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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, June 21, 2015

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [Mark 4:35-41](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus helps us smooth out our inside waves* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A towel or blanket – you'll want to have it nicely folded to begin with.

### **ASK** (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- I have a VERY nicely folded towel here – if I might say so myself. I spent a LOT of time getting it all folded up – nice and neat just for you today.
- In what ways, do you think, could we use this towel? (to dry off with, cover up with, maybe mop up something, maybe to use as a pillow or something to sit on)
- It's odd that none of you said "Put it where everyone can see it but no one can touch it" – because that's how I'm thinking it should be used.
- See ... all of your suggestions sound like really good things to do with a *different* towel, an UN-FOLDED towel.
- But if we did those things with this *folded* towel, then this towel would get all messed up and wrinkled and that would be really really sad, don't you think? (Hopefully the kids will all yell "NO!" at your ridiculousness, but if they don't – whisper to them "Say NOOOOO")
- Wait – are you telling me that the towel can be refolded later on?
- Can you maybe show me how to do that? [*mess up the towel and let the kids refold the towel for you and then thank them for their help*]

### **TELL** (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- So there are no towels in today's scripture story, but there IS a storm.
- And the disciples are really worried about it.

- In a lot of ways, the disciples are a lot like my towel – they started all nicely folded up.
- But when the storm showed up – they got so worried about the storm and the waves, that the disciples get all wavy and stormy inside of *themselves*.
- Sort of like this – [*unfold the towel and bunch it up a little bit to make it look like waves*] The towel even looks like a stormy sea, don't you think?
- So the disciples are all stirred up inside, but then they made a *really* good decision – they decided to check-in with Jesus.
- And when they do that, did you hear what happened?
- That's right – the waves went away – Jesus smoothed out the wrinkles [*smooth out the towel*]

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- This story is a good reminder for us
- When our lives start to get all wrinkled up [*bunch up the towel again*] and we start to worry about it so much that we feel like this [*hold up and point to the bunched-up towel*] on the inside...
- ...we don't have to stay like this.
- Instead, we can do like the disciples did and ask for Jesus' help.
- And when we ask Jesus for help, Jesus will do what Jesus always does – he'll help us see and know how to let God's love, light, and life into us – which will do what, do you think?
- That's right! Letting in God's love, light, and life will smooth out the waves and wrinkles that we can often feel inside of us [*smooth out the towel one more time*]
- And that's the good news for today
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who shows us...**

**...who shows us...**

**...how to pay attention to you...**

**...how to pay attention to you...**

**...instead of to the storms of life.**

**...instead of to the storms of life.**

**Thank you and amen**