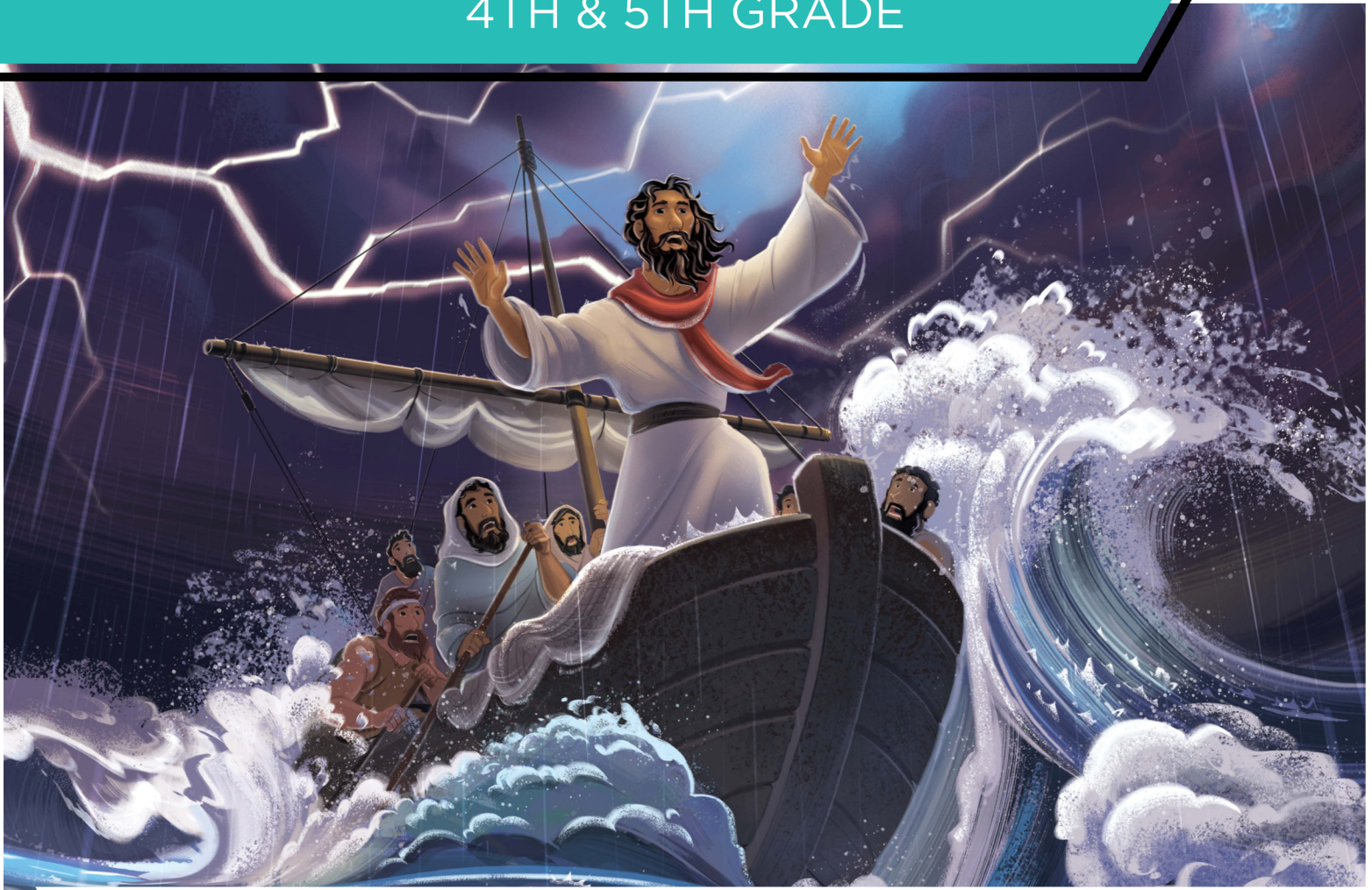


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

JESUS CALMED A STORM

MATTHEW 8; MARK 4; LUKE 8

CHRIST CONNECTION

The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior. One day, Jesus would show His greatest power—not by calming a storm, but by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save people from sin. Jesus saves everyone who trusts in Him.

LEADER DEVO

A friend of mine recalled a childhood memory when he jolted out of bed in the middle of the night, ran into the hallway, and put his head between his knees. A tornado was ripping through his neighborhood.

As the storm passed over his family's house, it sounded like a train was roaring above them. And yet, when the winds and rain finally died down, my friend realized his brother never made it out of his bedroom. When my friend went to check on him, he was sound asleep. He had slept through the entire storm.

This image of peace amid chaos is similar to Jesus' disposition in this week's story of Him calming the storm. The disciples were experienced fishermen, but this storm on the Sea of Galilee was fierce. The waves crashed into their small boat, and the wind howled. They were convinced they were going to drown. Meanwhile, Jesus—the Son of God, their teacher and Lord—was asleep in the boat.

In panic, they shook Him awake and shouted, "Lord, save us! Don't you care that we're going to die?" Jesus stood up and said to the wind and the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Instantly, everything stopped. The sea became as smooth as glass.

Then Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Jesus was reminding them it doesn't matter how strong the storm is outside the boat when Jesus is inside the boat.

When the storms of life rise—whether it's a health crisis, financial struggle, broken relationship, or deep anxiety—it's easy to feel like Jesus is "asleep" in your life. This story, however, reminds us that He is still in control—and He never loses His sovereign grip.

As you teach kids this week, help them see that the same Savior who calmed the wind and waves that night still speaks peace into the chaos of our lives today.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

SEPT 27

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, Isaiah 40:8 will look like:

T G W T F F B T W O O G W S F

LESSON

One evening, Jesus said to His disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.” They set out and began to sail across, and other boats were with them. Jesus lay down in the back of the boat and fell asleep on a cushion.

While Jesus slept, the wind began to blow. Suddenly a powerful storm arose on the sea. The wind became so strong it caused waves to pour into the disciples’ boat. The disciples, many of them fishermen, had been in storms before—but this storm was fierce. They thought they might drown!

The disciples rushed to Jesus and woke Him. “Lord, save us!” they shouted, “Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”

Jesus stood up. He looked at the roaring wind and the crashing waves and said, “Silence! Be still!”

Right away, the wind stopped. The waves became calm. Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

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

CHRIST CONNECTION

The disciples saw that Jesus has power over nature. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior. One day, Jesus would show His greatest power—not by calming a storm, but by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save people from sin. Jesus saves everyone who trusts in Him.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) What does Jesus calming the storm reveal about His character?
- 2) How can knowing that Jesus is God help us to not fear?
- 3) What are some “storms” in our lives that we need to trust Jesus with?
- 4) Why do you think the disciples asked “Who is this man?” Did they not know who Jesus was?
- 5) How can remembering God and His character help us every day?
(see *Isaiah 26:3*)

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!