



LESSON 10

Jesus demonstrates His authority

LUKE 8:22-39



Jesus is God.



“He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, ‘Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?’”

(Luke 8:25).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is God the Son.
2. Jesus has God’s power to save from the natural world and the supernatural world.
3. Jesus has God’s love to save the weak and the unclean.
4. Those who see Jesus’ power fear Him.
5. Those who receive Jesus’ love respond by loving and obeying Him.

Objectives

1. Answer the disciples’ question, “Who can this be?”
2. Describe what Jesus did to the storm and the demons.
3. Describe how Jesus showed love to the disciples and the Gentiles.
4. Compare how the disciples, the demons, and the townspeople responded to Jesus.
5. Contrast the response of the man who had the demons with that of the people.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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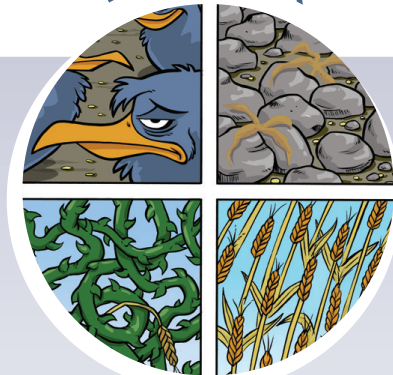
Lesson Summary

Jesus led the disciples across the Sea of Galilee into Gentile country. First, He led them into a storm that nearly drowned them all, but despite the disciples' fear and doubt, Jesus calmed the storm. Second, Jesus and His disciples were threatened by a demon-possessed man, but again, Jesus commanded and brought peace. In both cases those who observed His great power feared Him. Most responded by rejecting Him, but one man—the healed man—loved and obeyed Him.

Spotlight on the Gospel

These miracles prove that Jesus has the power and love of God. He has power over both the natural and the supernatural. As a result, He has power to bring peace, both physical and spiritual, and He has power both to save and to cleanse. He also showed His love by caring for His disciples, by healing the demon-possessed man, and by repeatedly offering salvation to Gentiles. So all who wish to be saved must fear and love Jesus as the true God.

LAST WEEK



**Jesus teaches the parable
of the soil**
Mark 4:1–20

THIS WEEK



**Jesus demonstrates His
authority**
Luke 8:22–39

NEXT WEEK



**Jesus has power over
disease and death**
Mark 5:21–43

JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is God.

Luke wrote his gospel so that we can know that Jesus is the one sent to bring peace to the whole world (Luke 1:4; 2:14, 32). But there is so much wrong with this world—what kind of man is able to bring peace in the midst of such chaos? Only God Himself, for He alone possesses supernatural power and love. In today's story, Jesus shows us that He possesses this power and love. He can bring peace because He is in fact God in human flesh (Col 2:9).

Divine power over nature, divine love for the faithless (8:22–25)

Jesus' decision to cross the Sea of Galilee with His disciples reveals two things (Luke 8:22). First, it reveals His love. For the first time, Jesus was going into Gentile territory. "The other side of the lake" means the east side, the *Decapolis, an area of ten Gentile cities*. By going to the Gentiles, Jesus fulfilled God's promise that the Messiah would come to offer salvation to all people, both Jew (clean) and Gentile (unclean) (Luke 2:32; Isa 49:6).

Second, Jesus' decision reveals His power. He was in control. It was Jesus who led His disciples through the storm. And it was Jesus who led His disciples into Gentile lands, even when at least some of His followers did not want to go (Matt 8:18, 21). Jesus

led them into the storm and into unclean territory so that they could see His great power and love. He was teaching them to trust Him, love Him, and love others as He did.

But as they crossed the sea, a violent windstorm suddenly swept over them (Luke 8:23). The waves were so fierce that Matthew described his experience that night as a "water-quake" (Matt 8:24). The Sea of Galilee is smaller than other lakes, but the wind that swoops down from the surrounding ridges causes waves much bigger than other, even larger, lakes. This particular storm was so fierce that the disciples, some of whom were experienced fisherman,

thought they were going to die (Luke 8:24).

Yet Jesus, in a tender display of His humanity, was fast asleep, worn out by a full day of teaching and healing. After being awakened by His disciples, Jesus responded with incredible power, showing that He is much more than a man. He calmed the chaotic wind and waves, bringing instant peace. In so doing, He fulfilled Psalm 107:28–29: "Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed." God alone is strong enough to rule the raging sea (Ps 89:8–9), yet Jesus did so by His own power and authority.

Jesus then rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith (Luke 8:25; Mark 4:40). But what *faith* did they lack? First, they failed to *trust* God. It was God who set boundaries for the sea (Gen 1:10); it was God who parted the Red Sea and the Jordan River (Exod 14:21; Josh 3); God rescued Jonah from the storm He had created (Jonah 1); and God alone rules as King over the waters (Ps 29:10; 65:7). Jesus knew all this, and He trusted the Father so much that He slept in peace (4:8) while the disciples shouted in panic.

Second, the disciples failed to trust Jesus. Even though they had seen Him perform many miracles, they did not trust Jesus' power to rescue them. They asked Him to save them (Matt 8:25), but deep down they expected to die (Luke 8:24). They also doubted Jesus' love, saying, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38). They called Jesus "Lord" (Matt 8:25), "Teacher" (Mark 4:38), and "Master" (Luke 8:24), but they still wondered who Jesus really was (Luke 8:25).

The disciples also feared. In fact, they were more afraid now than when the storm threatened to drown them (Mark 4:41)! Why so much fear? They realized they were in the presence of One whose power was even greater than the storm. And their



THINK ABOUT IT

Do not fear trouble: Jesus uses it to reveal Himself to you.



THINK ABOUT IT

When trouble arises, remember that Jesus cares for you: cast all your cares on Him (1 Pet 5:7).

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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fear was a good thing (Ps 31:19; 34:9). Those who do not fear God resist Him as Pharaoh did (Exod 9:30). They indulge in evil without restraint because they have little respect for God and His ways (Rom 3:18; Matt 10:28).

Divine power over the supernatural, divine love for the unclean (8:26–39)

After the storm, Jesus encountered another chaotic scene: two demon possessed men (Matt 8:28). Luke mentions just one, probably because he was the leader of the two. These men were filled with demons—the word “legion” describes a military unit that included up to 6,000 men (Luke 8:30). These demons controlled the man, causing great physical harm to him and to others (Mark 5:5; Matt 8:28). They also drove him away from his home, out of his clothes, and into the tombs, which made him even more unclean (Luke 8:27).

Yet the demons cowered in fear before Jesus because they knew the answer to the disciples’ question (Luke 8:28; cf. 8:25). They knew that not even their leader, Satan himself, could stand against the power of God the Son (Ps 2:7, 12; Matt 3:17–4:11). But they also knew that Christ would judge them at His second coming, not at His first (Rev 20:10). So they begged not to be locked up in the abyss, a temporary prison where some demons are locked up until the tribulation (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Rev 9:1–2, 11). At Jesus’ command, the demons left the man and entered a herd of pigs on the hillside nearby (Luke 8:32). The pigs rushed down the steep bank and plunged to their death in the lake below (8:33).

As the last squeals were silenced by the water, peace reigned and the man was totally healed (8:35). But the people from the nearby Gentile towns were not at all thankful! In fact, they asked Jesus to leave (8:37). The people, like the disciples, feared Jesus, because they realized that someone even more powerful than a legion of demons was standing before them. But unlike the disciples, they rejected

Jesus. His power threatened their way of life. So, like all unbelievers, they decided it was better to live with pain and evil than to be changed by the power of Christ.

Their response shows that there are different kinds of fear. The *fear of believers* is a holy awe or reverence of God which leads them to hate sin and come to Jesus (Isa 6:5; Luke 5:8). This kind of fear rejoices in the awesome power of God. But the *fear of unbelievers* is a slavish dread of just punishment from the mighty God (Rom 8:15). The people from the surrounding towns had the second fear. Which do you have?

The people rejected Jesus, but He did not give up on them. Instead, He sent them a missionary, one who had experienced Jesus’ miraculous power and supernatural love. This man was so transformed that he did even more than Jesus commanded, spreading the news not just in his hometown but in all the region of Decapolis (Luke 8:39). In fact, on Jesus’ next visit to this area, He was greeted by a crowd of 4,000 people, drawn to Jesus by the news of His incredible power and love (Mark 7:31–8:9).

What made this man so different? Why did he want to be with Jesus (Luke 8:38) while the weak-faith disciples and the no-faith townspeople feared Jesus? Why was he willing to give up his desire in order to obey the mission Jesus had given him? It’s all because he realized who Jesus is. When Jesus told him to go and tell how much God had done for him, the man responded by going and telling how much Jesus had done for him (8:39). This man was changed because he knew *Jesus* was in fact God in human flesh, the only One powerful and loving enough to bring peace to his stormy life.

THINK ABOUT IT

It is impossible to remain silent when we’ve experienced the life changing power and love of Jesus!



Lesson Outline

Jesus is God.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



Fear and love Jesus because . . .

1. He has God's power over the world you can see (8:22–25).
2. He has God's power over the world you cannot see (8:26–39).
3. He has God's love when you doubt (8:22–25).
4. He has God's love when you are dirty with sin (8:26–39).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. Divine power over nature, divine love for the faithless (8:22–25).
 - Jesus led the disciples into the storm (8:22).
 - A powerful storm was about to destroy them (8:23–24a).
 - Jesus had power over the storm and brought peace (8:24b).
 - The disciples feared and wondered who Jesus was (8:25).
2. Divine power over the supernatural, divine love for the unclean (8:26–39).
 - Jesus came to unclean Gentiles (8:26).
 - Powerful demons were causing destruction (8:27, 29–30).
 - Jesus had power over the demons and brought peace (8:28, 31–35).
 - The Gentiles feared and rejected Jesus (8:34–37).
 - The healed man loved, obeyed, and told others about Jesus (8:38–39).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

Jesus demonstrates His authority • Luke 8:22–39



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

1. **Why were the disciples afraid?**
A huge storm was sinking their boat.
2. **What did Jesus do?**
He spoke and calmed the storm right away.
3. **What was wrong with the man who lived among the tombs?**
Many demons were living in him.
4. **What did Jesus do?**
He made the demons go out and completely healed the man.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

1. **Whose choice was it to sail that night?**
Jesus decided, showing that He leads us through hard times on purpose so that we may know Him better.
2. **What faith did the disciples not have?**
They did not trust God, and they did not trust Jesus to have power and love to save them.
3. **After the storm (and after the demons), what was the result?**
Peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, who came to make peace on earth.
4. **What did the disciples and the townspeople feel when they saw Jesus' power?**
They all rightly feared Him, but they responded differently to that fear.
5. **Who did the demons know Jesus was?**
The Son of the Most High God.
6. **What did the demons beg Jesus not to do?**
To torment them in the abyss.
7. **What did the healed man do after Jesus left?**
He eagerly obeyed Jesus and told about Jesus in all of the Decapolis.
8. **What did the healed man realize about Jesus?**
He realized the point of both miracles: Jesus is God, with God's power and God's love.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

FROG STORY

Bring a real or pretend frog to class. What makes a frog a frog? Is it his warts or beady eyes? Apart from its appearance, we can often tell a frog from other animals by what it can do. It hops from pad to pad, swims in the water, and croaks. When we hear a croaking sound near a pond, we immediately think of a frog. In today's lesson, we will learn some things Jesus is able to do: Jesus was able to control both nature and demons. The fact that Jesus could do such things proves that He is indeed the Son of God.

REMOTE CONTROL

Jesus controls absolutely everything (Heb 1:3). Bring a radio controlled car to class and have someone secretly take the remote into another room. First push the car in front of the class and ask them who is controlling the car. Then step back and allow the other person to move the car using the remote. Do they know who is controlling the car now? In today's lesson, we will learn that we never need to look around and wonder who's controlling things. Even if we cannot see it, God is in control of everything.



ILLUSTRATE

A DAY ON THE SEA

Make a boat for the children to sit inside during the lesson. Use tape to form the outline of a boat on the floor and use cardboard or butcher paper to create sides. Bring props: oars, a bucket to bail out water, blue paper to be shaken (and confetti tossed) for the storm, and a spray bottle of water. During the second part of the story, have the children get out of the boat and sit on the "land." Decorate the land with paper pigs or pig stuffed animals.

MAKING A STORM

Recreate the storm in today's lesson. Tell the children to begin blowing softly. Next (while still blowing), begin patting your knees with your hands, softly at first. Finally (while still blowing and patting), start stomping your feet on the ground, slowly at first. While doing all three motions, slowly increase the intensity. Flip the lights on and off as the storm reaches its climax. Finally, snap your fingers and calm the storm at once.



APPLY

JESUS SHOWS HIS AUTHORITY

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, cardstock, glue, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Color and cut out all pieces from the craft sheet. Fold a piece of blue cardstock in half to form an apex. On one side of the cardstock glue the boat and the sail. On the other side of the cardstock glue the remaining pictures.

Jesus Shows His Authority
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

KEEPING IT CALM

Much to His disciples' astonishment, Jesus immediately calmed the storm with a simple word. The difficulty of doing this is immediately apparent when one considers the nature of water: it's almost impossible to keep it still! Fill a small cup with water. Make sure that it is completely full; right to the brim! See if any of the children can walk across the room and back without spilling any of the water. Today we're going to learn that Jesus can control even the mighty seas.

THE POSSESSED MAN'S STORY

Pretend to be the man healed of demon possession in today's lesson. Tell the story from his perspective, speaking as one who had first-hand knowledge. He might describe the miraculous calming of the wind and the waves from his vantage point on the shore.



ILLUSTRATE

FILLED BY A DEMON

To be demon-possessed means to have a demon living in you, controlling you, and using your body in order to carry out its purposes. Be sure to explain that a true Christian cannot be indwelt by a demon because the Holy Spirit lives in him (Rom 8:9–11). You might illustrate demon possession by bringing a balloon to class and blowing it up. Although we can't see the air, it is causing the balloon to become big and round. In a similar way, demons "fill" people even though we can't see them.

KING OF THE UNIVERSE

The lion is often called the "king of the jungle" because it is more powerful than any other animal on the African Savanna. Show the children pictures of other animals that live alongside the lion: mouse, boa constrictor, crocodile, rhino, gazelle, hyena, elephant, ostrich, zebra, etc. Talk about which animals might, at times, challenge the lion for supremacy. Use this activity to highlight the supernatural power of Jesus. He is truly "King of the Universe," for there is no other person or power that can challenge His rule.



APPLY

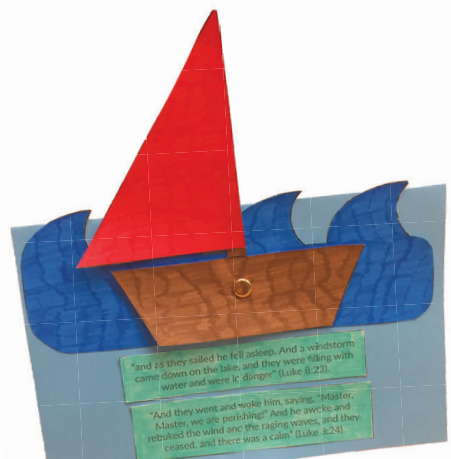
CALMING THE STORM

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheets, brads, cardstock, glue, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Have students color and cut out pieces from the two craft sheets. Glue waves to a sheet of white cardstock. Glue the sail to the boat and attach the boat to the cardstock with a brad. Glue the verses to the bottom of the cardstock.

Calming the Storm
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

GOD GRACIOUSLY RESTORES

In today's lesson, Jesus uses two scary things to show us how powerful and loving He is. See if the children can correctly identify these common fears:

- (1) Arachnophobia – The fear of spiders.
- (2) Acrophobia – The fear of heights.
- (3) Claustrophobia – The fear of small spaces.
- (4) Germophobia – The fear of germs.
- (5) Aquaphobia – The fear of water.

WHO AM I?

Describe someone in the class by talking about their appearance, abilities, interests, and family. Have the children try to guess who you are describing. Explain that these characteristics reveal who the person is. In today's lesson, we'll learn that Jesus was able to calm a storm and cast out demons. These things showed that He is the Son of God.



ILLUSTRATE

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Describe a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Explain that even though the sea is small (you can see across it), even a small breeze can create waves big enough to body surf in. Show a picture of the sea and the surrounding hills and explain how wind can suddenly plunge down from the Golan Heights plateau and create sudden and severe storms. In 1992, one storm created waves 10 feet tall that crashed into Tiberias and caused significant damage to the city. In 1986, a fishing boat from Jesus' time was discovered. It was 27 feet long, 7.5 feet wide, and only 4.5 feet high—10 foot waves would have been extremely dangerous!

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

A loving earthly father provides an excellent illustration of good, healthy, godly fear. Children simultaneously fear and love godly fathers. They are awed by their father's strength, but they joyfully run into their father's arms. Their father's great strength causes them to run to, and not away from, their father. They know their father's strength will only be used to help, not harm, them.



APPLY

BE STILL, MY SOUL

Sing the hymn "Be Still, My Soul" by Katharine A. Von Schlegel at the end of the lesson. Be sure to point out the part that says, "Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below."