

A Good Shepherd  
Story of Jesus

**Jesus Calms the Sea**

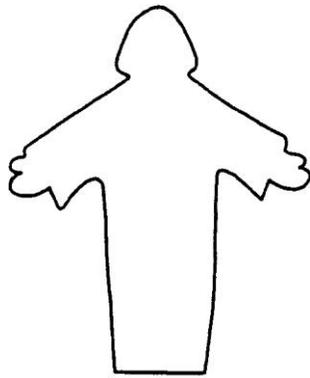
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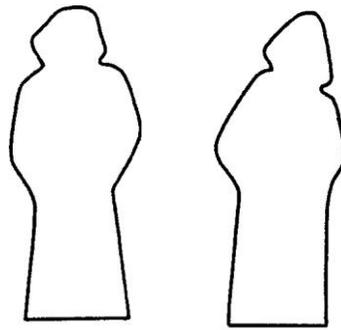
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## **JESUS CALMS THE SEA .... MATERIALS**

- medium rectangular wicker basket to hold:
  - wooden boat
  - wooden Jesus figure
  - 2 wooden disciple figures
  - blue felt oval sea



Jesus



Disciples

## JESUS CALMS THE SEA .... LUKE 8:22-25

### ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the story from its shelf. Return to the circle and sit down, placing the basket next to you.

During the silence, stroke one or more of the wooden figures to center yourself and the children.

Unfold the blue felt sea and gently smooth it with both hands.

Place the boat at the left edge of the blue sea. Place Jesus and the two disciples in the boat.

Point to the other side of the blue sea.

Move the boat a little to the right on the blue felt sea.

Lay the Jesus figure down in the boat.

With one hand make an arc above your head, looking up as you do so.

From either side of the boat use your hands to "push" imaginary waves over the sides of the boat.

Touch each of the disciple figures.

Move the disciples near the Jesus figure.

Touch a disciple figure as you speak.

### WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this story your work today or another day.

All the words to this story are inside of me. Will you make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

One day Jesus and his disciples got into a boat.

Jesus said to the disciples, "Let's go across the lake to the other side."

So they started across the lake.

As they sailed Jesus fell asleep.

A terrible storm came into the sky.

The wind made the waves huge so they splashed over the boat.

Soon the boat was filling up with water and the disciples were in danger of sinking.

The disciples went in the back of the boat and woke Jesus.

They called to him, "Master, Master, we may die!"

Stand Jesus up in the boat.

Place your hand to your mouth as though calling.

Begin with both hands over your head and bring them down together separating at the bottom to stroke the felt with both hands.

Turn Jesus to the disciples.

Touch the disciples briefly.

Lift one hand up to indicate the wind and then with the other hand touch the blue felt sea.

Carefully place the wooden pieces in the basket.

Fold the left curved edge of the blue sea to the right curved edge.

Fold the bottom edge to the top edge.

Then Jesus woke up.

He called to the wind to be still and for the waves to stop.

Then the wind stopped and the water became calm.

Jesus said to the disciples, "Where is your faith?"

The disciples were afraid and amazed.

They asked each other, "Who is this man that even the wind and water listen to his voice?"

#### **WONDERING QUESTIONS:**

I wonder why Jesus fell asleep?

I wonder why the storm didn't wake him up?

I wonder what the wind and water thought when they heard Jesus' voice?

I wonder if you've ever been afraid in a storm?

Watch carefully how I put these materials away so you will know how to use them if you choose to make this story your work today or another day.

This is how we fold the blue felt sea. Put these side edges together.

Now put the bottom edge to the top edge.

Fold the left bottom corner to the right bottom corner.

Then place this corner with this corner.

Smooth the folds and place the felt piece in the story basket.

Smooth the folds and it will now fit in the basket.

After speaking, stand and carry the basket back to the shelf. Return to the circle and sit down.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

Be certain each child has had the opportunity to choose their work before dismissing the children as a group.

I wonder what you will make your work today? Let's go around the circle and choose what each of us will do.

## JESUS CALMS THE SEA .... TEACHER HELPS

Luke uses this story in his gospel to help the reader understand that not only did Jesus have power over human life in that he could heal people and raise them from the dead, he also had power over nature. He could do the very thing God could do in commanding the wind and the water to obey him (Psalm 107:25-29). The story of Jesus Calms The Sea comes only a chapter after the questioning of Jesus by John the Baptizer's disciples. John was imprisoned and sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one they'd all been waiting for, or if they should look for someone else. Jesus responded by saying that the disciples should tell John how the lame walked and the blind could see. Jesus was noting himself as the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises for a Messiah (Isaiah 61: 1-2). As Jesus calmed the sea, he moved beyond one who had authority only over people, to one who had control over nature; the same authority as God, the creator.

As a child I always found it strange that Jesus could sleep through the storm that nearly sank the boat he was in. Where was he that he stayed so dry? Or how could he have been that tired? I imagine the disciples must have been slightly disgusted that Jesus didn't wake up on his own. In Mark's gospel they reproach Jesus for not being worried about them (Mark 4:35-41). They also call him "teacher" in Mark, rather than the "master" title used in this scripture. The children will focus, as we wish, on the fact that Jesus could make the storm stop. The primary focus of this story is to help the children understand that Jesus had power over nature.

The first wondering question asks why Jesus fell asleep. There is no time noted in the Biblical account of this event. Was it afternoon or evening? Was Jesus napping after a busy morning or sleeping at bedtime after walking from village to village all day? We don't know. Therefore, the children's responses may bring us new ideas.

The second question is the one from my childhood. Why didn't the storm wake Jesus? Again, we don't know. The children may relate a time when they fell asleep in a car and slept through a lot of noise. Or a time when they slept through a storm at their home.

The third wondering question allows the children to deal with animism or the giving of human characteristics to non-human or inanimate objects. Young children often endow nature with human characteristics. While some of the older ones may hesitate to respond with the feelings of wind and water, the young children will no doubt jump in. They may believe that the wind and water were afraid, or that they obeyed because they knew Jesus. Allow them to work creatively at this response and don't squelch their wonderings.

The final wondering question brings the story into a realm which both young and not so young children can relate. Nearly all children have been afraid during a storm at one time or another in their lives. They will understand the disciples and their fears. And if given a safe place in which to do so, children will share their own fears.

### **SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:**

Discuss the conversation the disciples must have had as they decided if they should wake Jesus.

Think about a time when you were really afraid. How do you think God was there with you? Or do you think God was not part of that time? Why or why not?

Decide why the disciples still did not understand who Jesus was after they saw him stop the storm.

Talk about what might have happened to the disciples if they didn't wake Jesus. What did Jesus mean when he asked them if they had no faith?

What have you done in your life that has taken a lot of faith? (faith in self, parents, friends, God)