

TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Has Power Over Creation

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

After a long day of teaching, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When their short sailing trip was interrupted by a violent storm, the disciples found themselves in danger with nowhere to turn—except to the One who created all things. The Sea of Galilee is actually a freshwater lake in northern Israel. It sits nearly 700 feet below sea level and is surrounded by tall hills and mountains. The geography contributes to strong downdrafts and sudden storms that can quickly overtake the lake. This type of windstorm is what the disciples faced as they crossed the sea with Jesus.

Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen. They had spent significant time on the Sea of Galilee, but this storm was strong. The waves overtook the boat, and the disciples were afraid they would drown. As the disciples panicked, what was Jesus doing? He was sleeping! The disciples woke Jesus. The situation was out of their control, and perhaps they felt forsaken by God. But their reaction was full of irony: “Teacher! Don’t You care that we’re going to die?” (Mark 4:38).

The disciples obviously did not know why Jesus had come to earth. Jesus had come to rescue people from sin. By dying on the cross, Jesus would truly be forsaken by God. (See Matt. 27:46.) Jesus would die the death the disciples—and all sinners—deserve so that they could live forever with God. Did Jesus care that the disciples were going to die? Absolutely. But He was going to rescue them from something greater than physical death by drowning. Jesus would save them from spiritual death.

Jesus calmed the wind and the waves. He displayed His power over creation and demonstrated that He is truly God. God has power over the wind and the waves. (See Job 12:15; 28:25; Ps. 33:7; 107:25-30; Amos 4:13.) As you teach kids this Bible story, seize the opportunity to share the gospel. Help them understand the truth the disciples did not yet fully grasp. Who is this man? He is the Messiah, the Savior, and the Son of God.

LARGE GROUP LEADER OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Has Power Over Creation

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Big Picture Question: Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas:

- room decorations

Simulate a swimming beach by covering a front area of the room with a yellow sheet or tablecloth to resemble sand. Lay a blue sheet or plastic tablecloth over an area of the floor as water. Position various props to one side such as beach towels, inflatable swim rings, a tote bag, and a beach umbrella. Consider cutting clouds from white poster board and hanging them from the ceiling.

Sing (5 minutes)

- “Something Beautiful” song

Leader • We can pray to God when we feel afraid and ask Him to help us. Something else I like to do when I am afraid is sing. Singing to God or about God helps me focus on Him. Let’s sing together.

Lead kids in a short time of worship. Sing the song “Something Beautiful” together.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

Option #1:

- leader attire
- beach towel or blanket

[Large Group Leader enters wearing khaki shorts or pants and a colorful shirt. Leader spreads out a beach towel or blanket on the floor.]

Leader • Perfect! *[Turn to kids.]* Oh, hey there! Don’t you just love warm, sunny days? I’m *[your name]*, by the way. This is my first day of vacation. My family comes to the beach every year. I like to spend an hour or two lying on the shore, reading or watching the water or searching for shells. Please join me! Have you ever been to the beach? What are your favorite things to do at the beach? *[Allow kids to respond.]* While I’m here, I have a great collection of Bible stories I’m going to study the next few weeks. I can’t wait to tell you all about them. These stories are about how powerful Jesus is.

Option #2:

- small hand weights
- cell phone

[Large Group Leader enters with small weights while jogging around the stage. Have a cell phone available to “check the weather.”]

Leader • Hello there! Are you all part of my new lifeguard crew? It looks like you could use a little training. You have to be strong to be a lifeguard. Saving lives takes a lot of power. You have to run in sand, which is not easy. Plus, you may need to swim a great distance in some pretty strong currents to help someone. Let's do some quick exercises to get you ready.

Let's try 10 jumping jacks. *[Do them with the kids.]* How about 5 pushups? *[Do them with the kids, on your knees if you need to modify the movement.]*

OK, you guys are all set! Let me just check the weather forecast. *[Look at cell phone.]* Oh no! A storm is headed this way. That's no time to be in the water. It looks like we will have to wait until the storm passes. This reminds me of a Bible story about Jesus and His disciples. They were on a boat crossing a sea when a storm approached.

I see many of you have a Bible, so let's find out what happened to them.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • OK, I have a challenge for you. While you listen to the Bible story today, see if you can figure out the answer to our big picture question: ***Who has power over creation?*** Now that's an interesting question. I know I certainly don't have power over creation. I can't cause rain or snow or wind. If you think you already know the answer, don't say anything just yet.

Timeline map (2 minutes)

Leader • When we look at the timeline of the bible, it shows us how all the stories in the Bible fit together into one big story! It was God's plan from the beginning to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. God sent Jesus to earth, and while He was here, He showed His power as God's Son. Our Bible story today is called “Jesus Has Power Over Creation.”

Tell the Bible story (9 minutes)

- “Jesus Has Power Over Creation” video
- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Tip: A Bible story script is provided at the beginning of every session. Use it to guide you as you prepare to teach the Bible story in your own words. For a shorter version of the Bible story, read only the bold text.

Open your Bible to Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; or Luke 8:22-25. Tell the Bible story in your own words, and then show the Bible story video “Jesus Has Power Over Creation.”

Use costumes, puppets, objects, drawing or other creative ideas to act out or tell the story.

THE BIBLE STORY

Jesus Has Power Over Creation

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Jesus spent all day teaching crowds of people near the Sea of Galilee. That evening, Jesus wanted to cross over to the other side of the sea. He said, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.”

So Jesus and His disciples left the crowds. They got into a boat and began sailing. Some of the people from the crowds followed in their own boats. While Jesus and His disciples traveled, Jesus fell asleep on a cushion at the back of the boat.

All of a sudden, a storm came. The wind was strong, and the waves crashed into the boat. Water was coming into the boat, and the disciples were afraid! Many of the disciples were fishermen. They had survived storms on the sea before, but this storm was different. It was so strong. If the water kept coming in the boat, the boat would sink. Surely they would all drown!

The disciples looked to Jesus for help, but Jesus was still fast asleep at the back of the boat. He didn’t seem to even notice the storm. Did Jesus care that they were about to sink into the sea? The disciples woke up Jesus. “Lord, save us!” they said. “We are going to die!”

Jesus opened His eyes and saw that His friends were afraid. He got up and spoke to the wind. Then Jesus said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!”

At the sound of Jesus’ voice, the wind stopped blowing and the waves stopped crashing. Everything was calm. The disciples were safe.

Jesus looked at His disciples and asked, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” Did the disciples not trust Jesus to take care of them?

The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

Christ Connection: Who is this man? Jesus’ disciples knew Jesus was a good man and a good teacher. When Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed His disciples that He is also God. God rules the sea and stills its waves. (Psalm 89:9)

DISCUSSION:

Leader • Wow! Can you imagine how tired Jesus was? He had been teaching people all day. So when Jesus and His disciples started crossing the Sea of Galilee, Jesus fell asleep in the boat.

Many of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen, and they had spent a lot of time on the Sea of Galilee. But when the storm came up, it was a stronger storm than they could handle. The wind was strong, and the waves crashed over the sides of the boat. The disciples were afraid! If the boat sank, they would all drown!

So what did the disciples do? They turned to Jesus. They woke Him up and said, “Lord, save us!” Now, the disciples had been following Jesus. They knew He wasn’t like other teachers, but they did not fully understand who Jesus is. Jesus woke up and saw that the disciples were afraid. He commanded the wind and the waves. What did Jesus say? “Silence! Be still!” And then what happened? Yes, everything was calm and the disciples were safe.

Jesus asked the disciples why they were afraid. If they really knew who He was and if they really trusted in Him, they shouldn’t be afraid of a storm. Jesus showed His disciples that He is also God—God the Son. He has power over creation.

That’s the answer to our big picture question! ***Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.*** Say that with me. ***Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.***

Questions:

Ask the following review questions:

1. How did the disciples and Jesus cross the Sea of Galilee? (*on a boat, Mark 4:35*)
2. What happened while they were sailing? (*A storm tossed water into the boat, Mark 4:37*)
3. What was Jesus doing during the storm? (*sleeping, Mark 4:38*)
4. What happened when Jesus told the wind and waves to stop? (*They obeyed. Everything became calm, and the disciples were amazed; Mark 4:39-41*)
5. ***Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.***

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Using Scripture and the guide provided, explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Tell kids how they can respond, and provide counselors to speak with each kid individually. Guide counselors to use open-ended questions to allow kids to determine the direction of the conversation.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Key passage (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Slide or Poster

Display the key passage poster. Choose a volunteer to read it aloud, and then instruct the kids to read it aloud together.

Leader • Jesus said these words to a woman named Martha, the sister of Lazarus. We will hear their story in a few weeks. Point out that Jesus said that even if someone who believes in Him dies, that person will live. Ask kids to think about what Jesus meant. Jesus is more powerful than death!

Leader • Jesus was saying that even if a person dies physically, those who trust in Jesus will live forever with God. For believers, physical death is not the end. Jesus offers eternal life. Do you believe this?

Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader • This has been a wonderful day at the beach! Before you go to your small groups, let's pray. Jesus, thank You for taking care of us. We trust in You to keep us safe. Thank You for coming to earth to obey God's plan to save us from sin. We love You. Amen.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

Please be VERY slow and orderly with dismissing to small groups to keep kids safe:

- Kindergarten
- First Grade
- Second Grade
- Third and Fourth Girls
- Third and Fourth Guys

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.



“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”

John 11:25-26



Who has power over creation?

Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.



the

GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos-pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10, 13*