

2020 • WITH US

# ADULT LEADER GUIDE

*StudentLifeKids*



# LESSON ONE: JESUS IS WITH US

Today, your kid will be learning about how Jesus is with us! Jesus performed a lot of miracles when He was teaching with his disciples. One of his most famous miracles is when He calmed a terrible storm! We are going to talk about why He calmed the storm and what that means for us today. Our big idea for today is that Jesus is with us, even in the middle of the storm!

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Read this passage before talking about it with your kid. Consider reading it together and having them read out loud.

### READ MARK 4:35-41

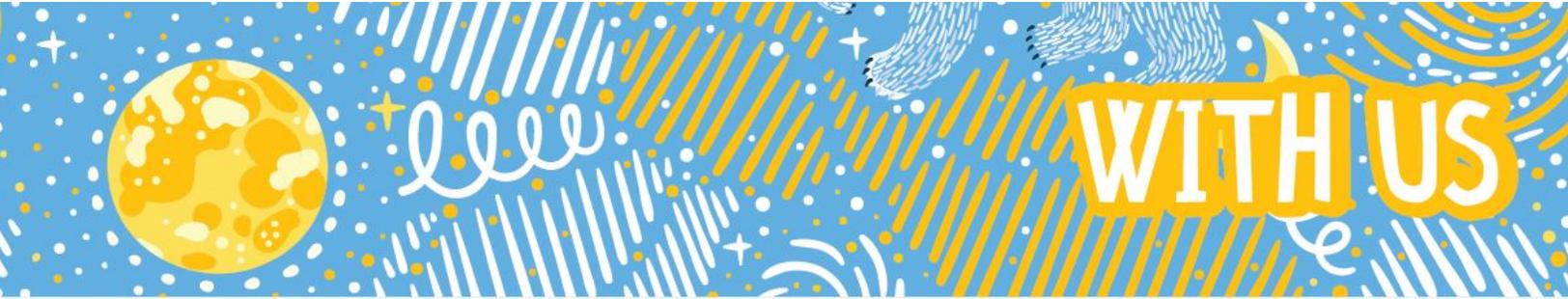
*“On that day, when evening had come, he told them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea.” So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die? ” He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still! ” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith? ”And they were terrified and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”*

### DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR KID:

Ask: Think of the biggest storm you can remember, what did that storm feel like? (Answers will vary)

Ask: How did the disciples react when the storm was all around them and Jesus was asleep? (HINT: Look at verse 38.)

(They were afraid and scared, they doubted that Jesus was in control of the situation!)



Ask: What does the word “faith” mean? Circle one!

- a) You have complete trust or confidence in something.
- b) You are pretty sure that something is true.
- c) You don’t think something is true.

After your kid shares what they think faith means, say: “Faith is having complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Having faith in Jesus is trusting that He will keep all of the promises that He made to us!”

Ask: Why do you think the disciples struggled to have faith in the middle of the storm? Are there moments where you have a hard time having faith and trusting God?

### APPLICATION:

After you have finished reading and answering the above questions, take a moment to read the following aloud to your kid. Afterwards, there are open ended discussion questions for both of you to talk through!

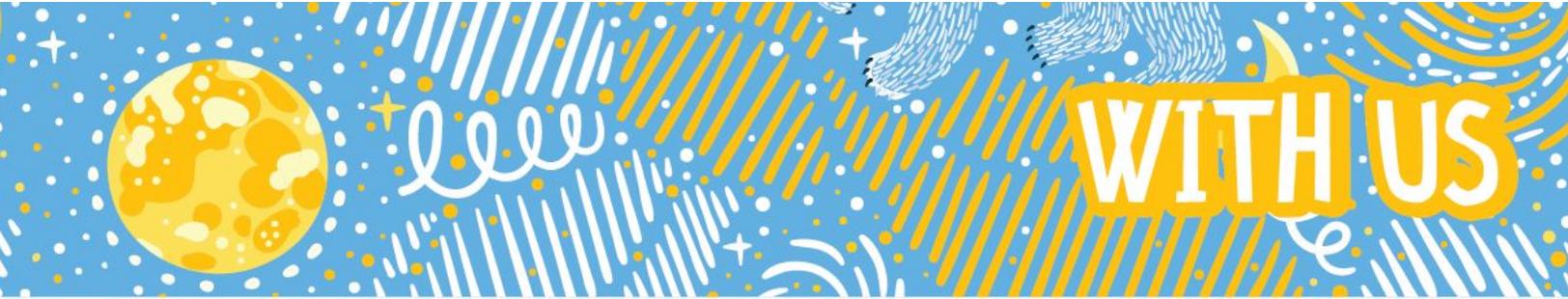
Say: The disciples doubted Jesus cared about them because He was asleep while the storm was raging. The disciples were with Jesus all the time, and they struggled to remember God’s promises when things got scary. Sometimes, when things get scary in our own lives, we can struggle to have faith in God’s Promises. We don’t need to lose faith or be scared, because even the wind and sea obey Jesus and He is always with us!

Right now, it might feel like we are in the middle of a storm. There are lots of things going on that have changed the way that we are living life right now. Uncertainty is hard to deal with sometimes. It’s important to remember that even when the world around us looks differently than we imagined and it might feel like Jesus is far away, He ALWAYS sees us and is ALWAYS with us. Jesus calms the storm around us, and in Him, we don’t need to be afraid.

### OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Ask: What caused the disciples to be afraid?

(They were afraid of the storm, they doubted that Jesus was in control of the situation.)



Ask: Have there been moments where you knew God was with you? Have there been moments where you've been scared that He wasn't?

(Take this opportunity to share from your life as well! What are times in your life where you've been afraid? Times where you know that God was with you?)

Ask: Can you name 3 areas that you want to trust God in more?

(Continue to share from your experience!)

---

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: WILL IT FLOAT?

Tell your kid(s) that you have a challenge for them: they have to design a boat that will float. Give them some paper and a pen or pencil to draw out and design their boat. You'll want to draw out your own boat too!

- Give your kid various craft items (aluminum foil, popsicle sticks, unsharpened pencils, rubber bands, tape, paper, etc.) to create the boat that they have designed. To connect with your kid, build your own boat too!
- Fill the bathtub or a kiddie pool with water. When the boats are completed, see whose boat floats the best.
- Consider raising the stakes by campers by testing the strength of the boats by placing pennies, pebbles, or something similar on them to see whose boat can hold the most weight.
- Revisit the story in Mark 4:35-41 with your kid. This is a great time to revisit how your kid is feeling during this unusual time (maybe they feel like their "boat" is sinking, rocking, or just a little off balance. Maybe they feel like their "boat" is doing great and holding strong.), and a great time to point them back to how Jesus is always with them.



## LESSON TWO: JESUS CARES FOR US

Today, your kid will be learning about how Jesus cares for us. Like we learned yesterday, Jesus calmed a storm that almost sank a boat the disciples were in because He cared about them and didn't want them to be afraid.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: JOHN 13:4-9

Read this passage before talking about it with your kid. Consider reading it together and having them read out loud. This is the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Jesus knew that He was about to die on the cross. He gathered his disciples together and began to wash their feet. During this time in history, your feet would get really dirty. Most people wore sandals and everyone walked around a LOT. The streets were usually dirty and there were lots of animals everywhere. It was a very gross job to wash someone else's feet.

### READ JOHN 13:4-9

*"So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand." "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."*

### DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR KID:

Ask: Have you ever gotten really muddy? Or maybe even seen your dog get super muddy? How did your parents react? Write about a time you get really messy and how you got clean again.

Ask: How do you think the disciple's feet may have looked when Jesus started to clean them?



Ask: In verse 8, why do you think that Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet? (HINT: Remember that Peter's feet would have been REALLY dirty!)

Say: Peter's feet would have been really gross and usually when you would come to someone's house, their servant would wash your feet. It was not seen as a noble thing for someone to wash someone else's feet. Peter felt shame at having Jesus wash his feet. He didn't want Jesus to see how messy his feet were and to potentially get that dirt on himself as well. In Peter's mind, this was no job for Jesus, but through Jesus serving Peter, Jesus showed the disciples an important message that He wanted them to understand.

Ask: What important message do you think Jesus was trying to show the disciples?

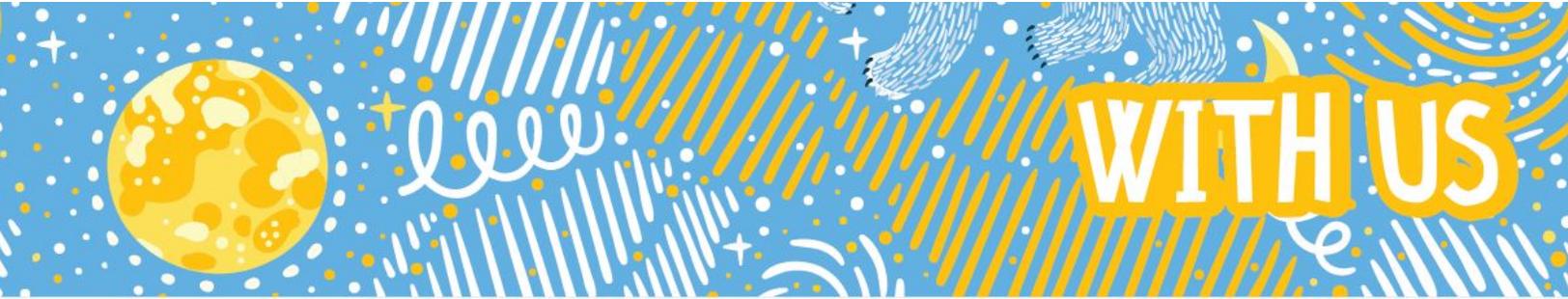
Say: When Jesus said this, He was also talking about how He would need to die on the cross so that He could wash away the sins of us and the disciples. Jesus had to suffer so that we could be clean, just like how He had to get dirty to wash the feet of the disciples. He was also saying that a part of loving Jesus is serving and LOVING the world around you, just like how Jesus loves you.

### APPLICATION:

After you have finished reading and answering the above questions, take a moment to read the following aloud to your kid. Afterwards, there are open ended discussion questions for both of you to talk through!

Say: Jesus washing the feet of the disciples is a lot like how Jesus washes away our sins. When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he put himself in a lowly position. He literally scrubbed dirt and grime off of his followers' feet so that they were clean. But it wasn't just about making sure their feet were clean, it showed how Jesus cares about all the details of our lives (even the messy ones). When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He suffered and went through a lot of pain so that we could be clean of our sins. Jesus cleaned the disciples' feet and died on the cross for our sins because He loves us more than we could ever imagine.

Jesus cares for you so much that He died on the cross to rescue you from your sins. He is always with you and even when it feels like you are in the middle of the storm, He is with you because He loves you more than you can even imagine.



## OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Ask: How do we know Jesus cares for us?

(We know that Jesus loves us because He lost his own life to save us so that we could have eternal life with Him. His love for us fills the whole Bible!)

Ask: What do you think that Jesus means in verse 15? "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you."

(Jesus is talking about how we are to love the people around us. The example that Jesus gives us is how we are to love our friends, siblings, and neighbors.)

Ask: What does Jesus washing the feet of the disciples show us about loving others?

(When Jesus washes the feet of the disciples, He is showing us that love is often messy and that He is willing to get messy to clean the disciples feet. He loves the disciples SO much that He is willing to do that. This whole story shows us that sometimes the way that we can love others the best involves getting a little messy.)

---

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: GUESS THE MESS

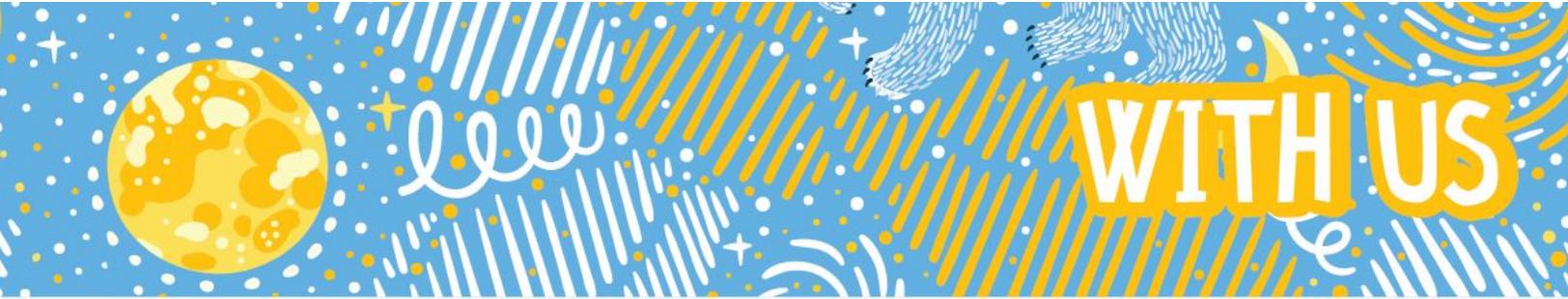
Before the activity time, gather some messy items into buckets or large bowls. Consider things like squashed banana, a can of beans, mud, Spaghetti-O's, or pudding. You'll also want to have a blindfold or a scarf available.

Ask your kid to take off his or her shoes and socks and put on the blindfold. Bring out each bucket and ask your kid to stick his or her feet into the bucket and guess what item is in the bucket. Don't let your kid clean off his or her feet between rounds. If you have multiple kids, you could assign points based on who gets the most answers correct.

After the game, point out how dirty the kid's feet are. Ask them if they would have wanted to clean off someone else's feet if they looked like that.

Remind your kid that Jesus showed that He cared for the disciples by washing their dirty feet, and he cares for us just as much!

Talk about ways that we know that Jesus cares for us and is always with us today.



## LESSON THREE: JESUS SAVES US

So far, we have learned about how Jesus is with us and how He cares for us. Today, your kid is going to focus on how Jesus rescues us. In the story we read earlier Mark 4,, we see Jesus literally rescuing his disciples by calming the storm so the boat wouldn't sink and they wouldn't be in danger. We may never actually be in a boat with Jesus, but He still gives each one of us the chance to be rescued in a big way. Your kid will also be walking through the Gospel, with options for responding to what they encounter.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Read this passage before talking about it with your kid. Consider reading it together and having them read out loud.

### READ COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

*"Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him — if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it."*

### DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR KID:

Ask: What do you think he meant by "alienated" and "hostile?" (Colossians 1:21)  
(The Bible tells us that we all have a serious problem: sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God.)

Ask: Looking at verse 22, it says that Jesus has reconciled us through his death on the cross. What do you think it means to go from our sin problem to being "reconciled," "holy," and "blameless?"



You'll want to unpack the meanings of reconciled (restore), holy (pure), and blameless (without fault):

- Reconciled- The word reconciled means to RESTORE or MAKE RIGHT a relationship between two people. When you and your sibling are in an argument, your mom or dad might help to RECONCILE the two of you together so that you guys want to keep playing together.
- Holy- The word HOLY is used a lot in the Bible. We even call the Bible the HOLY Bible. The word HOLY means to be pure, without sin or stain, incredibly valuable, and belonging to God.
- Blameless- When someone is BLAMELESS, they have done absolutely nothing wrong. They are no longer associated with their sins, because their sins have been forgiven.

Say: Through Jesus, we have been made right before God. You can't fix your sin problem, but Jesus can! In the Bible, we can learn about "The Gospel," which means "the Good News about Jesus." The Good News is that he rescues us. God gave us the Bible to help us understand the Gospel and to teach about what it means to live a life that follows Jesus. The Good News is that Jesus, through his death on the cross, makes you right before God. No more are you alienated or hostile in your minds by evil actions. When you have a relationship with Jesus, God sees you as holy, faultless, and blameless before him!

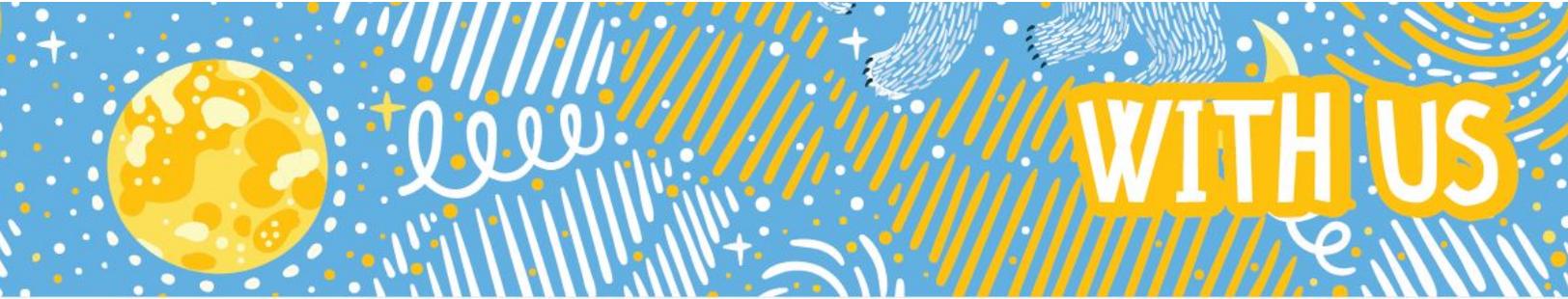
## HOW DOES JESUS SAVE US?

God Rules. The Bible tells us God created everything and He is in charge of everything.

We Sinned. Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. Because God is holy, God will not be around sin. That sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death.

God Provided. God sent His Son Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us!

Jesus Gives. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever!



We Respond. When we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must respond in some way. You can respond in many different ways including...

RESPONSES:

- If you're unsure if you totally understand why Jesus came and how He rescues us, that's okay. You can ask any questions you may have to an adult or someone from church. Pray and ask God to help you understand what He says in the Bible.
- If you think you understand how Jesus rescues us, but you've never made a decision for Jesus before, talk with an adult. You can pray and begin your relationship with him by turning away from your sin, saying that you believe Jesus is who He says He is, and telling Him that you are ready to follow Him for the rest of your life. Then, tell someone about your decision!
- If you're already a Christian and have already put your trust in Jesus, ask Him to help you grow as a Christian and show you ways that you can grow closer to Him.

APPLICATION:

After you have finished reading and answering the above questions, take a moment to read the following aloud to your kid. Afterwards, there are open ended discussion questions for both of you to talk through!

Your kid might have many questions about the gospel, what it means to be a Christian, or continuing to live a life following Jesus. This might be a great time to share your own story about coming to know Jesus or connecting with a kids ministry leader at your church to help guide you in the conversation. Remind your kid that Jesus loves them so much that he gives them the chance to be rescued. Like he rescued the disciples before their boat sank, He rescues us from our sin problem and promises to be with us always.



## OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

Ask: How does Jesus rescue us?

(Jesus rescued us when He died on the cross for our sins. He has forgiven our sins and we are able to have a relationship with Him.)

Ask: What stood out to you when you read about how Jesus saves us?

(Answers may vary.)

Ask: What does it mean to follow Jesus and grow as a Christian as you grow older?

(To learn to live for Jesus in everything we do. To read the Bible to spend time with Jesus and learn about who He is. To trust that Jesus cares for us and is with us everywhere we go. To share about who Jesus is to others.)

---

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: FREEZE COURSE

Create a challenging obstacle course in your living room, backyard, or driveway. Considering using different objects and levels that make it as challenging as possible. (Be creative! It's important that the kid not be able to do the whole course without failing at least once.)

Determine a list of rules that are difficult to follow perfectly such as "You must hop the entire course on one foot; You cannot touch the grass at all."

If your kid breaks one of the rules, tell them that they have to freeze and be perfectly still until the leader comes and "rescues" them by giving them a high five.

When they get a high five from the leader, they can resume the obstacle course.

After the game, explain that when we sin, we are separated from God and cannot rescue ourselves. Without Jesus, sin controls our lives. John 8:34 tells us that Jesus can set us free from our sin. Jesus rescues us!