

## BIBLE TIMELINE ASSEMBLIES

### 15. JESUS CALMS A STORM

Bible Base: Mark 4: 35-41

Key Christian Belief: As Son of God, Jesus is able to take care of us

Aim: To show that we can trust Jesus to take care of us.

You will need:

- The words 'His Presence', 'His Power' and 'His Peace' printed on three separate cards big enough for everyone to see clearly.

#### Introduction

Ask children if they have ever been afraid. What were they afraid of? Share examples of things that frighten you, or tell a story of a scary thing that happened to you.

Today we are going to hear a story of some big grown up men who were afraid. The story has some things to teach us about Jesus that can help us whenever we are afraid.

Explain that you need the children's help to make some sound effects during the story. Divide them into three groups and ask the first to make the sound of the wind. What would a gentle breeze sound like? Now there is a fierce hurricane? Ask the second to make the sound of the rain (drumming their fingers on the floor or patting their hands on their knees). Imagine there is just a gentle pitter-patter of rain? Now it is pouring down? Ask the third group to make the sound of waves splashing (with their mouths and / or with their hands). Imagine the waves are gently lapping on the seashore? Now there are huge waves crashing down?

Explain that you want each group to listen carefully to the story and make the right kind of noise to go with what is happening. Ask them also to keep their eyes on you as you tell the story and to watch out for a signal you will give them with your hands. (Demonstrate a 'stop' sign with your hands.) When they see this signal they must stop whatever noise they are making at once. (Practice this with each group in turn.)

#### Story

When the story starts it is a calm, peaceful, quiet summer's evening down by the shore of Lake Galilee. Jesus and his friends had had a busy day; Jesus had been teaching crowds of people about God and helping those who were sick - but at the end of the day they were all feeling rather tired.

'I know what we'll do' said Jesus. 'Let's get away from all these people and have some peace and quiet all to ourselves on the other side of the lake.' So some of Jesus' friends - who used to be fishermen - went and got their boat and when it was ready, Jesus and His friends stepped inside. Jesus knew that He could leave His friends to sail the boat so He went to the back, lay down and began to catch up on some sleep.

As the boat sailed out, it was a perfect evening for sailing; lots of others were out sailing their boats that night too. But it wasn't long before things began to change.

(From this point on, encourage each group to make the appropriate sound effects, gradually building to a storm. Eventually you will have to shout over the noise of the storm. Don't worry if you can't be heard...use hand gestures and actions to convey the

fear of the disciples, to show them waking Jesus up and to show Him standing up and shouting 'Peace'. On the word 'Peace' give the signal to stop and there should then be absolute silence...creating the effect of Jesus calming the storm instantly.)

First, a gentle breeze began to blow. Then a dark cloud seemed to appear from nowhere and a few spots of rain began to fall. The sea that had been totally calm to begin to be a little choppy; the waves began to splash against the side of the boat. The wind grew stronger, the rain grew heavier and the waves grew bigger until before they knew it they were in the middle of a storm. The wind howled around them, the rain came pouring down and the waves came crashing into the boat.

Jesus' friends were terrified. They ran to the back of the boat to where Jesus was sleeping and shouted, 'Jesus! Waken up! We're going to drown! Don't you care? Help!' Jesus stood up in the back of the boat and just said 'Peace!'

And it was just like that. One minute there was a raging storm; next minute it had gone! Jesus' friends looked all round them. 'Wow' they said. 'What kind of person is this? Even the wind and the waves do what He tells them!'

'Why were you so afraid?' Jesus asked them. 'Couldn't you trust me?'

If we are friends of Jesus, I have a feeling that when we are afraid - fussing, fretting and worrying like His friends in this story - this is what Jesus would want to ask us. 'Why are you so afraid? Can't you trust me? I think this story shows us that we can trust Jesus to be with us and to take care of us no matter what happens.

### **Exploring Christian Belief**

There are three lovely things about Jesus from this story that are good to remember when we are afraid.

#### **His Presence**

Jesus was with His friends in the middle of the storm. Whenever they needed Him they were able to turn to Him and ask Him for his help. If we are His friends, it is just the same for us. He has promised: 'I will never leave you'. 'I will be with you always.' What a great promise!

#### **His Power**

Think of what Jesus was able to do. He was able to say to the wind: 'Be quiet!' and it was! The Bible doesn't say that it rained, but assuming it did, He was able to say to the rain: 'Stop!' and it did! He was able to say to the waves: 'Calm down!' and they did! The wind and the waves don't listen to us - but they do listen to Jesus. How come?

For Christians, this is one of the stories that help us to know that Jesus really is God's Son - the One that God has put in charge of everything and everyone. Nothing is too hard for Him. He does not promise always to take the scary things away from our lives - but He does promise to take care of us and to bring us safely through. And this story shows us that He is well able to do that! No matter what happens we can trust Him to take good care of us. Nothing will ever take His love away from us.

#### **His Peace**

You could almost feel the peace after the storm in this story, couldn't you? Jesus took away the thing that His friends were worried about and it was gone!

But that wasn't the only kind of peace there was in this story. What was Jesus doing in the middle of the storm? He was sleeping! He wasn't worried about it one little bit because He knew He could trust His Heavenly Father to take care of Him. And this is the kind of peace that Jesus wants us to have in our hearts. It is the peace that comes from knowing we can trust Him to be with us and to take care of us no matter what happens. Christians believe that the more we get to know Jesus and the more we learn to trust Him, the more we will have His peace in our hearts and that can make all the difference when scary things are happening around us!

So next time you are frightened think of Jesus and remember:

- His Presence: He has promised to be with you
- His Power: He is able to take care of you
- His Peace: he wants you to trust Him

### **Prayer**

Invite the children to think of something that is worrying or frightening them right now and conclude with a prayer thanking Jesus for His promise to be with them and asking for Him for His help and for His peace in the midst of their fears.

### **Song**

With Jesus As Our Captain

(words adapted from 'With Jesus In The Boat' - see 'Junior Praise' number 291.)

With Jesus as our captain we can smile at the storm,  
Smile at the storm, smile at the storm.

With Jesus as our captain we can smile at the storm,  
Smile at the storm, smile at the storm.

Sailing, sailing home;

Sailing, sailing home,

With Jesus as our captain we can smile at the storm,  
As we go sailing home.

Use the following actions:

With Jesus	(point upwards with one finger of each hand)
as our captain	(salute)
we can smile	(smile)
at the storm	(pull arms across chest as if keeping warm)
as we go sailing	(make sailing motion with one hand)
home	(point upwards with one finger)

The second time they sing it, ask the children not to sing the word 'smile' - just do the action. Next time ask them to omit the word 'Jesus' in the same way; then 'captain' and 'storm'. Sing the whole chorus through the last time without omitting any words.