

Bible background

Mark 6:45-52

Aim of lesson

To appreciate Jesus' power over nature, and that he can see our problems and help us even though he is not here.

Preparation required

Colour and cut out the three parts of your activity sheet. It is worth taping paper or card sides to the scene so that it will stand up. The figure and boat may be better if reinforced with a strip of card each. You will need colouring materials, scissors, paper, card and tape during the lesson. You may have to part prepare for younger infants.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children if they have ever been in a boat. Talk about rowing and sailing, and about the dangers of high waves and storms.
2. Tell the children how Jesus' disciples went out in a boat on a lake. At first it was calm but then it got very stormy.
3. Teach the action song 'Row, Row, Row The Boat' from Lesson 89. Encourage the children to imagine how the disciples would feel, especially as Jesus was not with them.
4. Show them your scene of the stormy lake. Put the boat in, bobbing up and down. Ask the children what they think the disciples are saying.
5. Tell how Jesus came walking to them on the water. He had seen they were in danger and came to help them. Move the figure of Jesus through the waves. Tell the children about the disciples' reaction, how they thought he was a ghost and were afraid. Jesus told them not to be afraid, and as he got into the boat the wind died down and the sea became calm.
6. Ask the children to make their own scene, and act out the story with it while you re-tell the story, stopping frequently to ask questions.

Alternative activities

1. Make Plasticine boats and people.
2. Act out the story with a boat made from chairs, a mat or blanket on the floor.
3. If you have the opportunity to use a water tray, float some toy boats, create waves and watch what happens! Try to stand a play figure on the water. What happens? (As with all water activities, be prepared for mess)
4. Make some stormy sound effects with shakers (tubs or plastic bottles filled with dried peas, rice or lentils and securely taped) or just voices. (Teach the children a start/stop signal to begin with so that you can control the noise levels!)

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if Jesus can see and help us now even though he is in heaven, as he could see his disciples even when he was not with them.

Prayer

Ask what the children think the disciples would have prayed that night.

Verse

'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Mark 6:50.