

## Session 22

# Jesus quietens the storm God is greater than the storms around us

The children experience that God is greater than the storms happening around them. God is and stays in control of the storms around us.

**Scripture: Mark 4:35-41**

### Supplies:

- ◆ Blue material/blanket
- ◆ Ball/soft item
- ◆ Poster with Psalm 56:4
- ◆ Picture of a boat
- ◆ Pictures of waves
- ◆ Pictures of fears
- ◆ Hands with Psalm 56:4 written on it
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Popsicle sticks
- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Cardboard waves
- ◆ Crayons
- ◆ Bottles
- ◆ Glue to stick bottle caps
- ◆ Blue and silver glitter
- ◆ Dishwashing liquid
- ◆ Baby oil
- ◆ Different coloured paper to make the boat
- ◆ White stones
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Thin black markers to outline pictures on the stones



### WELCOME

Let the children stand around a big piece of blue material or blanket and place a ball in the middle. Let the children shake the material up and down while trying to keep the ball on top of the material. One person must shout: "Stop!" The group must stop shaking the material immediately. Repeat the game a few times.



### WORSHIP

Do the **settle down ritual** as in session 21 and sing the **theme song** you chose last time.



### WORD

*(Ask the children to lie on their backs and to close their eyes and listen to the following story.)*

Mark 4:35-41 *(Use your voice to tell the story. Start with a quiet voice and end the story loud and fast when it comes to the storm.)*

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with

him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

*(The children can now sit upright while you tell the rest of the story otherwise they'll fall asleep).*

Christians think that when you believe in God bad things won't happen to you. The reality is that bad things happen to everyone. Our lives are sometimes like boats on the sea that go through storms. *(Put a picture of a boat on the wall.)* If you are a child of God, you are privileged to have the Creator of the wind and sea with you on your lifeboat. He is always in control, even though it doesn't always feel that way. God never leaves anyone alone.

What the storms in our lives are sometimes like:

*(Put pictures of waves under the boat and pictures of the children's fears on the waves.)*

Ask the children to name things that feel like storms in their lives. What are the things that scare them, make them sad or anxious?

Stuff that makes me scared, anxious or sad:

\*When mom and dad fight/divorce

\*When other children bully me

\*When other children tease me or tell stories about me that aren't true

\*Bugs and snakes

\*Monsters

\*The dark

*(Each group's circumstances are different. Feel free to add different circumstances that cause different fears in children's lives.)*

Glue pictures of the waves underneath the boat.

Remind the children of Psalm 56:4 and take out the hands that you cut out beforehand. Show the children that we symbolically reach out our hands with all five fingers when we want to show someone or something to stop. We are now going to tell our fears to stop by holding up our hands while reciting Psalm 56:4.

Show the pictures of the children's fears one by one. Take a hand and glue it on top of another hand. For example, you don't have to be scared when your mom and dad fight, because Psalm 56:4 reminds us... *(children say):* "The day I am scared, I think of You."

Repeat this with all the pictures and words that you wrote on the waves.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank you that we can know that we don't have to be scared of anything. We can always trust in You.

### ***The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:***

1. I wonder what the disciples thought when Jesus lay sleeping in the boat while there was a storm outside.
2. I wonder how you would feel if you were with them in the boat.
3. I wonder how you would feel if you knew that God would never leave you alone.
4. I wonder how you could help someone else going through a difficult time.



## WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

✍ Give the children a bowl full of water with bubble bath or dishwashing liquid and let them play with their hands in the bowls to make bubbles. Give them a chance to think about the storms in their lives while they play with it. Let them take their hands out of the water, show “stop” with their hands while reciting Psalm 56:4.

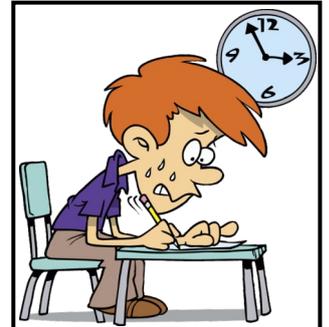
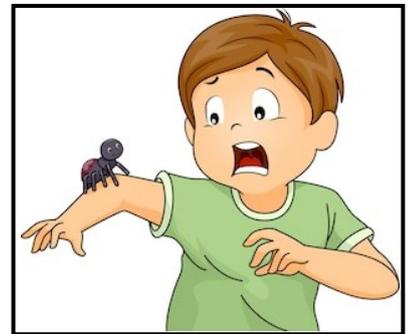
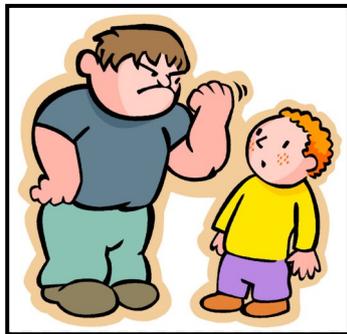
✍ Story stones:

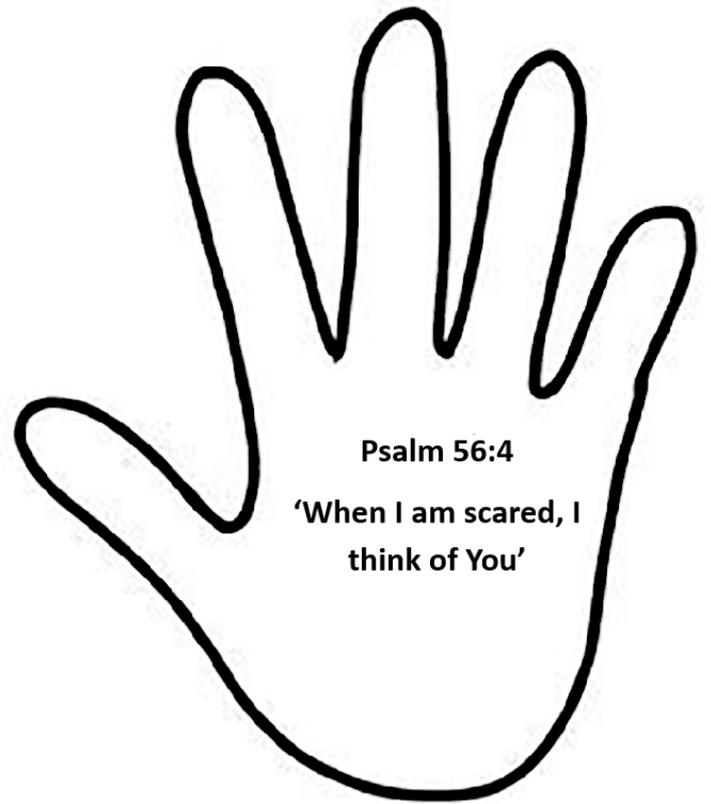
<https://methodistchildrencreativeministry.org/2015/05/20/telling-stories-with-story-stones/>

Story stones are a great way of telling stories with small groups of children. Paint stones yourself or print out some pictures and glue them to stones. Use the pictures on the stones to tell your Bible story and then let the children play with them and retell the story themselves if they want to!

### Benediction:

Close with the blessing as in session 21.





<https://meaningfulmama.com/jesus-calms-storm-craft-awana-cubbies-bear-hug-17.html>