



Talk 1

Jesus Versus the Storm (Luke 8:22-25)



Big Idea

Jesus has power over nature because he is God.



Faith in Kids looks like

Children who go to Jesus when they are afraid because they trust that Jesus is God.

You will need: a toy boat, toy figures that fit on the boat, large piece of paper (stuck up to write on during the talk), thick marker pen, sheet of paper with 'God's People' on it, simple drawing of the sea/waves and a drawing/picture to represent the Egyptian army from the Exodus story (e.g. angry looking stick figures).

Powerpoint slides: 5 pairs of pictures of 'powerful' and 'powerless' people (e.g. a school child and a headmistress; the Queen and a bus driver; a famous football coach and a school P.E. teacher; a policewoman and a baby; a famous politician and a grandparent), the 2 talk points, a link to the video clip.

Space for notes

We're going to play a quick game called 'Powerful or Powerless'. I will show you pairs of people and you must imagine that each one had a 'Power' rating like you'd see on a Top Trumps card. You must vote for who is 'powerful' and who is 'powerless' in each pair. To vote 'powerful' you must flex your arm muscles and to vote 'powerless'

Space for notes

you must cross your arms.

(Show the pairs of pictures - get children to show their vote for each person in the pair. E.g. they must show their vote for the school child and then show their vote for the headmistress.)

Some of these people have a lot of power. But some of them are powerless like the people we are going to hear about in today's Bible story. They were in a small boat during a big storm and they were powerless to do anything about it. But they had a very powerful person with them. Let's first hear about the disciples who were powerless.

1. The disciples were powerless

(Slide of talk point)

Jesus and his friends - the disciples - were in a small wooden fishing boat on a very large lake (hold up the toy boat with the figures in it).

Some of the disciples were fishermen. They knew the lake and they knew what they were doing. But that day there was a storm.

The Bible story says, 'A big storm blew up on the lake. The boat began to fill with water, and they were in danger.' (Luke 8:23)

The storm was so bad, the disciples - professional fishermen - thought they were going to drown. Imagine that small boat being crashed around in the water (move the boat around as if it was in a storm).



**Space
for notes**

The disciples were hanging on for dear life, terrified that at any moment their boat would be smashed to pieces and they'd all be drowned in the lake. They couldn't do anything to save themselves. They were completely powerless.

We're all sitting on dry land so it can be hard to imagine just how powerless they were in that storm. We're going to watch a clip from a film about fishermen in a very bad storm...

(Play the suggested clip of a scene from ['The Perfect Storm'](#). Play from 1:00–2:20)

The fishermen in the film were powerless compared to the storm. They couldn't do anything to stop it or save themselves. It was the same for the disciples. But they had something more powerful with them in the boat. They just hadn't realised it yet. The disciples were powerless but Jesus is powerful.

2. Jesus is powerful

(Slide of talk point)

While they were battling the storm **(keep moving the toy boat)**, Jesus was fast asleep in the boat! The Bible story says, *'The disciples went to Jesus and woke him. They said, "Master! Master! We will drown!"'* (Luke 8:24)

If any of us were woken up like that in a crazy storm while on a small boat, I think we would all be as terrified as the disciples. But not Jesus.

**Space
for notes**

Listen carefully to what happened next **(hold up one of the toy figures as Jesus)**... *'Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves. The wind stopped, and the lake became calm.'* (Luke 8:24) **(Hold the boat still.)**

Jesus is so powerful that when he said 'stop' nature obeyed. The storm had terrified the disciples. But after they saw Jesus make it stop, they were terrified of him! The Bible says, *'The disciples were afraid and amazed. They said to each other, "What kind of man is this? He commands the wind and the water, and they obey him!"'* (Luke 8:25)

(Write 'What kind of man is this?' on the large sheet of paper.)

Think back to the video clip of the big storm. Imagine if someone on the boat shouted out 'stop' **(shout, then pause)** and it all went calm and quiet. Every other person on that boat would ask the same question that the disciples did - *'What kind of man is this?'* Maybe this is the first time you've ever heard this story about Jesus and you're thinking the same question. The answer is simple - Jesus is God.

(Write 'Jesus is God' on the large sheet of paper.)

(Ask 3 children to come up to the front and stand in a line. Give the 'God's people' sign to the child in the middle and the picture of the 'sea' and the 'army' to the two other children.)

God has power over nature because he made it. In a different part of the Bible, there is a story about God rescuing his people from slavery in Egypt **(point to the middle child)**.



Space for notes

The people started to panic because the Egyptian army was coming for them and they were getting closer and closer (**get the children to act this out**).

But the people couldn't keep going because they'd got to the sea (**point to the child with the 'sea' picture**). They were trapped! But the sea is no problem for God. He made it and he can tell it what to do.

The Bible says, *'Moses held his hand over the sea. All that night the Lord - God - drove back the sea with a strong east wind. And so he made the sea become dry ground. The water was split (**tear the 'sea' picture in half**). And the Israelites went through the sea on dry land ('God's people' child walks **'through the sea'**). A wall of water was on both sides.'* (Exodus 14:21-22) (**Volunteer children can sit down.**)

God has power over nature - he parted the sea and saved his people. Jesus has power over nature because he is God - he told the storm to 'stop' and saved his disciples (**hold up the toy boat**). The disciples asked, 'What kind of man is this?' (**Hold up the Jesus toy figure.**) Today, we've found the answer in the Bible. Jesus is God.

When we understand that it changes everything. We are all afraid of things. But when you trust Jesus, even that changes! People who trust him don't have to be scared of anything. Frightening things do still happen, but with Jesus you never face those things alone. With Jesus, you have God with you and he is the most powerful person ever.

Space for notes

All the 'powerful' (**flex arm muscles**) people we saw earlier are 'powerless' (**cross arms**) compared to Jesus. Great power is amazing but it can also be scary (**draw an 'amazed' and a 'scared' face on the large sheet of paper**).

The disciples were amazed and afraid when they saw how powerful Jesus was. So it's good news that Jesus is also the kindest and most loving person ever. He wants all of us to know that he is God, he is powerful and we can trust him. People who trust in Jesus don't have to be afraid of him. Instead, they know that they have God with them. Just like the powerless disciples had powerful Jesus in the boat with them (**put the Jesus toy figure in the boat**), we can have powerful Jesus with us always. Will you trust him?

Pray to close.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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Discussion Time

Talk 1: Jesus Versus the Storm
(Luke 8:22-25)



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Did you spot it?

1. Who was in the boat?
2. Why were the disciples terrified?
3. What did Jesus do about the storm?



Work it out.

1. Why was Jesus able to stop the storm?
2. Jesus is powerful. Do you think there is anything more powerful than him? Why?



Live it Out.

1. The disciples were amazed and afraid of Jesus' power. How do you feel about it? Why?
2. Think of something that frightens you. How would trusting Jesus help you when you feel afraid of that thing?



Pray.

These activities are all best suited to being played outdoors but suggestions have been made for playing them indoors.

Water: Blindfolded Squirt

You will need: Water pistols, bucket of water, blindfolds, rolls of toilet paper and a tarpaulin.

Set up: Fill the water pistols. If playing indoors on a carpet then lay the tarpaulin on the floor.

- The aim is to destroy as many pieces of toilet paper as possible in the allocated time by squirting water at them.
- Blindfold 1 child. Let another child be their guide.
- Line up the rest of the children. They must hold a long strip of toilet paper between them at face height. Both hands must hold the strip – hands and feet

must not move. Eyes must be closed and heads down.

- The guide verbally directs the blindfolded child so that they squirt water at the toilet paper so the strip tears in two.
- Give each child 30 seconds to use the water pistol before they swap over.

Scoring: Allocate points for every strip of toilet paper that is destroyed.

Safety: Eyes must be kept closed – water squirted in eyes can be painful.



Fire: Flaming Mallows

You will need: Barbeque & charcoal (or a table, tealights and a roasting tin with wire rack), marshmallows, long wooden kebab skewers, wet wipes, bucket of water and a fire extinguisher.

Set up: Make the barbeque or set up a table with the tealight candles. Place the bucket of water and fire extinguisher next to the barbeque/table.

- The aim is to roast (not burn!) marshmallows.
- Children must wash or wipe hands with a wet wipe before putting a marshmallow on a skewer.
- Roasted marshmallows must be shown to a leader before they are eaten so they can be judged. Marshmallows must cool a bit before they can be eaten. 2 marshmallows per child.
- Children must be supervised as they roast their marshmallows over the fire. Children are very happy to stick wooden skewers in the fire when they are done!
- For an indoor activity, place tealight candles in a deep roasting tin with a roasting pan rack above them so children don't

put their marshmallow directly into the flame (they will catch alight very quickly if held too close to the flame). Have enough pans of candles for the children to fit around them safely.

Scoring: Leaders must judge each roasted marshmallow and give out scores of 1 (burnt) – 3 (beautifully roasted).

Safety: Give children clear instructions before they start the activity. Watch children's behaviour closely. If any child starts to act in a way that could endanger themselves or others, they should be removed immediately. The sharp end of the skewer must be pointed towards the fire and not outwards towards children. Leaders must put out marshmallows that are completely on fire – dunk it in the bucket of water. Hot marshmallows can burn skin. A fire extinguisher must be on hand, whether indoors or outdoors, and a leader must know how to use it.





Water: Welly Walk

You will need: 2 or 3 pairs of adult wellies, 2 buckets (one filled with water), a plastic cup, a tarpaulin, a ruler/tape measure and a towel.

Set up: If playing indoors on a carpet then lay down the tarpaulin before placing the buckets at opposite ends. Place the wellies near the full bucket.

- The aim is to transfer water from the full bucket to the empty one using only the wellies which must be worn.
- Children take off shoes and socks.
- This is a relay style. Only one child walks at a time. The first child puts on the wellies, then uses the cup to fill them with water (not so full that they can't walk!). They must then walk to the empty bucket, take off the wellies and empty the water into the bucket.

- Meanwhile, the next child puts on the second pair of wellies and fills them with water so they are ready to start walking once the previous child has emptied their wellies.
- Play until they have run out of time or they have transported all of their water.
- Dry feet with a towel at the end of the game.

Scoring: Give points for every cm of water in the bucket.

Safety: No running. Help children get out of the water filled wellies. Have large waterproof plasters available in case a child needs anything on their foot covered/protected before wearing the wellies.



Wind: Wild Waves

You will need: A few copies of instructions to make a [paper boat](#), sheets of A4 paper (one per child), coloured pens, 2 flat bed sheets/ bath towels.

Set up: A table for children to make their boats at. Place the sheets/towels on the floor about 3 feet away from each other.

- The aim is to transfer the paper boats from one sheet/towel to the other without dropping any on the floor.
- A leader shows the children step by step how to make the paper boats. Each child makes and decorates a boat (which they can take home).
- Get the children to hold the edges of the sheets/towels and

pull them so they are taut and can be flapped up and down. Place the boats on one sheet/towel and get the children to flap it so that the boats are thrown from one to the other.

- If it is too easy then keep widening the gap between the two sheets/towels.

Scoring: Allocate points for every time each boat is transferred and none are dropped.

Safety: Keep the game calm so children don't start flapping the towel wildly. Hold the sheet/towel tightly so it doesn't get loose and hurt a child when flapped.





Water: Battleships

You will need: Large tarpaulin, large flat bed sheet, ball of string, scissors, tape, bucket of water and plastic cups.

Set up: If playing indoors on a carpet then lay the tarpaulin on the floor. Use string and tape to make 2 identical grids on the tarpaulin. Each grid needs more squares than the number of children in a group. Leave a space between the 2 grids.

- The aim is to guess where each team has placed their 'ships' on the grid and to get them out.
- Hold up the large sheet between the grids so that neither team can see the opposite grid.
- Children scatter themselves around their team's grid. Once they are sitting in a square they

Grand Finale Game Suggestion

can't move to a different square.

- Each team then takes turns to give a grid reference (e.g. A3 would be the first column, third row). If there is no child in the square then it's a 'miss'. If a child is sitting in that square then it's a 'hit' and a leader pours a cup of water over them before they step out of the grid.
- Play until there is one dry child still sitting in the grid or announce a winning team when interest drops!

Scoring: The last team with a dry child still sitting in the grid wins.

Safety: No running on the wet tarpaulin.



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