

EQUIP Leader Lesson Outline

June 28, 2020

Kids Activity: Make sure to have a piece of construction paper for the kid's activity.

Introduction

SHARE: Share a time when you or someone you know was caught up in a terrible storm. Were you prepared for the storm? How did you act and feel during the storm?

QUESTION: What would you do if you found yourself in a hurricane-like storm, on a boat, in the darkness of night? Now, imagine that Jesus was physically present with you. Would that change your answer?

SAY THIS: The disciples were in a similar situation. We're going to read how they reacted! Our Big Idea for this lesson is: **Jesus has power over storms.** Our Key Verse is: **Jesus asked the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**. (Mark 4:40).

Scripture

SAY THIS: In today's passage, Jesus calms the storm. Now, the disciples have just witnessed the amazing teachings and healing miracles of Jesus. After teaching the crowds, Jesus decided to take the disciples across the lake to sail to the other side. This particular lake is called the "Sea of Galilee." Next to the lake sits an eastern mountain range. Cool air would frequently flow from the mountains and clash with the warm air on the lake. This collision would create spontaneous, hurricane-like storms on the water! This is exactly what happened the night Jesus and the disciples sailed. You would think that the disciples, having just witnessed the healing miracles of Jesus, and also being sailors themselves, would have remained calm. However, that's the exact opposite of what happened. The storm was so bad that the ship was almost broken apart and capsized! The disciples were deathly afraid and ran to Jesus only to find him asleep in the lower level of the boat. The disciples claimed that Jesus did not care about whether they lived or died, and upon hearing this, Jesus silenced the storm and all was calm. Jesus rebuked his disciples for their lack of faith.

READ: Pick a family member to read Mark 4:35-41.

PRAY: Lead your family in a short time of prayer

Truth

SAY THIS: Up to this point in Jesus' ministry, he had performed many teachings and miracles in front of the disciples. The disciples had witnessed enough to know of the power of Jesus and have faith in Him. They also witnessed enough to know that Jesus cared for them. Unfortunately, the disciples chose to abandon their faith during the storm and choose fear instead. You and I have witnessed the power of Jesus in our own lives. Because of this, we can choose to have faith instead of fear when uncertainty comes knocking on our door. The power of Jesus gives us faith! How sad it would be for Jesus to ask us why we still have no faith after all that he has done for us! Replace the word "disciples" and put your family member's names in place. **Jesus asked _____, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**

QUESTION: Ask your family members how they have seen the power of Jesus in their life. (If nothing else, Christians have experienced the power of Jesus through our radical transformation from death to life! From becoming slaves to sin to becoming free children of God!).

SAY THIS: If we contrast the reaction of Jesus and the reaction of the disciples, we see a calm and collected person versus a group of people fearing for their life. We need to reject the response of the disciples and mimic the response of Jesus in our own storms. You may experience literal storms, but I also mean figurative storms. We can have storms in our relationships, in our household, with school, at work, with finances, and with all the things that can go wrong! No matter the type, we can choose to have faith during our storms because Jesus is there with us. Jesus has power over your storms.

QUESTION: Ask your family members what kinds of figurative storms they have/they are going through in life. (This is a pretty personal question. It's ok to be vague if sharing feels uncomfortable!)

SAY THIS: Sometimes we can think that our storms are too big for Jesus. But imagine the disciples! They were on a boat, in the darkness, in the middle of a lake, in the middle of a hurricane-like storm. It doesn't get much worse than that! However, Jesus was still able to silence that storm. Jesus has proven time and time again that nothing is too much for him to handle. So, no matter what kind of storm you go through, know that Jesus has the power to silence your storm! And even if he chooses to let the storm say for a while, know that he is still with you in the middle of it.

Reflection

SAY THIS: What kind of person do we think Jesus is? The disciples reflected on the same question and answered that he is the type of person who has control over the winds and the waves! **Mark 4:41 "Who is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"** The sea in biblical times was considered one of the most dangerous places on earth. Yet, by Jesus showing he had power over the sea, he shows that there is no place on earth he doesn't have control over. When we think about God, we must realize that he is a God who is in control over every atom in the universe and over every aspect of our life. How cool is it that we can say "Even the storms in my life obey him!"

QUESTION: Ask your family members what words come to mind when they want to describe the kind of person Jesus is.

CHALLENGE: (This is a rhetorical question). Ask your family members how strong their faith is on a scale of 1-10. Now, challenge your family to commit to memory the things that God has done for them. Encourage them to use these memories to strengthen their faith for present and future storms.

End

SAY THIS: Remember that our Big Idea for this lesson is: **Jesus has power over storms.** Our Key Verse is: **Jesus asked the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**. (Mark 4:40).

PRAY: Close out the lesson with prayer.