

# An Illustrated Earth - Celebrating God's Creation

## Story - The Calming of the Storm



### GATHERING

### Rain Storm

Tell the children you'll be creating a storm together today. Show the children these actions - rubbing your hands together, snapping, and clapping. Then invite the children to watch what you do with your hands - rubbing your hands together, snapping, clapping, or patting their hands against their legs - and to do it with you. Then call out each sound or any combination of the three sounds that the children can choose to make individually within the group, e.g.: "Snapping and clapping!" "Just rubbing our hands together!" "All three!" Listen together to the storm made by their own hands.

Talk with them about a time they've been caught in the rain or in a storm. Then, tell the children there's a story in the Bible about the disciples being in a storm together with Jesus.



### STORY TIME

Mark 4:35-41

*(You may want to start with Part 1 **and include** Part 2. OR either can be done alone.)*

#### **Part 1**

Here is a paraphrase of this story that is easy for children to read and understand. You may want to read it several times. The first time read the whole story, then read it again and stop after each thought to talk about it.

Late in the day, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross the lake to the other side."  
Jesus had been teaching the crowds from a boat, so the disciples left the crowd and took Jesus just as he was. Other boats came along.  
Huge winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so it nearly sank. But Jesus was asleep on a pillow in the back of the boat! The disciples woke Jesus up, saying, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"  
Jesus got up and ordered the wind and the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind and water calmed down.  
"Why are you scared? Don't you trust me?" Jesus said.  
The disciples were overwhelmed with awe, and said, "Who is this, that even wind and water obey him?!"

## ***Part 2***

Here is that same paraphrase broken up into a script.

You may want to share the reading between two (or more) people in your group.

Have the readers stand up to do their parts.

Have them read it once all the way through, then have them stop after each thought to discuss it. Talk about what comes first, what comes next, and then, . . .

Have them add motions to the different parts.

**Script: Mark 4:35-41**

**Reader 1: Late in the day, Jesus said to his disciples,**

Reader 2: "Let's cross the lake to the other side."

**Reader 1: Jesus had been teaching the crowds from a boat, so the disciples left the crowd and took Jesus just as he was. Other boats came along. Huge winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so it nearly sank. But Jesus was asleep on a pillow in the back of the boat! The disciples woke Jesus up, saying,**

Reader 2: "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"

**Reader 1: Jesus got up and ordered the wind and the lake,**

Reader 2: "Silence! Be still!"

**Reader 1: The wind and water calmed down.**

Reader 2: “Why are you scared? Don’t you trust me?” Jesus said.

**Reader 1: The disciples were overwhelmed with awe, and said,**

Reader 2: “Who is this, that even wind and water obey him?!”

Now let everyone tell the story by heart (not reading it), with motions or with the story cards. What comes first, then what, then what, . . .



### IMAGINING TOGETHER

You can do this along with **Coloring**.

After you’ve spent some time with the story, ask each person about the story and see what stood out to them.

What did they imagine when they listened to the story and learned it?

Here are a few questions that you could reflect on together. You can add your own:

- Water can be beautiful and peaceful yet also dangerous. Describe the scene that Scripture paints. What would it have been like to be a disciple on the boat in the windstorm?
- Why were the disciples afraid? How did Jesus respond to their fears?
- How does Jesus respond when we’re afraid?
- How can we depend on God when we feel fearful?



### COLORING

*We have included coloring sheets here.*

*The first four include a scene from the Exodus story.*

*The other two are posters with a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design.*

*Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story’s elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to search out as many symbols as you can that communicate an aspect of the story.*



## CLOSING PRAYER

*After the coloring is done and the conversation is complete, gather everyone together again for the Closing Prayer.*

*Whether one person reads the prayer, or they have everyone repeat, phrase by phrase - use this as a chance to “close” your time together. This is a great short ritual to do together; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.*

Dear God,

Whether you calm the storms in  
our lives or give us the courage to  
face them, we give you thanks for your  
strength, peace, and comfort that  
cover our fears.

Amen.

*This curriculum is adapted from*

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