TEACHER’S GUIDE

GRADES 1-2

YEAR 1 | SPRING

Sunday School
I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)
Looking Back at Lesson 4

The Parable of the Farmer and the Seed
Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

Aim: What do people do when the Word of God is preached?

Truth: Some people turn away from God’s Word, but some people believe it and show their faith.

Application: As we hear God’s Word, the Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe it.

Response: We show our faith by serving God.

Lesson Summary: Jesus told a parable about a farmer who scattered seed. The seed fell on a hard path, on rocky places, among thorns, and on good soil. Only seed that fell onto good soil produced a rich crop. Later Jesus explained that the seed is the Word of God. The hard path, rocky places, and thorns represent three types of people who hear God’s Word but either refuse to believe it or lose their faith. The seed that fell on good ground is like people who hear God’s Word, believe it, and produce fruits of faith.

Memory Treasures: *Romans 10:17; Hymn 282:1

How did Jesus help his disciples during a terrible storm?

Jesus helped his disciples by calming the storm.

Application: Jesus has power to help us in times of trouble.

Response: We are confident that Jesus will help us in times of trouble.

Lesson Summary: Jesus and his disciples were sailing across the Sea of Galilee when a terrible storm arose and threatened to sink their boat. Jesus was asleep, and the terrified disciples cried out to him for help. Jesus used his almighty power to stop the storm immediately.

* Genesis 1:1
* Matthew 11:28
* A portion of the Lord’s Prayer


Dear Jesus, when my troubles overwhelm me, remind me of your limitless power and love. Forgive me for my weak faith, and help me trust that you will help me. Amen.
WORSHIP

Sing: Ask who alone has power to protect us from troubles. [God.] Remind the children that the worst trouble God protects us from is the devil. Sing Psalm 31 (hymnal, page 77). Speak or say the verses, and have the children join you in singing the refrain.

Pray: Dear God, you surely are able to protect us from anything that could harm us. We thank you most of all for sending Jesus to save us from the punishment we deserve because of our sins. Thank you for your power and love. Amen.

Show creation pictures (sun, flowers, animals) or pictures of Jesus’ miracles with which the children are familiar.

Discuss how amazing it is that the Lord made all things out of nothing. (Discuss the miracles.) Ask why Jesus is able to do such amazing things. [He is true God and has the power to do anything.]

Today’s lesson tells how Jesus used his power to help his disciples learn to trust him. Listen to find out how Jesus helped his disciples during a terrible storm.

Alternate Lesson Plan

Sing: Ask what almighty means. Explain that Jesus uses his almighty power to care for our bodies (by providing food, clothes, and shelter) and our souls (by saving us from our sins). Sing “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (hymn 234:1).

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on a cross to take care of our biggest problem—sin. We know that you will always help us with our problems and protect us. We praise you, almighty Lord! Amen.

Ask why a teacher’s job is important. [Teachers help students learn.] Explain that only one teacher did the job perfectly, and that teacher was Jesus. Ask who Jesus’ students were. [Disciples.] Ask what was the most important thing he taught them. [That he is the Savior.]

In today’s lesson we will learn how Jesus taught his disciples to trust him. Listen to find out how Jesus helped his disciples during a terrible storm.
One day Jesus was preaching near the Sea of Galilee. Many people had come to hear him. They had also brought their sick friends and relatives to Jesus so that he would heal them.

Jesus preached God’s Word and healed people all day long. When night came, he was very tired. Jesus wanted to be alone with his disciples and to get some rest. So he told his disciples, “Let’s go to the other side of the sea.”

They got into a boat and started to sail across the sea. Jesus went to the back of the boat, rested his head on a cushion, and fell asleep. Suddenly a terrible storm came up! The wind blew hard! Big waves came over the side of the boat, and it began to fill with water! Yet Jesus did not wake up!

The disciples were afraid the boat would sink at any moment. They became very frightened and cried out, “Jesus, save us! We’re going to drown!”

When Jesus woke up and saw how scared his disciples were, he said, “Why are you so afraid? Where is your faith?” Then he stood up in the boat and spoke to the wind and the waves. “Quiet! Be still!” he said. At once the wind died down and the sea became calm. Everything was quiet again.

Jesus’ miracle filled the disciples with wonder. They asked one another, “Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” Jesus had used his almighty power to show his disciples that he is the Son of God.
Discuss

Enlarge pictures made from **Copy Master 2**. Glue each to a piece of **poster board**, leaving a wide frame around the outside for drawing sketches or writing phrases. Attach a sheet of **paper** over each picture to hide it temporarily.

**Ask** When Jesus got into a boat with his disciples after a long day of preaching and healing, what suddenly happened?

[A storm blew in.]

**Why did the big waves scare the disciples?** [If enough water came into the boat, it could sink. The disciples could drown.]

**Say** Show what Jesus was doing during the storm.

[All pretend to sleep.]

**Ask** Why did the disciples cry out to Jesus for help?

[They had seen Jesus do many miracles and knew he had the power to help.]

**What are some troubles you are afraid might happen to you?**

[Allow several responses. If a child names one of the troubles included on the poster (loneliness or sickness), reveal that picture. Draw sketches or write short phrases on the wide frames for each of the other troubles named by the children.]

**Do** Reveal and discuss the two pictures if you have not already done so.

**Say** Just as the disciples cried out to Jesus when they were in trouble, we pray for help in times of trouble and trust that Jesus will answer our prayers.

**Ask** Why did the wind and waves obey Jesus? [Jesus is God and has power over all things. He made the wind and waves.]

**What did Jesus use to calm the storm?** [He used his almighty power.]

**Say** Jesus also has almighty power to help us in times of **trouble**.

**Do** Tell the children to imagine a friend saying to them, “A storm ruined our house, but none of us got hurt! We were really lucky!”

**Ask** What would you explain to your friend? [Luck does not protect us in times of trouble. Jesus does! Jesus has power over everything, even storms. He’s the one who takes care of us.]

**Say** We are sure that Jesus has the power to help us with any trouble that comes our way.

**Each child needs crayons and a piece of drawing paper.**

**Do** Give the children two minutes to draw something they are afraid of. Explain that they will not have to share their drawings if they do not wish to.

**Say** The disciples were very afraid of a **storm**.

**Ask** Why did the waves and the storm scare the disciples? [Their boat could sink, and they could drown.] How do you know that Jesus was not afraid of the storm? [He slept in the back of the boat during the storm.] Why did the disciples think Jesus could help them? [They had seen Jesus do many miracles and knew he had great power.]

**Do** Read or recite the Genesis 1:1 memory treasure.

**Ask** So why did the wind and waves have to obey Jesus? [He made them. He is God and has power over everything.]

**Do** Have those who are willing show their pictures. For each
picture, ask the students what they would say to help the child who has a trouble like the one pictured. Example: For a picture of a child with a broken arm, a classmate could say, “I’ll play games and watch movies with you to keep you company. I’ll pray that Jesus will use his power to heal your arm.”

**Say**  We know that Jesus has power to help us with any kind of trouble.

**Ask**  How did Jesus help his disciples during a storm? [He calmed the storm.]

**Say**  Jesus created the world, including the wind and the waves, and he has power over all things. We are sure he can help us whenever we have troubles.

**Do**  Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for using your almighty power to help us! Strengthen our faith so that we always trust you in times of trouble. Amen.

**Parent Idea:** After reading “Jesus Calms the Storm” with your child, name some powerful people. Then do the first activity on the student lesson to remember who has all power.

**CLOSE**

**Ask**  How did Jesus help his disciples during a terrible storm? [Jesus used his almighty power to calm the storm.]

Why can you go to Jesus if you are sick or lonely or scared or have some other trouble? [Jesus has power to help with troubles.]

**Say**  Because Jesus is strong enough to stop winds and waves and strong enough to take away our sins, we are sure he is strong enough to help us with any other trouble.

**Do**  Use the following rhyming prayer and actions to close the lesson:

Jesus, you stopped the wind and waves
(hold out hands to stop)
With your almighty power. (flex arm muscles)
We know that you can help us too,
(point up and then to self)
Each and every hour. (pretend to point to watch)
Amen.

**Student Idea:** Have your family read the Bible story together. As it is read, finish each of the three boat pictures as your teacher did in class, and show the pictures to your family.

**Note:** Use this activity if you did number 1 in Learn (Alternate). Send three boat pictures made from Copy Master 1 home with each child.

**Memory Treasure Choices**

* Genesis 1:1

* Matthew 11:28
*The Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Jesus used this prayer to teach the disciples how to pray. We should go to God in prayer often, including when troubles come our way. (See Luther’s Catechism for an explanation of each petition.)

**Teaching Tip**

Many superheroes that children see in movies or on television have one weakness along with their superpowers. Jesus has no weakness. He is the perfect, sinless, almighty Son of God.

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**OPTIONAL mid-week Lesson**

- Begin by singing “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear” (hymn 282:1).
- Use Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the story.
- Remind the children that Jesus has promised to take care of them and help them in times of trouble. Jesus has already helped them with their biggest trouble—sin. Then tell the children that they will solve a puzzle that will show what Jesus did to help them with the trouble of sin. Provide duplicates of Copy Master 3, and tell the children to color only the following picture boxes:
  - Row 1—cross
  - Row 2—manger
  - Row 3—smiling face, cross, heart, Bible, manger
  - Row 4—smiling face
  - Row 5—heart
  - Row 6—Bible
  - Row 7—cross
A large cross will be revealed. Briefly review that Jesus died on a cross so that we can go to heaven.
- Close with the portion of the Lord’s Prayer that is the memory treasure for this lesson.
- Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Accordion Book

*Purpose:* To make a picture book and use it to tell the Bible story.

*Procedure:* Duplicate Copy Master 1 so each child has three copies. Have the children finish the pictures as described in number 1 under Learn (Alternate) and bind them in a book (see the suggestions in the option). Partner the children, and have them practice telling the story to each other using their books.

Letter Writing

*Purpose:* To pretend to be a disciple writing about Jesus calming the storm.

*Procedure:* Give each child a piece of ruled paper. Tell each child to pretend he or she was one of the disciples in the boat when Jesus calmed the storm. Each child should write a letter to a friend and tell what happened. Early writers could dictate their letters to an older student serving as a scribe.

2. Application

Jesus Helps Me

*Purpose:* To break a code to reveal an application message.

*Procedure:* Duplicate Copy Master 4 for the children to complete.

Answer: JESUS HELPED THE DISCIPLES. JESUS HELPS ME.

Unit Activity: Classroom Application Journal

See Year 1, Winter, Lesson 5, the second option of Activity 2 under Lesson Activities, for this continuing project. Choose a child to complete the next page.

3. Music

Songs to Sing

*Purpose:* To sing songs that reinforce the application of the lesson.

*Procedure:* Teach and sing one or more of the following songs:

- Teach “Let’s Praise the Power of Jesus’ Name” from Copy Master 5.
- Praise God together by singing the refrain for Psalm 31 (hymnal, page 77). Emphasize that Jesus’ death on a cross to pay for our sins shows how much he loves us and cares for us. We can be assured that Jesus will help us with our other problems as well.
- Teach the first and second stanzas of “Come and Praise the Lord” (Let All the People Praise You, Northwestern Publishing House). The second stanza reminds us to call on Jesus in times of trouble. The refrain praises God for his mercy.

4. Art

Pattern Picture

*Purpose:* To color a story picture by filling in each section with a different pattern.

*Procedure:* Demonstrate how to make a pattern picture by drawing a simple picture of a kite on the board and then filling in each section with a different pattern (dots, checks, stars, stripes). Then give each child a duplicate of Copy Master 1. Tell the children to use their crayons to make a different pattern in each section of the picture (such as dots on the sail, stripes on the hull, and so on). For best results, they should use only one color in each section.

*Suggestion:* Add “Jesus calmed the storm.”
5. Review and Apply

Nonreader

*Purpose:* To complete pictures that review the lesson facts and application.

*Procedure:* Duplicate Copy Master 6 for the children to complete.

Read the picture captions aloud for the children, and have them complete the pictures as instructed. Write “Be still!” on the board to help the children know what to write for number 3.

Possible drawings: 1. pillow; 2. scary storm on water; 3. “Be still!”; 4. happy face; 5. drawings will vary

Reader

*Purpose:* To decide whether story statements are true or false; to do word “math” to reveal an application message.

*Procedure:* Duplicate Copy Master 7 for the children to complete. *Suggestion:* Demonstrate how to cross off “subtracted” letters in the second activity.

God’s Word in the Lesson: Sentences 1, 4, and 5 should be circled (true). Sentences 2 and 3 should have a line drawn through them (false).

God’s Word in My Life: JESUS HELPED THE DISCIPLES. JESUS HELPS ME.

Challenge

*Purpose:* To decide whether story statements are true or false and use a code to reveal an application sentence; to illustrate a trouble and a way Jesus could help with it.

*Procedure:* Duplicate Copy Master 8 for the children to complete.

1. true, 2. false, 3. false, 4. true, 5. true, 6. true, 7. true; JESUS HELPS US WITH HIS ALMIGHTY POWER! Drawings in the boxes will vary.

6. Other Ideas

The Memory Treasure Wave

*Purpose:* To review a memory treasure while pretending to be waves.

*Procedure:* Write one of the memory treasures on the board, and help the children read it. Then have the children stand in a long row and face the board. Each child should say one word of the memory treasure while quickly raising and lowering his or her arms in a wave pattern (as if doing “the wave” at a ball game). As the children recite faster, the wave pattern will be easy to see. Erase the memory treasure after a few waves. *Suggestion:* Have the children stand on a large blue tarp (water) you have taped to the floor.

Unit Activity: Picture Journal

Continue this activity begun in Year 1, Winter, Lesson 5, Lesson Activity 6, the first option.

*Suggested drawing:* The children could draw and color a picture of Jesus standing in a boat, telling the wind and the waves to be still.

Unit Activity: Life of Jesus Classroom Collection

Continue this activity begun in Year 1, Winter, Lesson 7, Lesson Activity 6, the third option.

Briefly review the contents of the collection by asking the children what the objects remind them of. For this lesson you might add a toy boat or a completed project from Lesson Activity 1 or 4.