

## Bible background

Luke 8:22-25

## Aim of lesson

To teach that Jesus can command the wind and waves and they obey.

## Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children to sit in pairs, each pair behind another as though in a rowing boat, so each child can take an imaginary oar and row.
2. Tell the children how Jesus and the disciples went into a fishing boat and the sea was calm. Tell how Jesus was asleep and how the storm came. Ask if the children have ever been in a boat on a rough sea, and whether they were frightened.
3. Ask the children to rock and make the movement of the waves as the boat is tossed in the storm. Tell how the waves pour into the boat. Ask the children to bale out. Have one of the disciples wake up the one taking the part of Jesus, and all say, 'Help us, Lord, we are going to drown,' or something similar, each in his own words. When 'Jesus' says, 'peace, be still' the rocking and waves cease and each should comment on how wonderful that was. Ask one to say 'Who is this that even the wind and waves obey,' or 'How could he do that?' and ask the class for the answer.
4. Teach the song 'Row, Row, Row the Boat' with actions and ask the class what happened at the end.
5. Ask the children to complete the activity sheet.

## Alternative activities

1. Cut out a simple boat shape for each child. Attach a strip of card, vertically, to the bottom of the boat. Get the children to crayon or paint a stormy sea on a piece of thin card. Cut a slot in this card and insert the strip attached to the boat. The children can then move the boats about on the sea.
2. Make some sea and storm sound effects with shakers made from plastic bottles or tubs filled with dried rice, peas etc. You may have, or be able to borrow, a rain-stick. A large sheet of card makes a good thunder board. You can use your voice too. Build up from quiet swishing to a great storm then at the command Peace, be still! return to a calm, quiet sea.
3. Paint a picture, experimenting with different textures. Sponge print clouds, finger print raindrops, use old toothbrushes or plastic combs to make wave patterns in thick poster paint. Adding white P.V.A glue to the paint will help to thicken it.

## Relevance to the children's lives

When the disciples were afraid they went to Jesus. We can always tell Jesus when we are afraid, and he will help us.

## Prayer

Ask the children who would like to pray for sailors, lifeboat men and other people who sail on the sea.

## Verse

'He commands even the winds and water, and they obey him.' Luke 8:25.

# Song

## Row, Row, Row the Boat



### Actions

- v.1 Row, row, row the boat, out into the bay (*gentle calm rowing actions*)  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily  
What a lovely day.
- v.2 Row, row, row, the boat is bobbing up and down (*in a storm*)  
Terribly, terribly, terribly, terribly  
Help - I think we'll drown.

Music: *Traditional.*