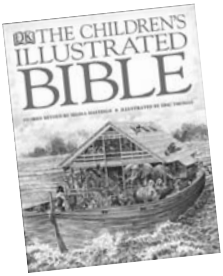


Ordinary Time, Proper 7



The Children's Illustrated Bible

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When evening came, Jesus said, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So Jesus and the disciples left the crowd and took a boat. A fierce windstorm arose and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was swamped. But Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?" He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Then he said to them, "Why are you fearful? Do you still have no faith?" And they were terrified and said to one another, "Who is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"
—Mark 4:35–41 adapted

Jesus and the Storm

Have kids dramatize the story of Jesus and the storm. Ask one child to be the narrator, one to be Jesus, and two to be disciples. Everyone else will be the waves. Give each of the waves a sheet of paper, and have them sit in a circle. Disciples sit inside the circle and pretend to row the boat. Jesus pretends to be asleep behind the disciples. The narrator reads the story from the *The Children's Illustrated Bible* or Mark 4:35-41. Waves slowly fan their sheets of paper up and down and make soft whooshing sounds. As the wind picks up, waves fan papers faster and make louder whooshing sounds. The disciples show fear until they wake up Jesus. Jesus arises calmly and quiets the storm.

Discuss: If one of the disciples was in our class today, what would you ask him? Do you wonder what it was like in that boat? Have you ever been in a storm? What are the other times you've been afraid? What do you do when you feel afraid? We're all afraid sometimes, but it's great to know that Jesus helps us handle it. Read Psalm 9:9-10 to share how God cares for us.

Food for Thought

As you create a smoothy, tell the story of Jesus and the storm.

Put four cups of water in a large container. Pour in two packages of blue soft-drink mix. Say: This blue drink reminds us of the lake Jesus taught beside. When Jesus got tired, he and his friends got into a boat and began to sail to the other side of the lake. (Add two cups of sugar to the container.) The wind began to blow. (Add one small bag of crushed ice. Place a lid securely on the container. One of the kids can shake the container.) The winds blew stronger; the waves crashed higher! (Shake, shake, shake!) His friends were very frightened and woke up Jesus. Jesus got up and told the wind and waves to be still. The water became peaceful. (Remove the lid. Serve the smoothy in small cups.)

Sing a Happy Tune

Chase the fears away by singing this song to the tune of "A Sailer Went to Sea, Sea, Sea." Record the kids singing or chanting this rhyme, then play the recording to sing along with while they do the hand clapping actions. With each line, kids clap their own hands, then clap right hands with a partner, then clap their own hands, clap left hands with a partner, clap their own hands, and then clap both hands with a partner three times for "sea, sea, sea."

1. Jesus went to sea, sea, sea.
With disciples there were three, three, three.
A storm came from the sea, sea, sea.
They cried and tried to flee, flee, flee.
2. They woke Jesus you see, see, see.
He calmed the great big sea, sea, sea.
He looked at all those three, three, three.
Said, "Where's your faith in me, me, me?"
3. You need not fear the sea, sea, sea.
So trust the Lord, you see, see, see.
He'll help us, you and me, me, me.
He loves us, don't you see, see, see?



When evening came, Jesus said, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So Jesus and the disciples left the crowd and took a boat. A fierce windstorm arose and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was swamped. But Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?" He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Then he said to them, "Why are you fearful? Do you still have no faith?" And they were terrified and said to one another, "Who is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

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Write your fears on the raindrops.

