

## Sunday between June 19 and 25 – year B

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### Preparation

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Read the Gospel [Mark 4:25-41](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/properb7.htm>

[http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534\\_7493\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534_7493_ENG_HTML.htm): scroll down to today's date

[http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming\\_faith.cfm?reading\\_id=325](http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?reading_id=325)

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent2kles.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent2kart.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/storm.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/peace-be-still.html>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

**For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.**

**For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.**

**For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Tell the children about a time you were really afraid and what you did to get through the situation. Then ask them to describe a time that they were afraid and how they worked through it. The feelings of being afraid are very powerful and we usually need to calm down before we know what to do next. Explain that in today's story, Jesus got very afraid and he did something which took them a long time to understand.

## Story Time

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### Materials needed

- A long piece of rope that you can put into a boat shape on the floor
- A small bowl of water

### Instructions

Set out the rope into a boat shape on the floor, so that all the children and yourself can get inside it. Have a bowl of water nearby.

*Start with the children outside the boat shape.*

Jesus had been teaching his friends and the people following them all day. They had been beside the Sea of Galilee on the hills near there. He was feeling very tired. Jesus called us his friends over to the lake side, He said, “Let us get into the boat and go over to the other side. There are people over there who need to hear about God’s kingdom.”

Jesus and his friends climbed into the boat. Other people got into their boats as well, They set up their sails and began to make their way across the lake.

*With the children, climb into the boat shape and sit down in it together, leaving some room at one end.*

While they were in their boat, a great windstorm came up. The wind blew and blew. The waves got bigger and bigger. The wind blew and blew, and the waves got bigger and bigger.

*Begin to rock in the boat and have the children match your actions.*

*As the children continue to rock, gently splash some water from the bowl on everyone.*

Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat. He was asleep on a cushion. Jesus’ friends began talking amongst themselves. They were wondering why he didn’t wake up. The wind blew and blew, and the waves got bigger and bigger.

*With the children, look at the back of the boat where the empty space is.*

*Have the children continue to rock and gently splash them with the water again.*

Jesus’ friends were getting more and more afraid. They thought the boat was going to get swamped by the waves. They decided they needed to wake Jesus up. They woke him up and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we might all die? Look at this storm. We are all very afraid.”

Jesus looked at the wind and waves. Then he stood up. Jesus said to the blowing wind and crashing waves: “Peace! Be still!”

*Stand up to say this next part.*

All at once the wind stopped its blowing and the waves calmed down. Jesus looked at his friends and said, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Jesus friends were amazed by what had happened. They all looked at each other with their mouths open. They said to each other, “Who is this Jesus that even the wind and the waves obey him?”

*With the children get out of the boat and put the rope and the bowl of water away before moving into the next section of the lesson.*

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Faith Boat

*Today's story is one that children can easily retell and share with their families. This response will give them a boat that they can use to do that.*

#### Materials needed

- small plastic tubs (small margarine tubs or something like that)
- pipe cleaners
- construction paper
- scissors
- tape
- markers
- play dough

#### Instructions

Set up the craft materials for the children. Suggest that they use them to create a boat that shows Jesus and his friends.

Some suggestions: use pipe cleaners to make stick-like people, use a pipe cleaner and piece of construction paper for a mast and sail, use the play dough to anchor the sail into the boat or the people in, write words on construction paper strip that describe the story and have the children tape it to the side of the container. Let the children come up with their own suggestions as well. As the children are working, chat with them about how it is sometimes hard to have faith when we are afraid and that Jesus' friends never forgot this story. Share each others creations 'faith boats' when they are finished. Suggest that they use their boats to share today's story with their families.

### Project Idea 2: Peace Water Colour Painting

*Today's story has lots of action, so one way to respond is to do a quieter activity. This response will give the children a chance to reflect on Jesus' use of the word 'peace'.*

#### Materials needed

- light coloured construction paper
- white crayons
- blue tempera paint
- paint brushes
- small bowls
- newspapers

#### Instructions

Spread the newspapers on the work area. Put the paint into the small bowls and water it down so that it is fairly thin. Print up the word "**Peace**" so that the children can see it. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have them print the word onto their construction paper with the white crayon. Suggest to the children that they press hard with the crayon and make the letters as big as possible. Once they have the word printed on the paper, show them how to brush the watered down blue paint across the word. As they are painting remind the children how Jesus spoke the word peace to the wind and waves and they calmed down. Enjoy with the children how the word, peace, shows up when they have painted over it. Encourage the children to share their paintings with their families and share today's story with them.

### **Project Idea 3: Sidewalk Chalk Drawing**

*If you have a sidewalk or a driveway close to the church, this will be a fun activity to do together outside if you have a sunny day.*

#### **Materials needed**

- sidewalk chalk
- sidewalk close to the church
- sunny day

#### **Instructions**

Take the children outside. Go over some safety rules – everyone stays within sight of you, share the chalk fairly, no going off the sidewalk and onto the street. Suggest to the children that they draw a picture of what happened in today's story. They could also write out the words '**Peace**', '**Be Still**', '**Faith**' on the sidewalk and decorate them as well. As the children are working, talk with them how they are sharing the message of Jesus with the rest of the community by sharing their art with them. Have fun together!

### **Closing**

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Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,  
Friend Jesus be with us each day,  
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,  
Amen.**