

Big questions

Mark 4.35-41

In which Jesus and his disciples leave the crowd behind and go sailing on the lake. A storm blows up and the disciples are frightened. They wake Jesus up. He stills the storm and asks the disciples why they had been frightened. He tells them they should have faith.

Now read **Mark 4.35-41** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus has been teaching in parables. He goes into the boat with his disciples to get away from the crowd. He is so tired he falls asleep and sleeps through the squall that blows up. The Sea of Galilee is subject to sudden and violent storms. Fishermen should have been aware of that and not panicked; what is interesting about the way the disciples reacted? Does it help to know that even those closest to Jesus often had doubts and questions?



Ask yourself: In what situations is it more difficult to feel able to 'cry out'?

WATCH

Watch an animated version of the Bible story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzPwRXytr7U>

Think about a time when you felt as if you were in a storm. Thank God for those who brought peace. Pray for those facing storms in their lives at the moment.



On a piece of A4 paper, write a 'big question' you have about faith, or something you'd like to ask God. Use the paper to make a paper boat following the instructions (see link below or use QR code). Take your boat somewhere to float it on water – or you can do this at home – as you do, pray that your question would be heard by God.

www.easypeasyandfun.com/how-to-make-a-paper-boat/

BAKE

Bake four cupcakes. Ice them each with one letter to spell, 'love'. Give them to your dad or someone who has cared for you like a father. Or give them to someone and tell them that their Father God loves them.

You will need: access to an oven; 50g caster sugar, 50g butter, 35g self-raising flour, 20g cocoa powder, 1 egg, paper cases, baking tin, melted chocolate/icing, a piping bag.

- Preheat your oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
- Mix together the caster sugar and butter until the mixture is smooth. Then add the flour, cocoa powder and egg. Stir well.
- Divide your mixture evenly between four paper cases.
- Cook the cupcakes for about 15 minutes.
- When they are ready, remove the cakes from the oven and allow to cool.
- Add the letters on top, writing in melted chocolate or icing.

ACT IT OUT

Act out the story as a household with someone as Jesus, someone as a disciple and someone as the storm. Talk about how it feels: to be woken up/ when the storm blows up/to be told by Jesus to be still.

Alternatively, read the story to yourself imagining you are one of the disciples. How does it feel when: you get on the boat/the boat starts to move/the storm blows/it is calm. What experiences have you had that give a similar feeling?

Pray

Every evening, spend two minutes in quiet praying about any 'storms' you are facing, and ask God to give you peace.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

In the evening, after teaching all day from a boat, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's cross over to the other side of the lake.' So, leaving the crowds behind them on the shore, they sailed across the water. Some other boats sailed with them.



Suddenly, a fierce and violent storm began. The wind roared and huge waves crashed into the boat, threatening to sink it. Jesus was fast asleep in the back of the boat, with his head on a cushion, and seemed completely unaware of the danger. But the disciples were terrified! They woke him up saying, 'Jesus, wake up! Don't you care that we are about to drown?!'

Jesus got up and rebuked the roaring wind and said to the angry sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Immediately the wind dropped and the sea became completely calm. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, 'Why are you so frightened? Do you still have no faith?' The men stood in awe and amazement and said to each other, 'Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him.'

Mark 4.35-41

Did you know?

- A disciple is a pupil or follower of Jesus.
- Rebuke means to tell off sharply.

Mark 4.35-41 (NRSV)

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind,

and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"