at home

**Memory Verse: He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. (Psalm 107:29)**

*(Parents: Feel free to adapt these activities as needed depending on the number of kids and their ages/maturity levels.)*

**Opening Activity Option 1: Parachute Waves**

**Supplies Needed:** A medium-sized blanket and a ball or soft toy that will represent a “boat.”

Spread the blanket out on the floor and have everyone grab a side or a corner. Place your ball/toy “boat” in the middle of the blanket. When you say “go,” everyone will start shaking the blanket to make “waves” for the “boat.” When the “boat” eventually falls off the blanket, whoever it lands closest to has to repeat the memory verse. Repeat until everyone has said the verse at least two or three times (depending on number of players).

**Opening Activity Option 2: Dice Roll**

**Supplies Needed:** One Game Die

Have your memory verse card in a place where everyone can see it. Take turns passing the game die around and rolling it. Play several rounds, and then see if you can take the memory verse card away and still have players say it! Depending on what is rolled, a player must:

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|  | Read the verse in your bravest voice! |
|  | Read the verse like you are scared! |
|  | Read the verse in your softest whisper! |
|  | Read the verse in your silliest voice! |
|  | Read the verse like you are a fish! |
|  | Read the verse like you are a lion! |

**Story:** Jesus & the Storms (Luke 8:22-25 & Matt. 14:22-33)

**Main Point:** Jesus is the Lord of any storm we face--physical or spiritual!

**Icebreaker Questions:** Would you rather be stuck in a blizzard or a thunderstorm? Why? What are some things you like about storms? What makes storms dangerous?

**Say:** Today, we are going to spend some time learning about and comparing two different stories about Jesus and storms. As we read these stories, let’s try to notice the similarities and differences between them and we’ll write those down in a chart to help our discussion later. *(Create a Venn diagram or other type of comparison chart to help you take notes and compare the two stories. Label one side “Jesus Calms the Storm” and the other side “Jesus Walks on Water.”)*

**Read Luke 8:22-25 and then read Matthew 12:22-33.** If you have younger ones, read “Jesus Calms the Storm” and “Jesus Walks on Water” in The Beginner’s Bible. If you have older kids, have them take turns reading the passages.

*(Depending on how your chart turned out, you may be able to have some great discussion without using any of the information below. Follow your kids’ lead and use the following at your own discretion. These are just my observations from reading the stories myself!)***Say:** While these two stories have a lot of differences, they have some very similar themes. Here are some of the big themes they share:

Jesus asked the disciples/Peter where their faith was

Jesus calmed the storm/waves

1. The disciples were caught in a physical storm
2. The disciples’ experienced and expressed their fear and their faith was tested
3. Jesus asked them why they doubted
4. Jesus calmed the wind and the waves and their fears

**Say:** The physical storms that the disciples faced revealed the “spiritual storms” they were experiencing in their hearts. Think of it this way: It was easy for them to trust Jesus when the waves were calm and the journey was easy. But when the storms arose and they thought they would sink, trusting in Jesus was suddenly much harder! That’s still true for us today. When life seems to be going well, it’s easy to praise God and put our faith in Him. But when the storms of life come along (like the pandemic we have been facing) it can be harder to trust Him.

Now, there’s one important thing to notice between the endings of the two stories: In the first story, the disciples ask each other, “Who is this?” In the second story, they say, “This is the Son of God!” You see, the more time they spent with Jesus, the more they came to understand who He is and what He could do. It didn’t mean they were never afraid or never lacked faith again. But the closer they became in their relationships to Jesus, the more they understood. And that is still true for us, as well! The more time we spend getting to know Jesus, the easier it is to recognize when He is at work in our lives and to trust in Him, even during the storms. **Let’s pray together!**

**Discussion Questions:** Talk through the following questions while you work on your craft activity of choice.

1. Which of the two stories did you like better? Why?
2. What kinds of “storms” has our family experienced together? How did we get through them?
3. What are some ways we can grow our relationship with Jesus to help us prepare for life’s “storms?”

**Craft Activity Option 1: Boat in a Jar**

**Supplies Needed Per Child:** 1 empty bottle/jar of any type, 6-8 toothpicks, glue, water, vegetable oil, and silver, blue, or green glitter (optional)

**Instructions:** Glue the toothpicks together to make a flat “raft.” Make sure it is small enough to fit through the top of your chosen container. Fill your bottle/jar halfway with water. Optional: add 1 tsp. of your chosen glitter. Add vegetable oil until your bottle/jar is ¾ full. When the glue has dried on your toothpick raft, drop it inside the jar. Seal your bottle/jar and shake it to create a “storm.” Then set it down and watch it settle. The raft will float back to the top.

**Craft Activity Option 2: Jesus Walks on the Waves**

**Supplies Needed Per Child:** 1 copy of the last page of the lesson, scissors, glue, coloring utensils of choice, 1 popsicle stick OR unsharpened pencil OR barbeque skewer

Have your child color the two parts of the included sheet. Print extra copies as needed. Cut out the two parts. Slit the long black line. Glue the Jesus cutout onto your popsicle stick/pencil/skewer to create a puppet. Then, push him through the slit to create an interactive storytelling aid.

**Closing Game: Sink or Float?**

**Supplies Needed:** 1 prediction chart per child (see next page), pencils, various household objects (listed on chart), and a bowl of water

Instructions: Have each child write down their predictions on their sheet of whether they think an object will sink or float on the water. Cross out any objects you don’t have and use the blank spaces at the bottom to add any objects you or the kids can you think of (that are okay to get wet!) Once their predictions are made, test each object and have them record whether their predictions were correct! See who can correctly predict the most objects.

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| **Object** | **Prediction: Sink or Float?** | **Actual: Sink or Float?** |
| Penny |  |  |
| Stick |  |  |
| Toothpick |  |  |
| Paper clip |  |  |
| Button |  |  |
| Wooden Block |  |  |
| Paper weight |  |  |
| Apple |  |  |
| Carrot |  |  |
| Rock |  |  |
| Pencil |  |  |
| Rubber duck |  |  |
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