



AT THE BEACH

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is our protector in tough times.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to rely on Jesus in hard times.

KEY PASSAGE:

Mark 4:35-41, Jesus Calms the Storm.

INTRO

Many people who visit the beach in the summertime love it so much, they never want to leave. Most popular beaches are in southern places, where it never gets too cold. You always have the beach, the ocean, and beautiful views at sunset. You have fresh seafood, if you're into seafood, and you have good weather far more than bad.

But when the weather gets bad, it can get really bad. Most beaches are also right in the target zone when it comes to one of nature's most terrifying storms - the hurricane. Hurricanes are huge, giant storms that bring wind, rain, and flooding. Hurricanes can have winds anywhere from 75 to over 180 miles an hour. They can be absolutely devastating.

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans back in 2005, the entire city had to be evacuated. The Superdome, a huge stadium where the New Orleans Saints football team plays, became an emergency shelter for over 26,000 people. In total over \$108 billion dollars in damage happened because of one storm!

We all go through stormy times in our lives. They may not be physical storms like Katrina, but their impact can last the rest of our lives. When trouble strikes us, it's good to know we have someone there for us. That someone is Jesus. In today's scripture, we find Jesus and his disciples are in the midst of an actual storm, and what happens during that storm leaves no doubt that Jesus is more powerful than any storm!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ MARK 4:35-41

MAIN POINT

The disciples were terrified. Many of them were fishermen, and they knew how dangerous these storms could be. If their boat tipped over, they were too far out to swim to shore. The waves, the wind, and the rain would be the end of them.

As the disciples ran around in a mad panic, Jesus slept. If he knew there was a storm, it's very clear he wasn't even worried about it. The disciples were, and they woke him up, begging him to do something!

Jesus spoke two sentences and the storm was gone. Just like that! In a second, not only did he show his power, he showed the disciples how silly they were for worrying. Jesus was more powerful than any storm, and as long as they had Jesus, they had nothing to fear.

DRIVE IT HOME

The storms that come into our lives come in all shapes and sizes. Storms can hit us at home, when parents go through tough times. Maybe your parents have been through job changes that caused turmoil. Or maybe your parents have had trouble getting along with one another. When those things happen, it affects you.

Storms can strike us at school too. They can come in the form of bullies. They can come in fights we have with good friends. They can come when a good friend tells you they are moving far away - or when you have to tell them it's you who are moving far away.

Storms can also be physical. It can be a broken limb or sickness. It can be an illness that strikes a loved one and causes hardship on your family. All of these things can stress us, make us worry, and make us be afraid.

If you know Jesus, there is nothing to fear. You have someone by your side who is stronger than even the strongest hurricane.. He will be there to comfort you, your family, and those you love who are going through hard times.

When storms come along, the first thing we need to do is the same thing the disciples did. We need to call on Jesus. We need to ask Jesus to stand up and stand with us in the storm. Having Jesus gives us comfort to face each day. He gives us the strength to keep going when we want to quit. He gives us hope, knowing that Jesus will work out everything for his glory and for the good of those who love him.

Jesus came to Earth to have a personal relationship with each one of us. He will be with us in good times and in bad. Even in the worst of storms.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

When your life gets stormy, ask Jesus to deliver you. He will be there when you need him, and he will never leave your side!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us Jesus. Help us to remember that no matter how hard life may be, Jesus is always there for us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*