith. This week, Jesus tells his own disciples that they have little faith. The centurion knew that Jesus could speak the word and it would be done. His disciples come to Jesus for help – this is their little faith in action. They don't ask him to tell the storm to stop because they haven't understood who he is. Jesus speaks and the storm is completely calm. They are amazed at his total control over creation. They were safe because they were with him.

Jesus is in total control of our world today. We are completely safe if he is with us.



Hearts and Hands

Younger children

Craft time

Boat Building. Why not make your own boat using a sponge scouring pad (the ones for cleaning dishes), a lolly stick and duct tape/gaffer tape. Cut one end of the sponge pad into a triangle and cut a slit in the scouring pad side to poke your lolly stick mast in.

Cut 2 small lengths of tape and stick the sticky sides together to make a waterproof sail. Cut a slot in the sail for the mast to pass through. Or use a margarine tub and attach a lolly stick mast using a blob of Blue-Tac. Make a sail as before.

Practise floating the boat in the tub or play with in the bath. Write "Safe with Jesus" in marker pen on the sail or the boat.

Did you spot it?

- What were the disciples afraid of?
- What was Jesus in charge of?
- What did Jesus do with just his words?

Work it out

- Why do you think the storm obeyed Jesus?
- Why do you think the disciples were amazed?

So what?

- Can you remember when you were last afraid?
- What will you remember from today's story when you next feel afraid?

Pray

Thank you, Jesus, that you are in charge of our world. Help us to remember that you are the king of all creation and you are with us, so we do not need to be afraid. AMEN.

Older children

Make time

You could design your own boat: think what materials you could use, raid the wood store / recycling bin, make a Lego boat, a lolly stick raft. Or have a go making a balloon powered boat using a clean flat plastic food tray, an elastic band, a straw and a balloon.

Did you spot it?

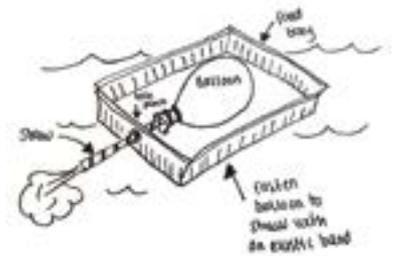
- What were the disciples afraid of?
- What did Jesus do to help?
- How did the disciples feel afterwards?

Work it out

- Why was Jesus disappointed that they were afraid in the storm?
- Why did the storm listen to Jesus?
- When you see how the disciples felt afterwards, what hadn't they understood yet?

So what?

- When were you last afraid? What would make you afraid? What are your parents afraid of?
- How will what you have read today help with that fear?



Extra Stretch

- The disciples were safe because they were with Jesus. How can you know that you are "with Jesus"?
- They said, "What kind of man in this?" Can Jesus really be described as a man? Should they call him something else? How would you describe him?

Pray

Either thank God for what you have learnt or pray about your fears. AMEN