

Power over Nature

Jesus' Miracles Lesson 1

Lesson Objectives

- The students will give one example of Jesus' power over nature.
- The students will state that Jesus is God.
- The students will identify one way they can trust God with their lives.

Lesson Text

Matthew 8:23-27

Scripture Memory Verse

My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalms 121:2

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Overpowered!

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Who Was That Man?

Craft: God's Grandeur

Scripture Memory: My Helper

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



3rd and 4th Grades

Jesus' Miracles 13-1-1

Power over Nature

Overpowered!

The students will preview important ideas from today's Bible Story as they complete this activity.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- construction paper, 9" x 12"
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- several dictionaries
- pictures of nature and weather
- marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Across the top of each piece of construction paper, neatly print the words: Jesus has power over...
2. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that today's lesson begins a new unit on the miracles of Jesus. In their Bible Story, they will learn that Jesus had power over nature and could stop wind and waves.
2. Have the students work with a partner or small group. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and the pencils. Tell the students to choose a word from their copy of Reproducible Page A and write it down the left side of their construction paper, as shown.

3. Tell the students to think of aspects of the word they have written that begin with the letters of the word. Show them the pictures you brought in to help them think of descriptive phrases. This is called an "acrostic" poem. Encourage the students to use the dictionary and each other to help them think of words.
4. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement. For the students who complete their acrostics, have them read them to their partners or small group.
5. Make sure they write their names on their papers. If a student does not finish, encourage him to complete it at home.

Teacher Tips

- Pair confident readers and writers with less skilled ones.
- Have stickers available and markers for the students to make a border or decorate their acrostic.

Jesus has power over...

Wild water

Always pounding

Very powerful

Exciting

Surfer's dream



by Sam

Power over Nature

Who Was That Man?

The students will participate in this amazing story of Jesus calming the storm.

Materials

For each student:

- chair

For the teacher:

- fan
- spray bottle filled with water

Preparation

1. Arrange the chairs in two rows to create a boat for this story.
2. Practice presenting the story.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 8. Tell the students that today's lesson comes from the New Testament book of Matthew. Explain that today's lesson begins a unit on Jesus' miracles.

- *What do you think a miracle is?*
- *Can you give an example of a miracle in the Bible from the Old Testament?* (Red Sea dividing; Jordan River dividing; walls of Jericho falling down, etc.)
- *Who can do miracles?* (God; Jesus; people chosen by God to do them)

In the Bible, there are many different kinds of miracles. God shows his power over nature, disease, demons and even death! Miracles show us God's awesome power and God's awesome love for us.

Remind the students of their Preclass Activity. They wrote acrostic poems about different aspects of nature that God has power over. In today's story, the students will re-enact one of Jesus' miracles over nature—the calming of the storm. Explain that in today's story they will feel wind (from a fan) and waves (from a spray bottle). Tell them to pay close attention to the story to see how Jesus calmed this storm.

Presenting the Bible Story

Have the students sit in a circle and listen as you read the following story from Matthew 8 before they act it out.

Then [Jesus] got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"
(Matthew 8:23-27)

Show the students the chairs you arranged for the boat. Ask for a volunteer to be Jesus. Have the rest of the students be the disciples. Have Jesus lead the disciples into the boat and sit down. Have Jesus sit at the back of the boat and go to sleep.

Turn on the fan toward the boat and lightly spray water over the top of the boat. Tell the students that a storm has come upon them. Ask the students how they feel to know that they are in a small boat in the middle of a storm.

- Tell the students to wake Jesus and say, "Lord save us!"
 - Tell Jesus to reply, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"
 - Tell Jesus to stand up and tell the wind and waves to be calm.
- Turn off the fan and put away the water.
- Tell the disciples to look at Jesus and be completely amazed. Have them say, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"
 - If time permits, choose another student to be Jesus and repeat this role play.

Who Was That Man?

Tell the students that if you went out and told the wind and rain to stop, it would not stop the wind and the rain. The difference between you and Jesus is that Jesus is God! Jesus had the power of God over the wind and the rain! Jesus could do miracles because he was God and had God's power.

Go around and ask the students: *What is the difference between you and Jesus?* Have them respond, "Jesus is God."

Power over Nature

Sharing with Others

Ask the students if they have ever been afraid during a bad thunderstorm. Ask them if they ever wished it would just stop. Help the students to see that Jesus had power over the storm in this story. He told it to stop and it did! Ask the students if they know someone who is going through a problem in their life right now. Encourage them to share this story about Jesus' awesome power with that person.

Teacher Tips

- If you have a large group, choose one student to work the fan and one to do the water spray. Make sure that you choose students who are able to do this without getting out of hand.
- You may also choose a few students to make the "sound effects" of a storm.



Power over Nature

God's Grandeur

The students will make pictures showing the magnificence of God's creation and then discuss his ability to help and protect them.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- file folder, 9" x 12"
- scissors
- glue stick
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- magazines with nature scenes
- decorative items from nature: shells, leaves, nuts, twigs, etc. (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for every 3 students

Preparation

1. Precut several magazine pictures of nature scenes for the students.
2. Cut out the banners from the copies of Reproducible Page B. Each student will need one banner.
3. Make a sample of the craft to show the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's Bible Story, you are learning about Jesus' miracles. Today you are going to make pictures that show God's spectacular creation. Show the students your sample craft and read the scripture from the banner to them. God and Jesus have control over all aspects of nature. Because of God's power and his great love for you, you can always trust God to help you when you are hurt or in trouble.*
2. Give the students their construction paper, scissors, glue sticks and file folders. Have them cut off the tabs of their file folders.
3. Have the students glue their construction paper to their file folders, so that the open ends of the folder are facing down.
4. Distribute the banners you prepared, one for each student. Have them glue these banners near the tops of their construction paper.

5. Distribute the markers and the pictures you prepared. Have the students draw and/or glue the nature pictures on their construction paper.
6. Make sure the students write their names on their pictures.

Conclusion

If time permits, have the students get in a circle and share about their pictures. Ask the students to identify one way that God can help them in their lives. Close with a prayer asking God to help the students trust in him when they need help in their lives.

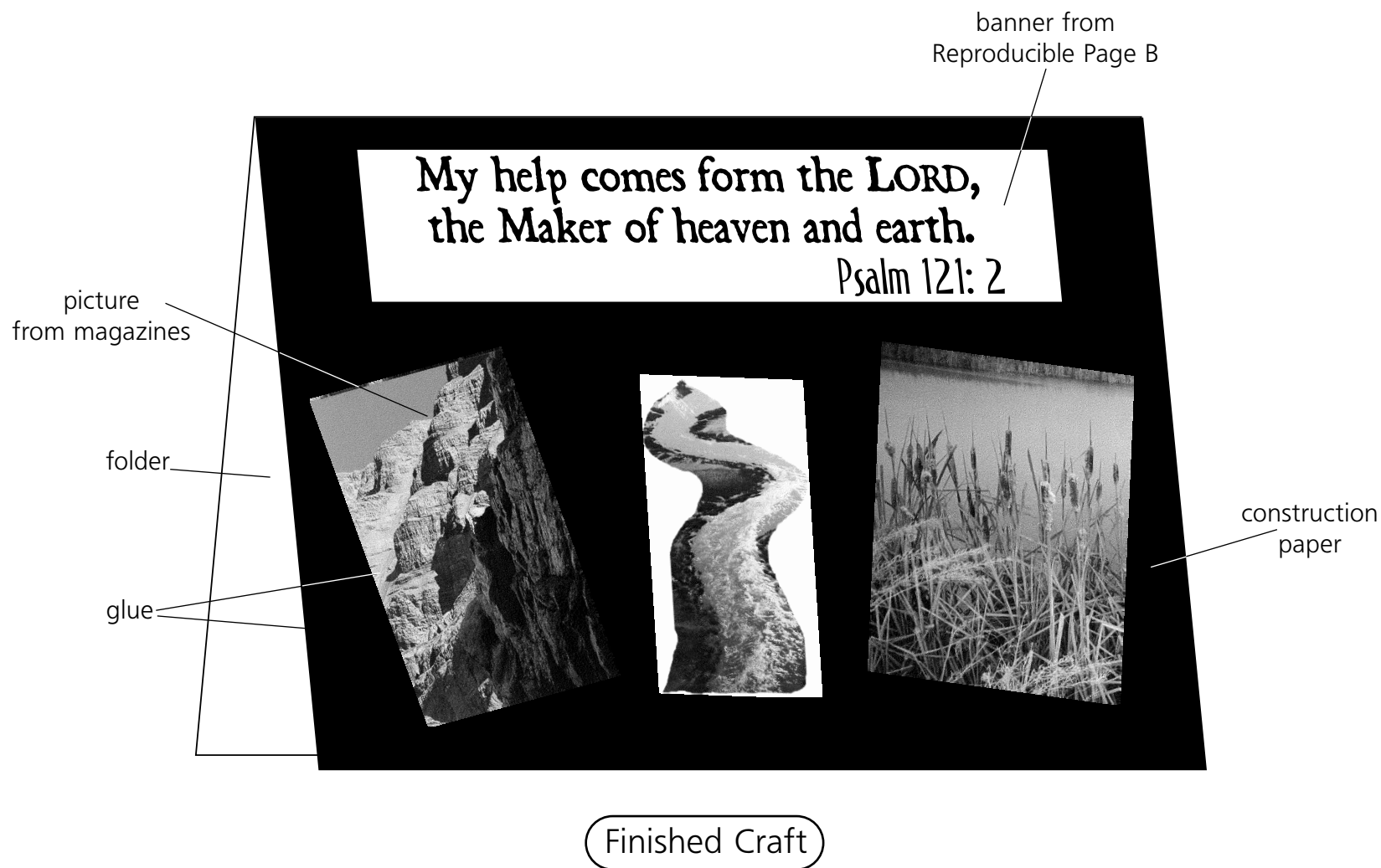
Teacher Tips

- To have the students make more interesting pictures, have them glue some decorative items to their pictures. See the materials list for some suggestions.
- Obtain old travel and science magazines such as *Astronomy*, *Star and Telescope*, *National Geographic*, etc. from your local library, museum or school.





Power over Nature



Power over Nature

My Helper

The students will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through this activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:2

Materials

For the teacher:

- small ball

Preparation

Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's lesson, you are learning about Jesus' miracles. In the Bible Story, Jesus calms a storm by making the wind and the waves stop! Because Jesus was God, Jesus had God's power over nature. In today's Scripture Memory Verse, you will learn that God will use his great power to help you!*
2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times while they follow along. Ask them to say it together with you three more times. Ask each student to say it together with you to the rest of the group. Ask for volunteers to say it from memory.
3. Have the students sit in a circle. Take the ball and pass it around the circle saying the verse as you go. Begin by saying the first word of the verse, and then pass it to the student next to you, who repeats the first word and adds the second. Then have him pass it to the next student, who repeats the first two words and adds the third word. Do this until the verse is complete.

4. Next, pass the ball in the opposite direction. This time, you say the first word and pass it to the next student who says the second word, etc. Do this until the verse is complete.
5. Toss the ball to any student and ask him to say the verse from memory. Encourage the students to help each other. When the student is done, have him toss the ball to another student to say the verse from memory.

Conclusion

Ask the students who they think the most powerful person in the world is and why. (Do not include fictional characters such as superheroes, etc.) Tell the students that the most powerful person in the world could not stop a storm the way Jesus did. Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that God wants to use his power to help them. Close with a prayer for the students to trust God with their lives.

Teacher Tips

- Think of additional ways to pass the ball and review the Scripture Memory Verse.

My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven
and earth.

Psalm 121:2

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Lesson Text

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Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Windy Words

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Trust and Obey

Game: Ups and Downs

Bible Skills: Name That Author

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Windy Words

The students will review key words from this week's Bible Story as they create a word chain using the words from this lesson.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page C.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Remind them that this week they have been learning about Jesus' miraculous calming of the storm.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C and the pencils. Tell the students to work with a partner and help each other. Make sure to pair students who did not hear this week's Bible Story with those who did.
3. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement.

Teacher Tips

- Bring in contemporary Christian music to play in the background during Preclass.

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Trust and Obey

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they think of ways that they can trust God.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the four Trust and Obey cards from your copy of Reproducible Page D.
2. Read Matthew 8:23-27 to review this week's Bible Story.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 8:23-27. Read the passage to the students. Ask them the following review questions:

- *Who followed Jesus into the boat?* (the disciples)
- *What came up suddenly and without warning?* (a furious storm)
- *What was Jesus doing?* (sleeping)
- *What did the disciples do?* (woke up Jesus; cried out for help to be saved)
- *What did Jesus say and do?* (asked the disciples why they were afraid; calmed the storm)

Ask the students if they think that the disciples trusted God when the storm came. Explain that they did not trust God because Jesus said, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" The disciples did not trust that God (and Jesus) would protect and save them from the storm.

Life Application

Tell the students that God wants them to trust him in all kinds of storms—the ones with wind and rain, and the "invisible" ones. Explain that sometimes we have problems in our lives that feel like storms because we can't see how we will get out of it. Ask the students if they have ever had a problem they thought they would never get out of. Explain that is like an "invisible" storm.

Show the students the four cards that you prepared. Divide the group into four smaller groups or pairs. Give each one a card. Tell

Power over Nature

Jesus' Miracles

Lesson 1

the group to read the card and think of how Jesus would want them to handle it by trusting God. Give them three minutes to come up with their answer.

Have the students come back together. Read each situation from the cards and let the students give their answers. Do this for all the cards. Use the suggestions below as guidelines.

- Trust and Obey #1: Pray that God will help you make new friends quickly; look for ways to help your family; get pictures and addresses of your old friends to stay in touch with them.
- Trust and Obey #2: Tell the teacher you don't know what to do; look for a student who seems nice and ask if you can join them; pray that God will help you quickly understand and do a great job on this project.
- Trust and Obey #3: Pray to find the book; talk to your parents and your teacher.
- Trust and Obey #4: Pray to find your bike; be thankful that you had the bike.

Jesus: the Invisible Friend

Tell the students to imagine themselves in school, in the cafeteria, or on the playground. Have them imagine a problem arising, e.g. a conflict with a friend, being wrongly accused of cheating, etc. Tell them to imagine Jesus sitting right next to them. Ask them how it makes them feel to know that Jesus has all of God's power to help them with any problem they have.

Conclusion

Ask the students to each think of one way that they will trust God this week and then share it with the group. Close with a prayer for the students to trust God this week.

Teacher Tips

- If you have a small group, divide them into two groups and give each group two cards. Otherwise, do as many of the four as you can with the whole group.



3rd and 4th Grades

Jesus' Miracles 13-1-10



Ups and Downs

The students will review important ideas from this week's lesson as they retell the Bible Story.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 15 index cards
- marker

Preparation

1. On the index cards, neatly print one of the following words: boat, lake, drown, Jesus, calm, storm, waves, afraid, save, amazed, disciples, sleeping, faith, winds, obey.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your lesson this week, you are learning about Jesus' amazing power over nature. Jesus calmed a furious storm on the lake that had his disciples scared to death! In our game today, we are going to review some important ideas about this incredible miracle as we think about ways that God can protect us.*
2. Show the students the cards that you prepared. Read each word on the cards together with the students. Shuffle them and distribute them to the students. Have the students sit in a circle.
3. Tell the students that you are going to read this week's Bible Story that is located on the back of this Lesson Card. When you say a word that a student is holding, that student must stand up. As soon as the next student hears his word and stands up, the previous student must sit down. No two students should be standing at the same time, or they will be out of the game and will sit in the middle of the circle.



Power over Nature

Jesus' Miracles

Lesson 1

4. Do this the first time all the way through. Collect the cards and shuffle them again. Distribute them among the students. This time tell the students that you will read the story a little faster. If two students are standing at the same time, then they are out and must sit in the middle of the circle.
5. Repeat this one more time, reading the story slightly faster.
6. For the final round, shuffle and distribute the cards. Tell the students to try and retell the Bible Story using their cards to help them remember the events.

Conclusion

Ask the students what their favorite part of this story is and why. Close with a prayer thanking God for Jesus' power to calm the storms in our lives.

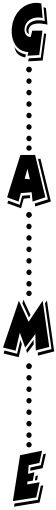
Teacher Tips

- You will enhance this activity by reading with enthusiasm and expression. If you are not a confident reader, invite another teacher to come and help you with this activity.



3rd and 4th Grades

Jesus' Miracles 13-1-11



Ups and Downs

Then he got into the BOAT and his DISCIPLES followed him. Without warning, a furious STORM came up on the LAKE, so that the WAVES swept over the BOAT. But JESUS was SLEEPING. The DISCIPLES went and woke him, saying, "Lord, SAVE us! We're going to DROWN!"

He replied, "You of little FAITH, why are you so AFRAID?" Then he got up and rebuked the WINDS and the WAVES, and it was completely CALM.

The men were AMAZED and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the WINDS and the WAVES OBEY him!"

(Matthew 8:23-27, emphasis added)



3rd and 4th Grades

Jesus' Miracles 13-1-12



Name That Author

The students will review the authors of the gospels.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- scorepad

Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, write: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your lesson this week, you are learning about Jesus' amazing power over nature. Jesus calmed a furious storm on the lake that had his disciples scared to death! In today's activity, you are going to review the different authors of the gospels. These were the men who wrote about Jesus' amazing life and teaching.*
2. Show the students the four names of the gospel authors. Tell them that they will hear questions and try to decide which of the four is the correct answer. Explain that the answer to every question is one of these four names.
3. Divide the students into two groups. Tell them that you will ask a question from the back of this Lesson Card. The first team to raise their hands may try to answer. Each question is worth two points. If a team answers incorrectly, then the other team may have a chance to answer.

4. Remind the students to work together and use their Bibles.
5. Ask all the questions, repeating any questions that were not answered correctly.
6. Total each team's points and encourage everyone for their participation.

NOTE: Some of the questions in this activity do not review material that the students have covered. The students will need to give answers based on their previous Bible knowledge or guessing ability. Encourage all the students that they are learning together and that no one knows it all.

Conclusion

Encourage the students to read the gospels on their own. Explain that they are like the biographies—or life stories—of Jesus, and contain all the accounts of his miracles and his teaching. Close with a prayer thanking God for the gospels and for Jesus.

Teacher Tips

- If time permits, have the students make up additional questions about the gospels to ask to each other.

Name That Author

Questions and Answers

- I was also known as Levi. Who am I? (Matthew)
- I was known as the beloved friend of Jesus. Who am I? (John)
- Before following Jesus, I was a doctor. Who am I? (Luke)
- I deserted the apostle Paul in Perga. Who am I? (Mark)
- I wrote the first gospel of the New Testament. Who am I? (Matthew)
- I was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Who am I? (Matthew or John)
- Before following Jesus, I was a tax collector. Who am I? (Matthew)
- I wrote the third gospel of the New Testament. Who am I? (Luke)
- I wrote the book of Revelation. Who am I? (John)
- I was also known as John Mark. Who am I? (Mark)
- Before following Jesus, I was a fisherman. Who am I? (John)
- I wrote the second gospel of the New Testament. Who am I? (Mark)
- I was also known as "the physician." Who am I? (Luke)
- I traveled with the apostle Paul. Who am I? (Luke or Mark)
- I was also known as the "Son of Thunder." Who am I? (John)
- I wrote the fourth gospel of the New Testament. Who am I? (John)
- I wrote the book of Acts. Who am I? (Luke)



3rd and 4th Grades

Jesus' Miracles 13-1-14



Overpowered!

In your Bible Story today, you will learn that Jesus had power over nature! Jesus had power to stop the wind and the waves of a storm. Because Jesus and God are one, Jesus has power over every aspect of nature.



Instructions:

1. Look at the words below.
2. Choose one word to make an "acrostic" poem where each letter of the word begins one line of the poem.
3. Use your imagination, the dictionary, and the pictures to help you think of words to complete your poem. Use the example on this page to help you.

WAVES

HURRICANE

TORNADO

STORM

THUNDER

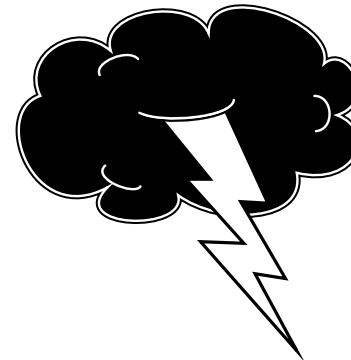
WIND

Jesus has power over...

Wild water
Always pounding
Very powerful
Exciting
Surfer's dream



by Sam



My help comes from the LORD,
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Psalm 121:2

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My help comes from the LORD,
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Psalm 121:2

Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for the teacher

Jesus' Miracles Lesson 1

Trust and Obey #1

Imagine that you have the best friends in the whole world. You really like your teachers, and your school has great after-school activities. Suddenly, your family tells you that you have to move because your father has taken a new job. You will have to move far away, to a new house, to a new school to make new friends. You feel afraid.

What would Jesus want you to do?

Trust and Obey #2

Imagine that you are a new student in school. You came in the middle of the year. Your class is doing a project but you don't know what you are supposed to be doing. All the other students seem to know what they are doing and they have friends to help them. You feel left out.

What would Jesus want you to do?

Trust and Obey #3

Imagine that your class is going on a field trip. You have been waiting for this trip for weeks. Yesterday, you were called to the library to return a book that you lost. The teacher says if you can't find the book, then you can't go on the field trip. You feel so upset.

What would Jesus want you to do?

Trust and Obey #4

Imagine that it's the last day before summer vacation. School is over. As you walk to the playground, you see that your bike is gone. No one is around. You feel so sad.

What would Jesus want you to do?



3rd and 4th Grades

Jesus' Miracles 13-1-18