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 Four Soils
Matthew 13:3-9,18-23

**Aim:** What happens when people hear the Word of God?

**Truth:** While many people refuse to believe the Word, God causes others to believe it and produce good works.

**Application:** We ask God to make and keep us good hearers and doers of his Word.

**Response:** Through his Word, God strengthens our faith so that we produce good works.

**Lesson Summary:** Jesus taught this parable about a farmer whose seed fell on four different soils. The seed that fell on the first three places did not grow, but the seed on the good soil produced an abundant crop. Through this parable we learn that although many hear God’s Word, only some truly believe and produce good works.

**Memory Treasures:** Mark 9:24; John 6:68; *Romans 10:17; ‘The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed; Hymn 282:1

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**Jesus Calms the Storm**

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41

**Aim**

How did Jesus prove to his disciples that he is the powerful Son of God?

**Truth**

Jesus proved he is the powerful Son of God by calming a furious storm.

**Application:** As true God, Jesus can calm the “storms” in our lives too.

**Response:** We pray to Jesus for help during times of need.

**Lesson Summary:** While crossing the Sea of Galilee with his disciples, Jesus fell asleep in the boat. When a furious storm arose, Jesus’ disciples feared for their lives. They awoke Jesus and asked him to save them. Jesus rebuked the wind and waves. The storm immediately calmed at Jesus’ command. The disciples were amazed at Jesus’ almighty power.

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**Memory Treasures Choices**

* Genesis 1:1
  Psalm 124:8
* Matthew 11:28
  Ephesians 3:20a
* 1 Peter 5:7
  Hymn 588:1,2,6,7

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**Wordwise**

**stern**—rear part of a boat

**rebuked**—scolded

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**The Teacher Prays**

Lord, forgive me for failing to trust in you during the “stormy” times of my life. Calm my heart so that I may be a spiritual example for my students. Through your Word strengthen their faith. Calm our troubled lives according to your will. Amen.
Sing: Sing “Abide With Me” (hymn 588:1,2,6,7) as a prayer that the Lord be with us now and always.

Pray: Lord, we ask you to be with us every minute of every day to guide and protect us. Keep our faith strong and calm our fears whenever we feel worried or helpless. Amen.

You will need a picture of a doctor.

How do we know for sure who someone is?

Show the picture. Explain that when we are sick or need medical attention, we usually go to our family’s doctor or to a hospital where we also would see a doctor for help. Ask how we know that the person looking at us really is a doctor. [People call him or her “doctor,” a diploma is on the wall, someone tells us, the person shows medical knowledge, etc.]

Tell the students that the same is true for any other person in authority, like a police officer, firefighter, minister, teacher, dentist, etc. We need to know for sure if certain people really are who they claim to be.

During Jesus’ time on earth, he also had to show people who he was and why he was here. In our lesson today we will answer the question, How did Jesus prove to his disciples that he is the powerful Son of God?

Sing: Sing “My God Will Never Leave Me” (hymn 418:1,4), confident that our almighty God can and will be with us and help us at all times and in all situations.

Pray: Dearest God, we are certain that your almighty power and wonderful love surround us every moment of our lives. As we study your Word, increase our faith and confidence in you. Amen.

Ask, “When a police officer stops a driver, what will he or she ask to see?” [Person’s driver’s license.] Show your driver’s license if you have one. Ask why a police officer asks for a license. [To be sure the person is who he or she says and is legally licensed to drive.] Explain that there are other times people have to prove who they are, such as when cashing a check or going through airport security checkpoints.
Matthew 8:23-25; Mark 4:35-38
You will need a Bible map and one or more dictionaries or thesauruses.

Have the students locate the Sea of Galilee on the Bible map.

1. Instead of walking, riding a donkey, or going by cart around the Sea of Galilee, why did it make sense that Jesus and his disciples took boats to cross it? (Hint: Look at Mark 1:16-20.) [Many of the disciples had been fishermen when Jesus called them to be his disciples; as fishermen they had access to boats.]

2. As fishermen these disciples were used to being on the Sea of Galilee and operating a boat in all kinds of weather. As the storm raged on, they tried to fight its effects. Cross out the incorrect statements that follow.

   a. The disciples were able to reach the shore safely on their own.
   b. The waves began to fill the boat with water.
   c. The disciples were afraid the boat would sink.
   d. Jesus told the disciples that he understood their fears.
   e. Jesus peacefully slept in the boat as the storm raged.
   f. The disciples awoke Jesus because they were afraid they were going to die.

   [Cross out: a, d.]

**KEY POINT** When a furious storm threatened their lives, what did the disciples do?

The disciples cried out to [Jesus] to save them from the storm.

**God’s Word Today**

In our lives we experience many “storms”—not necessarily weather storms but all the troubles and problems in our lives. Think of some real-life storms you and your friends may have and write them on the rain lines below. An example has been done for you.
Now read the three memory treasure passages listed below. Write the reasons they give for you to go to Jesus for help with your storms.

Psalm 124:8 [Jesus has the power to help us because, as God, he made all things.]

Matthew 11:28 [Jesus invites us to take our troubles to him.]

1 Peter 5:7 [Jesus cares about us.]

(If needed, supply general areas of concern such as siblings, family problems, school, friends, peer pressure, sicknesses or death, etc.) Tell them to write a prayer beginning with “Dearest Jesus, I need your help because…”

3. Ask, “Instead of grabbing a bucket to bail water out of the boat, how did Jesus rescue his disciples?” [He calmed the storm just by telling it to be still.] Ask the students what would happen if they went outside during the next thunderstorm and yelled, “Be quiet! Be still.” [They’d get wet!]

Ask, “What does Jesus’ stopping a storm in this way show about him?” [He is true God.]

4,5. Have the students complete God’s Word 2, items 4 and 5.

Matthew 8:26,27; Mark 4:39-41

In the speech bubble write what Jesus said to stop the storm.

[**Quiet!** (hush, peace, silence)
Be still!]

4. When was the first time words were spoken and all of nature obeyed? (Hint: Look at Genesis chapter 1.) [When God created the world, he did it by the power of his words.]

5. Underline in **blue** the descriptions that show Jesus is true man. Underline in **red** the descriptions that show Jesus is true God.

a. Jesus was tired and fell asleep in the boat.

b. Jesus has almighty power even over nature (wind, waves, storm).
Ask the students to locate the disciples’ words from Matthew that show they realized Jesus was not just an ordinary man. Have them read those words together. [Read Matthew 8:27.]

Much More!
Have the students look at Ephesians 3:20a memory treasure. Then direct them to individually finish this sentence based on the memory treasure:

Whenever I face life’s “storms,” it is reassuring to know Jesus is true God because . . .

[I can confidently ask him for help; Jesus is so powerful that he can do much more than I could ever ask for or even think or imagine.]

Write the words from the reading in Mark that show the disciples realized Jesus was not just an ordinary man. [Write the words of Mark 4:41b]

How did Jesus respond to the disciples’ plea for help?
As true [God] and by the power of his [word], Jesus completely calmed the [storm].

There is a saying that sometimes Jesus calms the storm and sometimes he calms his child. Based on Jesus’ promises (see the memory treasures), what does that mean for us? Write T for true and F for false.

[F] God promises believers fewer “storms” in their lives than unbelievers have.

[T] Jesus can help believers no matter what the “storms” in their lives may be.

[F] Jesus will always take away the “storms” in believers’ lives while they are on earth.

[T] Jesus calms believers’ fears by always being with them.

[T] Jesus calms believers’ troubled hearts even during life’s “storms.”

[T] Jesus has almighty power to calm “storms” because he is God.

Aim: How did Jesus prove to his disciples that he is the powerful Son of God?

Truth: Jesus proved he is the powerful Son of [God] by calming a furious [storm].

Application: As true God, [Jesus] can calm the “storms” in our [lives] too.

Response: We [pray] to Jesus for [help] during times of need.
With your parents read this Bible event from Matthew chapter 8 and Mark chapter 4. They can read from Mark and you can read from Matthew. Follow this reading pattern:

Matthew 8:23 and Mark 4:35,36
Matthew 8:24 and Mark 4:37
Matthew 8:25 and Mark 4:38
Matthew 8:26 and Mark 4:39,40
Matthew 8:27 and Mark 4:41

Student’s initials: ________ Parent’s initials: ________

CLOSE Have students look at the student lesson picture. Ask how we do not want to be like the disciples. [Be afraid of life’s storms, doubt Jesus has the power to help, have a weak faith.] Then ask how we want to be like the disciples. [Go to Jesus for help, have a strengthened faith, know that Jesus is true man and true God.]

Pray: Dear Jesus, by your grace you guide us safely through all the storms of life, great and small. We praise you for calming our fears, even the fear of death. Send us your Holy Spirit to keep us afloat with a strong faith and to steer us through the stormy waters of life. Amen.

Memory Treasures Exercises

The memory treasure hymn reminds us that Jesus has the power to calm all our storms. Answer the following questions using the words of that hymn.

• Stanza 1: During “storms,” when other helpers fail, who will never fail us? [The Lord.]
• Stanza 2: Which words show that Jesus will always be the same? [“Thou who changest not.”]
• Stanza 6: Why will we not fear our death? [“With thee at hand”/“If thou abide with me.”]
• Stanza 7: When do we want Jesus to be with us to calm our storms? [“In life, in death.”]
Lesson Activities

1. Review

The Powerful Word of the Lord

*Purpose:* Students will review the facts and truths of the lesson by completing sentences and using letter clues.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 1. The answers are as follows:

1. disciples, 2. warning, 3. fill, 4. swamped,
5. disciples, 6. save, 7. sleeping, 8. little, 9. still,
10. quiet, 11. furious, 12. waves, 13. winds, 14. disciples,
15. terrified, 16. obeyed, 17. afraid, 18. amazed,

Listen and Learn

*Purpose:* Students will create sound effects for a dramatic presentation of the Bible text.

*Procedure:* Have individuals or small groups develop sound effects by voice, music, materials (such as water), etc. Give them time to create, develop, and practice their sound effects, matching them to the lesson text as it is read. As one person reads the text, the others perform the corresponding sound effects. *Suggestion:* Present the sound dramas to other classes.

2. Application

Praying for Peace

*Purpose:* Students practice how they can go to Jesus for help in times of need.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 2. [Accept all applicable prayers.]

Jesus Calms My Storms

*Purpose:* Students will express the importance of going to Jesus for help in times of trouble.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 3. The answers are as follows:

[Part One: trust him, believe his promise to help in times of need, pray to (call on) him, believe he is almighty God, don’t be afraid, don’t give up my faith, don’t worry, etc. Part Two: Any of the five memory treasure verses will be good to remember.]

3. Music

O Lord, My God

*Purpose:* Students will sing a song that reinforces the spiritual truths of the lesson.

*Procedure:* Teach the students to sing “O Lord, My God” (Copy Master 4), which is sung to the tune of hymn 256, “How Great Thou Art.” Discuss how the stanzas illustrate this spiritual truth: Jesus is the powerful Son of God who calms the storms of life. *(Option: Before distributing the copy master, “white out” some of the words in the verses so that students can offer suggestions for filling in the blanks.)*

4. Poetry Writing

Poetic Thoughts

*Purpose:* Students will compose their own poems based on what they learned.

*Procedure:* Have the students each write a simple poem to express the foolishness of worrying about life’s troubles and the blessedness of trusting God’s grace to protect us.

The structure is as follows:

- Write four lines.
- Use a b c b form (lines 2 and 4 rhyme).
- The first two lines should speak of life’s troubles. The last two lines should speak of a life of faith. *(If students need help getting started, suggest that the first line can begin with “I used to . . .” and the third line can begin with “But now . . .”)*
Example:
I used to think our woods had spooks
And monsters lived in trees;
But now when I feel scared and lost,
Faith brings me to my knees.

5. Bible Study

Come to Me

Purpose: Students will apply Bible passages to their own lives and see that God’s Word is relevant now and always.

Procedure: Have each student complete Copy Master 5. Option: Divide the class into groups of four. Give one passage to each group member to complete and share. [“Storms” on the top lines will vary. Words for bottom lines:

Matthew 11:28—Jesus wants me to come to him.

1 Peter 5:7—Jesus wants me to cast all my anxieties (cares) on him.

John 16:23—Jesus tells me to pray in his name to the Father.

Matthew 7:7—Jesus wants me to ask, seek, (search) knock.]