

date: **5/7/17****Bible Passage: Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41**
(Calming of the Storm)

Jesus Is God

REMEMBER VERSE

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.**

Psalm 147:5

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

It was Water Day at our church's first-ever week of summer day camp. We were hosting 130 community children for the week, and they arrived in their bathing suits bursting with excitement for the outdoor activities planned that day. The only holdup—we didn't plan on the sky wanting to participate. Rain was in the forecast, along with thunder and lightning. It would be unsafe to bring the kids outside in a storm, and we had no backup plan.

With hopeful hearts our team gathered for prayer, calling upon Jesus, the One who calmed another well-known storm so long ago. After prayer, we decided to move forward in faith and keep the water activities on schedule as planned.

A short time before the water festivities were planned to take place, something amazing happened. The clouds began to part and a beautiful golden sun broke through. The kids streamed out of the church and we were able to have Water Day on the lawn under a beautiful blue sky. My heart filled with emotion as I praised Jesus for His power over the storm. Truly, He is God!

Kelly Goddard
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Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

Who is He? Scripture tells us He was seen as a rabbi, a man well trained in Jewish law, ritual, and tradition. He entered the synagogue with great authority. His teachings and healing challenged the Pharisees' understanding of both the law and God Himself. But "Rabbi" could not encompass all that He is (see Mark 1:22 and 2:23—3:6).

Authority, power, and mastery—Jesus is rightfully referred to as Lord. It seems so clear in hindsight, but it wasn't until a stormy night that the disciples began to see an even better picture of who He is. Panic and complete fear struck as storm waves broke over the sides of their boat. Convinced that death was imminent, the disciples woke Jesus. "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" (Mark 4:38). Accusation filled their tone. Their lack of understanding of His identity was exposed. In that moment, they merely saw Him as a man susceptible to death.

A perfect storm. There was such beautiful harmony between the rage of the storm and the power in His rebuke. Jesus pushed back and quieted the storm with His words: "Quiet! Be still!" He commanded nature with authority as if creation knew His voice. And the waters obeyed.

Being eyewitnesses to incredible wonders in the form of miracles, healing, and spiritual cleansing, who did the disciples say He was? We don't know if in this moment they completely understood that Jesus was revealing Himself as God. However, He did leave them asking a question that was sure to be answered: "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" (Mark 4:41). Jesus used the elements to help us understand His deity. Jesus is God.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

As you prepare for this lesson, find a quiet place, grab your journal and Bible, and plan at least 20 minutes alone with your thoughts and God. Pray and ask the Lord to remove any distractions so you may hear His voice when He speaks. Then ask yourself these questions: Who is He? Who do I say He is? Finally, who am I because of Him? Ponder and wait. Pray before answering. After a time, respond as God's Spirit directs you. Pray that God will use you and your team to be His instruments in helping the children know who He is and who they are, because Jesus is God.

May God go before you to prepare a time and a place to meet together. May you hear God's voice, feel His presence, and respond freely to His prompting in your heart.

EXPLORE:: 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

A Perfect Storm

Today in The Big God Story, children will hear what happened when the disciples found themselves in the midst of a storm, and what Jesus did. This activity will allow children to begin thinking about their own past experiences with storms and their power.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Cardstock (white)
- Crayons (white)
- Watercolors (blue, green and black)
- Paintbrushes
- Cups

- Water
- Paper towels

SET UP

Fill the cups half way with water. Place a sheet of white card stock and a white crayon at each seat. Set out the rest of the materials on the table.

RELATE

Welcome children to the table. Begin to ask them about things they see or hear during a storm. **Have you ever seen a big storm? What happens during a storm?** As you interact with their answers, draw what they describe onto white card stock with the white crayon (e.g., raindrops, waves, lightning, etc.). Hold up your paper. **Look! Can you see what I drew on this paper? Not really, right? I drew the beginnings of a storm on here, but we need some color to help bring it out.** Use the watercolors to paint over the crayon lines to reveal a stormy picture. **Wow! This looks like a big storm!** Assist children in creating their own storm pictures using the white crayon and watercolors. **I wonder, what do you think this has to do with what we're going to hear in The Big God Story today?**

Large Group

SECTION

DISCOVER:: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Ponder Point

Jesus Is God

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos or scripts \(see Resources\)](#)
- Chloe (puppet or person)
- Preschool program theme song
- Worship music (suggestions: "Glorious" and "I Am Listening to You," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)
- Optional: countdown video

RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Mail Time intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Mail Time envelope art \(see Resources\)](#)
- Envelope (large)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Mail Time envelope art and attach to a large envelope. Print or copy one Remember Verse card and put it inside the envelope.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image. Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the “Seeker” close her eyes while the “Hider” finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with children.

Lead children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.**

Psalm 147:5

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Understanding: Things you know

Limit: End

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Great is our Lord: Make “L” with right index finger and thumb. Move the “L” from right shoulder to left hip.

and mighty in power: Bring arms up to strong man pose.

his understanding: Place open palm at forehead and move outward.

has no limit: Shake head.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- What'sIt: Pillow (see optional image in Resources)
- Wardrobe of Wonder
- Small stools or chairs (2)

What'sIt: Pillow

Pillows represent a time of rest. Sleeping or taking a nap is something we do when we're calm and feel safe. Jesus was able to sleep during the storm because He knew He was in control and there was no need to be afraid. Then He calmed the storm.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder* intro clip and image. Invite a child volunteer to "spy" on the What'sIt by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder* sound effect. Have him whisper the identity of the What'sIt in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What'sIt. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What'sIt from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

(Volunteer's name), **why do you think there's a pillow in the Wardrobe of Wonder?** Invite volunteer to give some suggestions. If he's having difficulty, encourage all kids to share ideas. **What do we use pillows for? I wonder if the What'sIt has something to do with what we're going to hear today from The Big God Story. Friends, what do you think? We're about to find out, because it's time for The Big God Story!**

The Big God Story

Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41

Jesus Is God

Storytelling Technique: Actions

SUPPLIES

Storytelling video (see Resources)

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- **Wonder Questions coloring pages** (see Resources)
- Crayons

RELATE

Today in The Big God Story, we heard about a terrible storm the disciples were caught in with their boat. They became afraid and asked Jesus why He wasn't afraid too. Jesus calmed the storm and waves by using His voice, because He is God.

I wonder ... How did Jesus amaze the disciples?

I wonder ... What do I think is amazing about Jesus?

I wonder ... How can I tell God what I think is amazing about Him?

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
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RELATE

Friends, Jesus is God and He loves you with love that lasts forever. God sent Jesus to show us how much He loves us and wants us to be with Him always.

Bless each child individually by going around and gently placing your hand on her head or shoulder:

(Insert child's name), **may you be filled with the love of God and with awe of who He is.**

When each child has been blessed, encourage the group to gather around you and place their hands in front of them, palms up, to receive the final blessing.

Children, may you always remember that Jesus is God, and He can calm any storm.