

8 My Great Big God is powerful

Based on Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25

Introduction

Rebekah had a puppy. He was cute with a waggy tail but boy was he a rascal! He got so excited when people called over that he jumped and barked and flew about the place, usually knocking things off tables and nearly knocking Rebekah off her feet. Rebekah tried to calm him down. She said things like, "Sit!" and "Down!" But the puppy just got more excited. She had no power over him. He just did what he wanted to do.

There's a story in the Bible that shows us another really special characteristic or quality that God has that makes Him extra special. God is Powerful! It's hard to teach a puppy how to behave and in our Bible story Jesus did something that shows He is God because He has power over nature; the wind and the sea.

Story

'The Calming of the Storm' can be read straight from the Bible. Good News, International Children's Bible and New Living translations have child-friendly language and can be found on www.biblegateway.com.

A brilliant storybook which would also be useful is: 'The Storm that Stopped' (Tales that tell the Truth) by Alison Mitchell and Catalina Echeverri.

This is an exciting true story that shows how amazing God is that He has power over nature; the wind and the sea.

Jesus was sleeping when the storm came. He felt safe because He knew God, His father was always with Him. When the storm came, the disciples were really, really scared, even though Jesus was with them. They could have been hurt if the storm didn't stop and they woke Jesus in a panic. All Jesus had to do was speak. Not shout, but speak calmly and command the waves and the wind to stop. They didn't just slow down. They stopped straight away!

Have you ever been to the beach? Have you jumped up and down and watched as the waves splosh about at your ankles. They usually fade away when the wind dies down, they can't normally just stop. Jesus instantly calmed the angry wind and the huge waves. This was a miracle - a special thing Jesus did to show He is God.

Remember Rebekah and her puppy? Well, a puppy is pretty hard to train; to teach him what's naughty and what's good behaviour. In this Bible story, God did something that was even more tricky. We can't control animals, people, the wind or the waves, but God can. God is all powerful. He has power over nature because He made it. He has power over all Creation because He created everything.

When we read this story we can feel safe, because God is all powerful and in control. When things are hard, scary or sad it can feel a bit like we are in a storm but we don't need to be afraid. We can ask God to help us and trust that He will. Nothing can stop God's plan and even though everything can feel messy, God is in all powerful.

Below is a clip telling the story of Jesus calming the storm (Middleback Kids) <https://youtu.be/uYLHqdS090Y>

Activity sheet

There is an image of Jesus and the disciples in the boat for this week's activity. There are five images in a box at the bottom of the image. Ask the girls to find and circle the images from the box that are hidden inside the picture.

The sticker says 'God is all powerful.'

Craft

(Lollipop stick boat with disciples and stormy sea)

You will need:

- A5 piece of card or paper x2

- lollipop stick
- glue/sellotape
- scissors
- colouring pencils/pens

Instructions:

- 1: Colour clouds, raindrops, lightning bolts and waves on the first page;
- 2: Cut and colour a strip of paper for the waves and glue onto the first page leaving a hole to place lollipop stick through;
- 3: Make a little boat with disciples in it using the leftover paper or card and glue this onto your lollipop stick;
- 4: Write Mark 4:41 at the bottom of your page; "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey Him?"

Prayer

Using a large piece of blue material or strips of blue material (a games parachute would do), each girl can hold on to the edge and move the material up and down fiercely.

"Father God, thank you that you are powerful. Thank you that you are in control during stormy times in our lives."

Stop moving the material and hold it really still. "Father God, thank you that you are in the quiet, you are always with us and you want to help us. Please help us to trust you more and more each day. In your power, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen"

Songs

Jesus Calms the Storm (Two by two) <https://youtu.be/HFE0fLbPBs>

Power Shuffle (Everest VBS Music Video) <https://youtu.be/JNEAtmq6oTE>

My God is powerful (Everest VBS Music Video) <https://youtu.be/Y1MDCwirYoQ>

My God is so big and so strong and so mighty <https://youtu.be/YUageJdwyPY>

God's Power <https://youtu.be/wYjwmDKKnmk>

I sing the Mighty Power of God (Everest VBS Music Video) <https://youtu.be/Qb63JKS3BaA>

