



## God is in Control – Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8

### God Statement: Jesus is Amazing

**KEY VERSE:** “They were amazed at his teachings because his message had authority.”  
(Luke 4:32, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: Jesus is Amazing**

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is Amazing!

#### **SAY:**

We’re starting a new series today, which means we have a new God Statement! I have a question for you – what is something that you think is amazing? **Let a few kids share.** Those are all really amazing things! Did you know that there is someone very important who is the most AMAZING? Do you know who it is? **Let kids respond.** Jesus is amazing! Let’s say that together: Jesus is Amazing!

In our story today, we’re going to see just how amazing Jesus is when He does something miraculous! Have you ever been in a crazy storm? Turn to the person next to

you and tell them about that time. Well, some of Jesus' friends got stuck in a pretty bad storm in our Bible lesson today, and Jesus did something AMAZING to help them out. We'll find out later, but first let's make a craft.

### MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

#### Jesus Calms the Storm Boat!

**Supplies:** Paper boat, tape, flag paper, straw

**Directions:** Pass out one boat per child, one paper flag, and one straw. Have them color their boats. Add the flag to their straws and tape the straw to the boat.



**Say:** *Today we get to make a boat! Let's decorate our boat bases. I wonder what a boat has to do with our lesson today? Do you think Jesus did something with a boat?*

## LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

### WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

#### Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

#### Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**\*\*\* After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide. \*\*\***

### KEY VERSE

#### Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.*

**“They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.”  
(Luke 4:32, NIRV)**

*\*\*\* After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.\*\*\**

## OPENING WORSHIP

### *Worship Leader*

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Nothing is Impossible
- What a Friend
- Closing: Awesome God

*\*\*\* After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\**

## BIBLE STORY

### *Lesson Video*

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

#### ***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God is In Control – Jesus Calms the Storm***

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\**

## WORSHIP RESPONSE

### *Host*

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

**Supplies:** strips of fabric, wire/twine WR stations, Cross station

**Prepare Ahead:** tie fabric strips onto boards – enough for 1 per kid

God is in control! Can you imagine being on a boat like that in the middle of a terrible storm? How would you feel? **Let a few kids share.** It might feel really scary. You might start to get worried about what will happen. It might feel hopeless. But, Jesus showed the disciples that they didn't need to be afraid or worried because He is in control – always.

That's the same for each of us. When we believe in Jesus, we can trust that He is in control. While we probably won't find ourselves on a boat in the middle of a terrible storm, we all have hard things that happen that make us afraid or worried. Do you have something you've been nervous, afraid, or worried about recently? **Let a few kids share if it feels appropriate or let it be a self-reflection moment.**

#### **WORRY KNOTS ACTIVITY:**

Whatever that thing might be for you, sometimes we have to pause and remember that God is in control. We can trust that He is our shelter and safe place. Today, we're going to participate in an activity to help us remember that.

**Turn on soft worship music in the background.**

In a moment, you will get a chance to walk up to one of the boards around the room. As you do, think about that thing that you might be nervous, afraid or worried about. Then, as you untie one of the "worry knots" on the board, think about releasing that worry or fear to God. After you've untied it, walk over and lay it at the foot of the Cross and say, "I trust you, Jesus."

**Encourage kids to go a few at a time (or by age group) to the stations to respond. Have a couple teachers stationed by the boards to help untie for younger kids. Once all the kids have finished say:**

God is in control. No matter how big or small, we can take our worries and fears to Him and He hears us! Let's pray and thank God for that!

**Close time in prayer.**

**\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.\*\*\***

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

### **Worship Leader**

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

*\*\*\*After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.\*\*\**

## COMPASSION & OFFERING

### Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.***

*\*\*\*After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – COSILoveYou Backpack Bash!

### Host

*Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.*

Wow! Is it almost that time again? The 2023-2024 school year is fast approaching. Do you know what that means? It's time for back-to-school shopping! We have an amazing opportunity to help families in our community prepare for the school year ahead. We are excited to partner with @cos\_iloveyou for this year's Backpack Bash! What is the most important item you need for school? **Let kids share ideas.** One of the most important items kids in our city need to start the school year off right is backpacks! And you can help with that! Here are two BIG ways you can help:

1. Talk to your parents about purchasing a brand- NEW backpack to donate on June 24 & 25 or July 1 & 2 at our Kids check-in area.
2. Pray for the kids, just like you, preparing to go back to school who will get one of these backpacks!

Who's excited to shop for backpacks?

***Invite a couple kids to come up and pray for teachers to finish the school year strong and for the bags that will be decorated next week to celebrate teachers.***

*\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\**

## **BLESSING**

### **Host**

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***May you always lay your worries and fears at the foot of the Cross. God is control and He loves you!***

## SMALL GROUP

### *Classroom Teachers*

**(10 minutes)**

#### **Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Jesus Calms the Storm**
  - a. **What did the disciples do when the storm came?** (They woke up Jesus.)
  - b. **What did they ask him to do?** (Save them.)
  - c. **What did Jesus do?** (He calmed the wind and the waves.)
3. **Life is going to have many storms. No, not just rainstorms and thunderstorms, but stormy times where things are tough and challenging for us. Remember that God is always in control. Have faith in Him even when things are hard. He is powerful enough to control even the wind and the waves and he can take care of the hard things in your life too.**

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

#### **Older Kids:**

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Matthew 8:23-27**
  - a. **What did the disciples do when the storm came?** (They woke up Jesus.)
  - b. **How did Jesus respond when the disciples woke Him and asked Him to save them?** (He asked why they had so little faith and why they were so afraid. Then he calmed the storm.)
  - c. **How did the disciples feel after Jesus calmed the storm?** They were amazed!)
3. **Life is full of stormy, hard times and challenges. Can you think of a time when you were going through something really tough? Did you have faith that God was still in control or was that difficult? If it was hard to do that, that's okay! I'm sure we have all experienced hard times where we really struggled to remain faithful that Jesus was in**

control and would take care of us. Have faith in Him even when things are hard. He is powerful enough to control even the wind and the waves and he can take care of the hard things in your life too.

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### **PLAY: Keep The Boat Afloat Game**

**Supplies:** toy boat, blue tablecloth

**Directions:** have children get into a circle. Unfold the blue tablecloth and pick a few children to hang onto the tablecloth. The other children in the circle will be the boat catchers. Place the boat in the center of the tablecloth and have the children create a storm. Say “bring on the storm!” and have the children gently move the blue tablecloth to rock the boat and create a storm. When the boat falls off, the catchers receive it and the one who catches it swaps with someone in the circle holding the blue cloth.

You can say things like:

“calm the storm” (the children will move the cloth gently to a stop)

“bring on the storm” (the children will start to move the cloth harder and harder to create a storm”.

Continue playing as long as children would like to.

**Say:** *Jesus is amazing! Today we learned about how Jesus calmed the storm. Even when the disciples were afraid, Jesus showed them that God is in control. Let’s play a fun game to remind us of our story today.*

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*