

# Lesson 33

## Jesus stills the storm

Matthew 8:23-27

**Goals:** That the students will:

**KNOW:**

That when trouble comes, they can call out to Jesus and He will take care of them.

**FEEL:**

Comforted by that knowledge, and grateful for Jesus' protection.

**DO:**

Identify dangerous or frightening situations they could face, and determine to call out to Jesus when those occur.



### Attention Getter: (10-15 minutes)

Place the following five items on a table:

- Fire extinguisher
- life vest
- asthma inhaler or bee sting kit
- phone with sticker on it saying "Call 911"
- a child's car seat or a picture of one

Then act out scenarios of the situations in which you would need one of these items to help protect you. Use props, or verbally describe the situation. Don't mime it; the task is not for the students to guess what your problem is, but to decide what item is meant to help or prevent the problem. Ask students to bring you the item that is designed to help protect you in each of these situations:

**Fire:** You're lighting candles (pretend!) and drop the match in the trash, forgetting to blow it out.

**Water:** You're going out for a boat ride but you can't swim.

**Asthma attack or bee sting:** Either you have an asthma attack or you get stung by a bee and you're allergic to bees.

**Crime:** You see someone robbing your neighbor's house.

**Accident:** You're going for a drive and taking your very young niece with you.

Talk about how you need to use these things in order for them to protect you. **It's good to be careful and try to prevent problems. It's also good to know what to do in an emergency. But today we're going to see what Jesus' friends did in an emergency, and learn from them what's the very first thing we should do when we have any kind of emergency or problem.**



### Bible Lesson: (20 minutes)

**We've had stories in Matthew before that told how Jesus helped people who were sick or were hungry. But today's story shows how Jesus helped His friends when they were in danger. Let's**

**watch it from the Matthew video.**

Show Matthew 8:23-27 on video 1.

**What happened that made the disciples so afraid?** (storm came up) **What can happen to a boat when a storm comes up?** (waves, water comes in, boat starts to sink, people are in danger of drowning)

**What did the friends do when they needed help?** (woke up Jesus) **Wait, that must be wrong! I bet they called the Coast Guard! They tried to send a message to another boat to come rescue them, or they quickly started to look for their life jackets! Did they do any of those things?** (no) **There was no Coast Guard or life jackets back then. But there was one person who could help them! Who was that?** (Jesus!)

**What did Jesus do?** (spoke to the storm and stopped it) **In Mark 4:35-41, which tells the same story, it says Jesus said, "Quiet, be still!"**

**Now, if you or I went out in a storm, and told the rain to stop, would it?** (no!) **Why it did stop when Jesus spoke to it?** (because He is God!) **He is the One who makes the rain and the wind. So they obey His command.**

**What a great story! Let's watch it one more time, and then we're going to act it out.**

Rewind and show Matthew 8:23-27 again.

Your students may ask about the disciples laughing at the end. This was

"poetic license" on the part of the video producers. They probably were trying to show the great relief the disciples felt at being spared from death, and also the great joy of realizing they were hanging out with the Son of God!

Guide your students in acting out the story. You'll need a Jesus, some disciples, and possibly some people to help you with props. You can do lots of things to create a storm, such as:

- flashing lights on and off to resemble lightning
- using a spray bottle to give students a misting of water
- using a percussion rain instrument for rain sounds
- using a tape that has storm sounds
- using a white or blue sheet to represent the water, and having students hold ends and shake it to create waves with it
- turning on a fan to make wind

Have students stand behind a table, which represents the boat, or designate a specific floor space as the boat.

You have three main scenes:

- everyone gets in the boat
- the storm comes, and, after a bit, the frightened disciples wake up Jesus
- Jesus stops the storm and the disciples are amazed (You might want "Jesus" to say "Quiet, be still," as recorded by Mark.)



## Application Activities: (15-20 minutes)

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### 1. Bringing Our Problems to Jesus (10-15 minutes)

**What did Jesus' friends do when they were in trouble?** (called out to Jesus)

**Earlier, we looked at some of the problems people might have, and we thought about some of the things that can help to protect us. It's good to know what to do in an emergency. But the very first thing we can do when we have a problem, is call out to Jesus for help! He might either stop the whole problem, like He did for the disciples, or He can help us to stay calm and to think about what to do.**

**Let's make a list on a poster of some of the problems people might have when they need to call out to Jesus.**

Bring out the items you used earlier, and use them to make a list, something like:

- fire
- deep water
- medical problems
- crime
- car accident

**What are some other problems people have, when they need to remember to call out to Jesus?**

- someone we love is sick or has died
- we're moving

- things at home or work are changing
- someone has hurt us (physically or emotionally)
- being lost
- pain

**There are all kinds of problems that people face, scary times. And we need to go to Jesus, because He's the only one who can keep us safe in hard times.**

### 2. A Song to Remind Us (5 Minutes)

**But sometimes it's hard to remember to do that. I want us to learn something to help us remember to go to Jesus first!**

Show me, Jesus, what to do.  
Help me, please, 'cuz I need You!  
Problems, problems, large or small,  
On Jesus I will stop and call.

Make a poster of the words. This can be done as a cheer, or it can be sung as a song to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," if you go back and sing lines 1 and 2 again at the end. You can also add a few signs or hand motions to it.

**Next week we'll talk more about why Jesus can help us when we're in need.**



## Closing: (5 minutes)

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**Let's close by taking a few minutes to pray. If you are facing a problem right now, call out to Jesus and ask Him to help you.**



## Supplies Check List:

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- \_\_\_\_\_ **Attention Getter:** fire extinguisher, life vest, asthma inhaler or bee sting kit, telephone with 911 sticker, infant car seat, plus any props you want to use to act out stories
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Bible Lesson:** video 1 cued to Matthew 8:23, TV-VCR unit, props for dramatization of story (such as spray bottle, tape of storm music, sheet, fan, etc.)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Application Activities:**
  1. Bringing Our Problems to Jesus: poster to make list, markers,
  2. A Song to Remind Us: visual of cheer/song
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Closing:** no supplies needed