



January 29, 2017

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: Who is there when you need Him?

Bottom Line: Jesus is there when I need Him.

Memory Verse: "You are everything I need." Psalm 119:57, NIV

Bible Story Focus: Jesus can help me when I'm scared.

Calming the Storm • *Matthew 8:23-27*

Make It Fun

Prepare to offer the following activities as your 3&4year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. In a Storm

"In a Storm" is an activity that teaches the children to be creative while introducing them to a key concept of today's Bible story.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in a circle with you in the middle.

During the Activity: Tell the children that all of you are going to pretend to be in a storm. First ask the children to be wind. Demonstrate by swaying and waving your hands in the air. Make a whistling sound with your mouth. Next, pretend to be thunder by stomping your feet and saying "boom, boom." Next, pretend to be lightning. Hold your hands out in front of you and make a fist. Then open and close your hands rapidly. Lastly, pretend you are rain. Hold your arms in front of you and wiggle your fingers as you bring your arms down. Make a "Shhhhhhhh" sound with your mouth. After the children have pretended to be rain, stay "STOP" loudly.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play pretend! I love pretending!"

During the Activity: "We can pretend to be a storm! First we need to be the wind! Watch me and let's be wind together! (*Demonstrate wind.*) Nice job! Next, let's be thunder! (*Demonstrate thunder.*) You are so good at this! Let's be lightning next! (*Demonstrate lightning.*) Now all we need is rain! (*Demonstrate rain.*) Great job making it rain! Now, STOP!"

After the Activity: “The storm stopped! WOW! In our story today, someone stops a REAL storm! I wonder who it was. I can’t wait to find out!”

2. Match the Boat

“Match the Boat” is an activity that teaches matching and critical thinking skills while working with a key object from today’s Bible story.

What You Need: 8 small plastic boats (4 identical pairs) and a medium-sized plastic tub

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place four boats (one from each pair) on one side of the activity area. Place the other four boats on the other side of the activity area. Place the tub in the middle. (Note: You may consider filling the tub $\frac{1}{4}$ full of water, so the boats will float when the children place them in the tub. Only do this if you are there to closely monitor the children with the water.)

Before the Activity: Point to the first set of boats. Ask the children to pick up one boat and walk to the other side of the room to see if they can find its match. If a match is made, then encourage the children to take the pair of boats and place them in the tub.

After the Activity: Make sure every child has a turn to make a match. If all of the boats are in the tub and you still have children needing a turn, simply return the boats to their original position and start over.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Boats! Boats! Boats! I see lots of BOATS!”

During the Activity: “First look at these boats. (Point to the first set of boats.) Each of these boats has a boat that looks just like it over there. (Point to the other set of boats.) Choose a boat and see if you can find its match. When you do, place both boats in the tub. (Point to the tub.) Are you ready?” (Do activity.)

After the Activity: “Great job! You are really great at matching boats! There is a boat in our Bible story today. Something AMAZING happens! I cannot wait to find out what it is!”

3. Storm Bottle

“Storm Bottle” is an activity that offers an interactive visual of the key element of today’s Bible story.

What You Need: 2-liter empty soda bottle with the lid, hot glue gun, water, blue food coloring, and vegetable oil

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Remove any label or film from the bottle. Fill the bottle ½ full with water. Add three drops of food coloring to the water. Replace the lid and shake the bottle until the water turns blue. Keep the bottle still and allow the water to settle for a few minutes and then remove the lid. Fill the rest of the bottle with the vegetable oil. Use the hot glue gun to securely glue the lid on the bottle.

During the Activity: Lay the bottle on its side. Be sure it does not roll. Allow the children to look at the bottle and move it up and down to make waves. The harder the children move it, the more it will look like a storm.

After the Activity: Be sure to instruct the children to move the bottle and not shake it.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today we are going to talk about storms!”

During the Activity: (Hold up the bottle.) “I made a storm in a bottle for us. All you have to do is move it side to side (*demonstrate*) and the waves will get bigger and bigger, just like a storm! Who would like to try to make a storm? (*Pause.*) Great! Just be sure that we all move it and not shake it!”

After the Activity: “That was so much fun playing with the storm bottle! Today in our Bible story, we are going to hear about a REAL storm! WOW! Lets go hear our true story from the Bible!”

Make It Stick

Choose two or more of the following activities to help make the Bottom Line stick. Lead the activities with small groups of children. Encourage children to play on their own if they do not wish to take part in an activity.

1. In a Boat

“In a Boat” is an activity that that uses repetition and a concept from the Bible story to teach this month’s memory verse.

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Using the tape, make an outline of a boat on the floor. The number of children you have will determine the size of the boat you make. Be sure everyone can fit inside the boat.

During the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children. Ask everyone to get in the boat and say the verse again. Pretend to rock the boat and then say, "STOP." Then say the verse again. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "There is a boat on our floor! How fun! Let's say our memory verse together and then we can all get in the boat! *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57. Great job!"

During the Activity: "Let's all get into the boat! (*Get in boat.*) Uh-oh! I think I see a storm coming! (*Place hand over your eyes like you are looking far away.*) Yes, here it comes! (*Pretend to rock the boat.*) STOP! Whew! The storm stopped just like in our story today. Let's say our verse again! *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57. Great job!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun pretending to be in a storm! Jesus is the only one who can really stop the storm. He is always there when we need Him. He is all we need, just like our verse says! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**"

2. Calm Waters

What You Need: "Boat" Activity Page, white paper, crayons, blue construction paper, scissors, and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Boat" Activity Page onto the paper. Cut the boat out along the dotted lines. You will need one boat per child.

During the Activity: Give each child a boat and a piece of blue construction paper. Help each child glue the boat onto the paper. Encourage the children to color the boat as you retell the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our Bible story today was very exciting! Let's make a picture that will remind us of our amazing Bible story!"

During the Activity: (*Give each child a boat and piece of blue paper.*) "Use your glue stick to glue the boat onto the paper. (*Allow the children to work.*) Awesome! Now you can use the crayons to color your boat. (*Encourage the children to color.*) Jesus was on a boat with His friends. They were fishing. But then a HUGE storm came and rocked the boat and Jesus' friends were very scared! Do you remember what Jesus did next? (*Pause.*) YES! He said, 'STOP,' and the storm stopped! That is amazing!"

After the Activity: “Jesus will always give us what we need. He is always there when we need Him, just like He was there for the men in the boat! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**”

3. All the Time

“All the Time” is an activity that gives the children a visual of how God’s love is never ending.

What You Need: “Time” Activity Page, black and yellow tissue paper squares, and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Time” Activity Page. You will need one page per child.

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page and some tissue squares. Help the children glue the yellow tissue squares on the “day” side of the Activity Page and the black squares on the “night” side.

After the Activity: Remind the children that Jesus is there when you need Him: ALL THE TIME!

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Jesus is always there when we need Him. It doesn’t matter what time it is! He is always there!”

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and some tissue squares.) “Look at the side with a sun on it. *(Point.)* That is the day side. Glue the yellow squares on the day side. *(Point.)* Great job! Now the side with the moon and stars is the night side. Glue the black squares on that side. Beautiful!”

After the Activity: “It doesn’t matter if it is during the day or very late at night, Jesus is always there when you need Him. **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**”