

General Church Education



Calming the Stormy Sea

Luke 8:22-25

Lesson 16

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

CALMING THE STORMY SEA

LUKE 8:22-25

The Lord spent some of His public ministry in the area of Israel called *Galilee*. He did much of His teaching near the *Sea of Galilee*, performed many miracles there and sometimes crossed the sea in a boat with His disciples. The weather on the *Sea of Galilee* can change rapidly. Winds can suddenly blow down across the sea from the surrounding mountains. The Lord and His disciples were caught in just such a wind storm.

The disciples were terrified and felt abandoned by the Lord who was sleeping and seemed to be ignoring their plight. The Lord rebuked them for their lack of faith as He calmed the wind and the waves.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- There are times when our life can be suddenly interrupted by turmoil. This turmoil can be on the outer surface of our life, or an attack on our inmost loves. When temptations come, we can know that the Lord is not ignoring us. He is the One who can restore a calm perspective and give us a feeling of inner safety.
- The Lord can use our prayerful states when reading His Word to help us understand who He is and what we should do to deal with our spiritual tempests.
- As we develop our faith in the Lord, we can examine ourselves to see if we are committed to Him in "faith," "love" and "deeds". (*Heaven and Hell* 479)

FROM THE WRITINGS:

Love is what makes us who we are; faith does so only to the extent that it arises from love, and deeds and works come from both. It follows from this that love or intent is the actual person. We may gather from this what faith is apart from love—no faith at all, only information with no spiritual life in it. The same holds true for deeds apart from love. *Heaven and Hell* 474

In this miracle "a great storm of wind, so that the waves beat into the boat" signifies spiritual temptations; and "Jesus awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Be still, be dumb; and the wind ceased, and there was a great calm," signifies deliverance from temptations. Every single word here contains a spiritual sense; the "storm" and "tempest of wind" signify temptations, for these are irruptions of falsities, or inundations of the mind by falsities. This, too, is plain from the rebuke of the wind and waves, and from the words of the Lord, "Be still, be dumb," as if He were speaking to those things or persons that induce temptations. See *Apocalypse Explained* 419

CALMING THE STORMY SEA

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord has all power, and therefore He has power over nature.

The Lord is always with us, caring for us.

The Lord and His disciples often went to Galilee where there is a lake called the Sea of Galilee. It is surrounded by mountains. There are times when very strong wind storms suddenly blow down from the mountains surrounding it just like it did when the Lord was on earth. A small boat is in danger of sinking from the wind and waves during these storms.

Today's story tells about a time when the Lord and His disciples sailed across the Sea of Galilee. Our pictures show boats that are very much like the boat that the Lord and His disciples might have used on this trip.

As you read the story, listen to what the Lord did after they started to sail across the lake.

Read Luke 8:22-23.

The boat was in jeopardy, or danger of sinking. The Lord was sleeping in the boat. The disciples were very afraid and thought they would all perish or die.

Read Luke 8:24.

After the disciples woke the Lord up, He rebuked or scolded the wind and the wild, wavy



waters of the sea. Suddenly everything became calm again. Everyone felt safe again. Then the Lord asked the disciples, "Where is your faith?"

Read Luke 8:25.

The disciples had been following the Lord for a long time. They had seen Him do many miracles. Yet they didn't have a true enough faith so that they completely trusted the Lord in a time of real trouble. They didn't yet understand who the Lord really was. They were only beginning to see that He was God Himself who had come into the world.



DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been near something that was so powerful that it made you nervous and maybe even afraid? (*Answers might include lightning, a waterfall, a big machine, a big dog.*)
- Have you ever been very afraid that something bad was going to happen to you or to someone you love? Talk about how you feel when you are afraid like that.
- One of the feelings that you may have when you are afraid is a feeling of being alone with no one to help. It seems that the disciples felt this way when the Lord was sleeping in the boat during the storm. They thought that the Lord wasn't paying attention to their troubles. We may feel like that in our times of trouble. The Lord wants us to know that we are never alone. He always is with us. (*Possibly read Psalm 23.*)
- The story tells us that the disciples were afraid for their lives! The story tells also us that the disciples "were amazed" and even confused after the Lord showed His great power and stopped the storm. "Even the winds and water" obeyed Him. They asked, "Who can this be?" It would take them more time to understand that Jesus, the Lord whom they were following as disciples, was God on earth. As they followed Him, they heard Him teach and watched Him do increasingly more powerful miracles. The Lord used these teachings and miracles to gently help the disciples better understand who He was.
- When we read the miracles in the Word and when we read the things that He taught about how to live a good life, the Lord can also gently lead us to understand Him better.
- What kind of power did the Lord show in today's story of calming the stormy sea? (*Power over nature.*)
- We will be reading more about the powerful miracles of Jesus in our next lessons. We also will read about the most powerful miracle of all miracles when we read the Easter Story.

CALMING THE STORMY SEA | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- The Storm

Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-storm/>

Projects

- Stormy Sea, Calm Sea
- Picture to color

Additional Activity

- Make a "sea in a bottle" and explore wave movement. Half fill a plastic 2 liter or smaller bottle with water. Add a drop or two of food coloring. *Optional:* add glitter, and leaf matter that looks like aquatic plants. Fill the rest of the bottle with cooking oil. Seal the lid tightly using glue or duct tape. Turn the bottle on its side and rock it back and forth and watch the waves that this creates inside the bottle. Make a "stormy" sea. Make a "calm" sea. Read the story and use the bottle to act out the Lord calming the stormy sea.

Stormy Sea, Calm Sea

Create a two-sided picture showing the disciples in a boat on the rough sea on one side, and on the sea calmed by the Lord on the other side.

Supplies needed

- crayons, markers or blue watercolor paint
- pencil
- tape or stapler
- 1 piece stiff brown paper approx. 8½" x 11" (21cm x 28cm)
- 1 piece stiff white paper

Directions

1. Color the waves and sky on the *Rough Sea* and *Calm Sea* pages using crayons, markers, paints, or a combination of these.
2. Tape or staple the *Rough Sea* and *Calm Sea* pages back to back.
3. Fold the stiff brown paper in half. Using a pencil, draw a boat on the fold. Cut out, being careful not to cut the fold. Staple or tape the ends of the boat so you can put figures inside it.
4. Using the stiff white paper, draw several disciples and the Lord. Color them with crayons or markers. Cut out the figures and tape them to the inside of the boat, looking out over the side.
5. Put the boat up against the rough sea and tell the story. When the Lord calms the sea, turn the picture over and put the boat against the calm sea.





Rough Sea



Calm Sea



Recitation Award | Lessons 15, 16, 17

