

The Storm and Fearful Hearts that Became Peaceful

1. As we read the newspaper and watch the news on TV these days, we realize that there are many scary things happening all around the world. Many people have had experiences that have changed their lives forever. Each of us hope that we will be able to live in peace without having to experience what we are watching on our TV's.

2. We have all had frightening experiences in our lives. We have each felt overwhelmed and did not know what to do? We have felt that we needed someone to help us – someone who understands us, and our circumstances. Each of us has different fears, so we can probably relate to the following story from the Bible, about a frightening storm.

3. This story took place on the "Sea of Galilee", a lake in Palestine. Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen so they had been in many storms on that lake before. But this storm was so severe that even they were very frightened!

4. One evening, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let's go across the lake to the other side." So they got into the boat and started out. "On the way across, Jesus lay down for a nap, and while He was sleeping the wind began to rise." NLB*

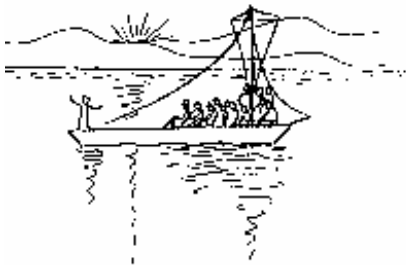


5. When the boat was in the middle of the lake, the wind began to blow very strongly and the waves began to beat against their small boat. It looked like their boat might sink. Their lives were in real danger. The boat was nearly filled with water.



6. Everyone in the boat was very frightened. That is, everyone but Jesus. He "was sleeping at the back of the boat with His head on a cushion. Frantically they woke Him up, shouting, 'Teacher, don't you even care that we are going to drown?' " NLB*

7. When Jesus woke up, He spoke to the wind and the water with its strong waves. "Quiet down!" He said. Immediately the wind stopped blowing and the waves stopped and there was a great calm.



8. Then Jesus asked the people in the boat, " 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still not have faith in me?' And they were filled with awe and said among themselves, 'Who is this man, that even the wind and the waves obey Him?' " NLB*

Mark 4: 35-42, (Luke 8:22-25)

*Quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996.
Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers

The Storm and Fearful Hearts that Became Peaceful

Listening Questions: (Teacher: Read the story aloud before giving a copy to the students.)

- a. Who are the characters in this story?
- b. What problem did they face and where were they?
- c. What did Jesus do about the problem?



Comprehension Questions:

- A. Where did this storm take place?
- B. What was the former occupation of some of Jesus' disciples?
What kinds of experiences did they have in their former occupation?
- C. When did Jesus and His disciples get into the boat?
- D. What was Jesus doing while they were crossing the lake?
- E. What happened when the boat was in the middle of the lake?
- F. Describe the dangerous storm they were in.
- G. What did Jesus' disciples think might happen?
How did this make them feel?
- G. What did they do next?
What did they say to Jesus?
- H. What did Jesus do next?
How did this make the people in the boat feel?
- I. When Jesus saw that they were afraid, what did He say to them?
- J. What question did the people in the boat ask each other?



Something to Think About:

1. Name the three emotions written about in the first two paragraphs of our story.
2. How do you think we can have peace in our hearts - even when we see what is happening around the world?
3. Do you think having faith will help us have peace?
4. Are peace and fear opposites? Can we have peace and fear at the same time?
5. What can we learn about Jesus' character from this story?

Mark 4:35-42, (Luke 8:22-25)