

RUC Children's Ministry Lesson December 6, 2020

## Peace

### Jesus Calms the Storm

It was a cool, breezy autumn day and Justin could think of nothing he'd rather do than go fishing with his dad. With his tackle box and fishing pole in one hand and lunch cooler in the other, he struggled as he made his way out to the truck. His dad had already gotten the boat ready and was waiting patiently for him

"It's going to be a great day, Dad. I just know it!" Justin exclaimed excitedly as he climbed into the truck.

"I'm as excited as you are, Justin," his father replied. "I just hope it doesn't rain while we are out on the lake."

When they finally arrived at the lake, Justin wasted no time jumping out of the truck. He helped his dad put the fishing gear and the lunch cooler in the boat. Then he donned his life jacket. After everything was in place, he and his dad stepped into the boat and used a paddle to push away from shore.

Father and son had a grand time together as they tried to outdo each other. "I caught more fish than you did!" Justin would say.

"Yes, but my fish are bigger," his dad would teasingly reply.

Just as they were opening their cooler to have a little lunch, Justin felt a rain drop. "UH-OH, Dad," he sighed. "I just felt a drop. I think it is going to rain earlier than the weatherman . . ."

Before he could even finish his sentence, the rain started pouring down. "It's raining buckets!" his dad exclaimed. "We need to get to shore NOW!"

The wind picked up, causing larger waves than Justin was accustomed to. The little boat was rocking and a few of the waves even splashed into the boat. Justin began to get frightened. "Dad, I'm afraid. Do you think we are going to be OK?" Justin asked with a quivering voice.

"It is quite rough out here, and this little boat is difficult to control in these waves and strong wind, but don't you worry about a thing," his father reassured him. "Just hold on tight and follow my instructions, and we will be just fine."

Simply listening to his father's calm voice made Justin feel a whole lot better about the situation. Knowing his dad was in control helped him to be more *peaceful* and less fearful. Justin swayed as the little boat swayed and soon began enjoying his little ride. In just a few moments, he was pretending he was on a roller coaster and laughing about the funny feeling it caused in his tummy. It seemed to take almost no time at all before his dad had them safely back on shore eating their lunch in their truck, waiting for the rain to stop. Justin was glad he could trust his father to know just what to do.

"It's getting late . . . ."

"You should go home and take care of your family . . ."

"Jesus is tired and needs to rest . . . ."

The friends of Jesus, also known as his *disciples*, had spread themselves out among the huge group of people who had gathered throughout the day to listen to Jesus tell stories and teach about the Kingdom of God. Just as some people were finally leaving, others would come, take their place in the crowd. It seemed that *everyone* wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. The disciples had quite a difficult task, trying to convince everyone that it was time to go home!

"Hey, Peter! Have you seen Jesus?" John called out as the last person was walking away.

"I think He already went to the boat," Peter yelled back.

Sure enough, when the disciples got to the little boat, they found that Jesus was already there, waiting for them.

"Will you fellows please take me to the other side of the lake?" Jesus asked politely. The disciples were eager to please Jesus. They raised the sails, lifted the anchor, and were soon sailing toward the middle of the lake.

*Suddenly*, without warning, the wind started howling, whipping the large sails about as if they were feathers. The waves rose higher and higher, sloshing over the sides of the boat. The boat, heaving heavily from side to side, was hopelessly uncontrollable. It was all they could do to hold on.

James glanced around to see if everyone was still *on* the boat, hoping no one had fallen overboard. "WHERE IS JESUS?" he yelled above the roar of the wind.

Peter yelled back, "HE'S HERE IN THE BACK OF THE BOAT! CAN YOU BELIEVE HE IS *SLEEPING* THROUGH ALL OF THIS?"

The disciples were getting more and more fearful because of the storm. Water was quickly filling the vessel, and there was nothing they could do about it. There was no doubt in their minds that they were all going to die.

One of the disciples started shaking Jesus trying to awaken him, screaming loudly to be heard. "JESUS . . . JESUS! GET UP! HOW CAN YOU SLEEP THROUGH THIS STORM? DON'T YOU CARE IF WE ALL DIE? PLEASE GET UP AND HELP US!"

Jesus *calmly* and *peacefully* got up from his nap. He stood up in the boat, which was being tossed around uncontrollably, and spoke to the wind . . . and then He spoke to the lake simply saying, "*Peace, be still!*"

At that very instant:

The wind stopped howling . . .

The waves stopped rolling . . .

The boat stopped tossing . . .

All was *calm*, *still*, and *peaceful* out on the lake.

The disciples were still trembling with fear and still holding on for dear life. They hadn't even realized the storm had stopped. Jesus turned to them and said gently, "Why are you so fearful? How could you spend so much time with Me and yet have so little faith that I would take care of you?"

The disciples, realizing that the storm was over, loosened their grip just a bit and timidly stood up. They looked at one another in amazement. "Can you believe what just happened?" one of them asked.

"*What kind of man is this?*" another one wondered.

"*Even the wind and the waves obey him!*" a third one exclaimed.

"It was absolutely incredible!" they all agreed.

After all their wonder and amazement subsided just a bit, they got busy with the hard tasks of bailing the water out of their boat and repairing the sails so they could continue the rest of the way across the lake where, unknown to them, another great miracle was waiting to take place.

### Questions:

1. How does this story show that Jesus was human like us?
2. How does this story show that Jesus was God?
3. What were the disciples doing during the storm?
4. What was Jesus doing during the storm?
5. What did Jesus do to stop the storm?
6. Which fruit of the Spirit did you learn about in this story?

### REMEMBER:

*Jesus is the Source of Peace. If you pray and trust Him,  
He will help you replace fear with peace.*

### A VERSE TO LEARN

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,  
faith, meekness, temperance:  
against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

### ALTERNATE VERSE TO LEARN

"And the peace of God, which passeth all  
understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds

through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

LET'S PRAY

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Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to earth as  
a human and being an example for us to follow.  
When we become afraid, help us to remember to  
ask You for help to replace fear with peace.

In your Name we pray. Amen.

Have a fantastic week.

-Krystal