

# SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: JESUS CARES FOR EVERYONE



## WORD OF WONDER:

How great God is! We will never completely understand him.  
- Job 36:26a

## GOD'S BIG STORY:

Jesus Calms the Storm  
(Mark 4)

## GOD'S BIG STORY QUESTIONS:

- Who was on the boat with Jesus? (*Jesus' disciples, who were His closest followers*)
- Where was Jesus, and what was He doing when the storm started? (*He was at the back of the boat sleeping on a cushion.*)
- How might the disciples have felt as huge waves crashed over the side of the boat? (*Possible answers: scared, terrified, helpless*)
- What did Jesus do when the disciples woke Him up? (*Jesus stood up and told the waves to be still, and everything became calm.*)
- A miracle is an amazing sign that God is at work! What does this miracle show us about Jesus?
- When have you felt scared or helpless?
- What can you do when you're afraid?

## Welcome Question

- If you could be in charge of anything, what would you choose?
- It can be fun to be in charge, but it's also a lot of responsibility! When we're in charge of something, we have the power to make decisions. Today we'll hear in God's big story about a time when Jesus showed that He had the power over something pretty unbelievable!

## Curiosity Questions

- What are some things you're in charge of at home?
- What are some things that are out of your control?

## Curiosity Activity: Mother May I?

- Have all the kids gather behind one line.
- Stand at the other line and face the group. **“Mother” will stand where I am. Your goal is to be the first to reach this side of the room. To get here, you need to ask Mother how you can move. For example, you could ask, “Mother, may I take 10 giant steps?” Then Mother can decide yes or no. But she’ll always tell you what you can do next, such as, “No, you may not take 10 giant steps. But you may take 10 baby steps.”**
- Play the game first with you as the “Mother.” Kids can take turns asking Mother how they can move. Then the first kid to reach the line gets to be the next Mother in the game.
- If your group is large, have kids form groups of 2–4 and make their requests of Mother as a team who moves together.
- Play a few rounds, then invite everyone to have a seat.
- **In our game, “Mother” had power over how you moved forward. Power is important. Many people like to be in charge or have control.**
- **Today we’ll learn what happened when Jesus and His disciples were stuck in a furious storm, and Jesus showed His power through a miracle—an amazing sign that God is at work!** Display the Storm Wonder Truth Slide.
- **Today’s Wonder Truth is JESUS HAS POWER OVER CREATION.**

## Word of Wonder Activity

- **Today in God’s big story, we saw God’s great power on display through Jesus when He calmed the storm! Our Word of Wonder for the Now That’s a Miracle! series declares how great God is! Let’s say the verse together!**
- **Now let’s practice our Word of Wonder with a relay game!**
- If your group has two verse sets of sticky notes, help kids form two teams. Line both teams up on opposite walls where they can place the sticky notes.
- Set a verse set of sticky notes on the floor in front of each team. (Mix up the notes so they aren’t in verse order!)
- When you say, “Go!” the first kid on each team will grab the first sticky note, run to the wall, stick the note on the wall, run back, and tag the next person in line. That person will grab the next sticky note, run to the wall, and stick it to the wall in the order it belongs.
- Each team’s goal is to put the notes in verse order.
- The first team to stick all the notes to the wall in verse order wins! (If your group is small and only has one set of verse notes, have everyone work together on one team. Consider using a stopwatch to time each round and challenging kids to beat their previous time!)

## Responding in Worship: Seaside Mural

- Today in God's big story, the disciples were afraid because Jesus wasn't who they thought He was. They knew Jesus was a good leader and teacher, but they didn't know that Jesus had power over creation.
- Ask kids the following questions. Invite them to share their responses to each one. Consider writing their answers on a whiteboard.
  - What do you know about Jesus?
  - How did Jesus show His power over creation in today's story?
  - What does Jesus' power show us about God?
- **Jesus is more powerful than the strongest storm, and when we follow Him, He promises to be with us always!**
- Give a Seashell Sheet to each kid and set out coloring utensils and any other art supplies you have available.
- Invite kids to think quietly about this question and to draw a picture of their LESSON 1 JESUS CALMS THE STORM 13 answers on their shells: **When have you experienced Jesus' power in your life or known He was with you?**
- As kids finish drawing, invite them to cut out their shells and tape or glue them onto the mural on the wall as a reminder that the same Jesus who has power over the wind and the waves is with us!

## SMALL GROUP PRAYER

Being unable to control what's happening can feel scary or frustrating. Jesus showed He is God by stopping the storm. Jesus has power over creation! We can trust Him to take care of us through the things we can't control. Let's talk to God together right now.

Invite kids to join you in a circle to spend time talking to Jesus. Ask whether anyone has a question, something they would like to share with Jesus, or a prayer request. Give each kid a chance to participate, then close in prayer, remembering to thank Jesus for loving us!