



## OVERVIEW SECTION

### How to Read This Lesson Plan

The **Overview Section** is the foundation of this lesson plan. The questions and activities for the class that you will be teaching on Sunday morning have been based (sometimes loosely) upon what you read in this section. The **Overview Section** is composed of five components (each component is underlined in the lesson plan):

- How to Read This Lesson Plan** (defines all components of the lesson plan)
- Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation** (a reminder of why we do this)
- Scripture(s) for the Session** (a reminder that the scripture is to be read in every class)
- Key Verses & Theology** (background for teachers to ponder)
- Themes to Focus on from the Scripture** (the ideas that the session's lessons are based on)

The actual lesson is found in the second section, **The Sunday Morning Experience Section**. Think of this section as the step-by-step instruction guide to your Sunday morning teaching experience. There are four components to this section (again, each component is underlined in the actual lesson plan):

- Preparation** (including supplies needed)
- Classroom Statement** (a brief explanation of what will be taught/happening in the classroom)
- Step-by-step process of the lesson** (including the scripture to be read)
- Suggested variations for age groups** (Self-explanatory but not always applicable)

We encourage you to read the rest of this **Overview Section** before reading the **Sunday Morning Experience Section**.

### Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation

The purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation is, with God's help and in community, to hear and interact with the stories of our faith tradition, to pray, worship and play together, and to equip and support the building of relationships with God and with each other.

### Scripture(s) for the Session: Luke 8:22-25 (with Mark 4:39 inserted)

*Please READ this aloud in every class you teach.* The actual words to the scripture can be found in **The Sunday Morning Experience Section: Step-by-Step process of the lesson**. When reading to the class, please read it from the lesson plan (not an actual Bible) as the wording of the scripture has been modified to help clarify some language issues.

**Key Verses & Theology:** These are provided to help the teachers think about and build a framework for understanding the story to help in answering some of the questions that the students might raise in class.

*...they woke him up, shouting, "Master! we are perishing!"* We're not told how long the disciples wait before waking Jesus up. Remember that some of the disciples are fisherman and are used to being in storms while on the boat. They might have even displayed some pride and tried to convince the other disciples not to wake Jesus up during "a little squall." So the strength of the storm has to be pretty severe in order to for the disciples to wake Jesus up. The detail we're given before Jesus is awoken is that the boat was filling with water. And what a way for Jesus to wake up, with water sloshing in the boat, the wind and waves crashing about while his disciples yell at him, "WAKE UP! WE'RE DYING!" This seems like pretty typical behavior of all of us, though, doesn't it? For us to think we can manage a situation and that we don't need to ask for help until WHOOSH, the waves crash around us and we realize that we're in over our heads. And then, because we waited so long to ask for help, when we finally do ask for help, it's with alarm and urgency! HURRY UP! WE'RE DYING HERE!

*And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. [He said, "Peace! Be still!"] The storm ceased, and there was a calm.* To the original listeners of the story, the word "sea" would also be heard as "chaos." So if we insert "chaos" into the story in place of "sea," we see that the disciples are trying to stay above the chaos and keep it out of the boat. But the chaos finally gets in, not just into the boat, but into the disciples too. They internalize the chaos and shake Jesus awake in a panic. Jesus on the other hand is not letting the panic in. He's at rest. He's peaceful. Then when he speaks into the chaos, he externalizes the peace that is inside of him. He speaks his peace out loud, and the storm is calmed. Whereas the chaos takes hold of the disciples, the peace in Jesus takes hold of the environment around him.

*Where is your faith?* The disciples are not trusting God. And if they are not filled with trust, then they must be filled with something else. And in this case, it's the chaos filling them up. The disciples wonder who this person is who can calm the sea. But it's not the person, it's what's inside the person. It's so much easier to think it's the person. That's what the disciples do, right? But if calming the sea is about who the person is, then Jesus is being unfair when he chastises his disciples with his question, "Where is your faith?" As their teacher, Jesus knows that they stopped trusting and because they stopped trusting, they were overcome by the chaos, instead of being filled with God's trust and sharing that peace with those around them, like what Jesus does when he calms the storm.

**Themes to Focus on from the Scripture:** Themes are provided to help teachers understand the teaching of the *session* (not necessarily the class). Sometimes an activity in one class may not match up with any of the themes.

**Authority** – Jesus trusts that God, who shaped the watery chaos into creation, is the one who is in charge. It is this trust Jesus has in God that then rebukes the sea and then calms the storm. It is this trust that Jesus has that then leads him to wonder what the disciples were trusting instead, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were trusting that the chaos was stronger than God. While Jesus gives God the authority to command his actions, the disciples give the storm the authority to command their actions.

**Rebuke** – The word, “rebuke” is a somewhat archaic term that means to turn away an action, word or thought (usually with words). Jesus turns away the chaos with words of peace. “Be still,” he says. In a Biblical context, the word “rebuke” means to turn away the ways of living that do not include God. Chaotic living is a way of life that does not include God. Just as Jesus rebukes the chaotic way of the storm, so can we rebuke the ways of life that might even be well-known, but do not invite God into our lives.

**Peace** – “All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth and world peace!” But what *is* world peace? No wars? Or do all the nations have to actually like each other as well? What about each country... do the people in each country have to like each other in order for world peace to exist? Yes, there is a longing for the world to be at peace. But for that to really happen, there must first be peace within you and within me. Peace starts at the individual level. We see this with Jesus. The disciples know no peace. The weather is not exhibiting peace. But yet, the story ends with peace. Why? Because Jesus was at peace. Jesus was trusting God. The peace in Jesus was strong – it was not overcome by the storm. And it was contagious. The storm “caught” the peace in Jesus and the peace took hold. The peace in Jesus was externalized and the environment around him became peaceful. This is how world peace happens: One person at a time trusting God and living accordingly.



## THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE SECTION

### Preparation

- Print out this lesson plan and bring it with you on the Sunday Mornings you are teaching
- Arrive at pre-arranged time to join other teachers, shepherds and staff for an opening prayer.
- Supplies Needed: DVD movie (online at [www.rfour.org/media.html](http://www.rfour.org/media.html). Or you can contact me at [support@rfour.org](mailto:support@rfour.org) about receiving a DVD with all the movies on it for Season 3); TV w/DVD player; 4 to 5 scripts for puppets (see *Storytelling Supply Document S3-S6*); some sort of upright material to for the puppeteers to hide behind and put their puppets above (a large, modified cardboard box works perfectly – if you really want to get into it, get a refrigerator box from an appliance store); camcorder; popsicle puppets (see “How to make popsicle puppets” directly below)
- **How to make popsicle puppets:** Print out the pictures as provided in the *Storytelling Supply Document S3-S6*. Cut them out and either paste or tape them to large craft/popsicle sticks. I often times tape the pictures to dark-colored construction paper to help with support and contrast.

### Classroom Statement

This Storytelling Class consists of reading the “Jesus calms the storm” scripture story; watching a “movie” about Bartimaeus; and acting out the story about Bartimaeus by using a script and popsicle puppets that is then recorded to be turned into its own movie.

### Step-by-Step Process of Lesson

Shepherd comes in with students

**SHEPHERD ASKS** “Question of the Day.”

### **INTRODUCE yourself**

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I want you call me (tell the students how they may address you).

**PRAY** Short and simple is perfect. For example:

God, thank you for this day and for each other. We need your help. Help us to learn about you this day. Amen.

### **TELL**

- In the story we’re going to read today, Jesus and the disciples find themselves on a boat, in the middle of the sea, in a storm.

- Jesus and the disciples have different reactions to the storm.
- Listen for what Jesus does differently than his disciples.

**READ Luke 8:22-25 with Mark 4:39 inserted with [ ]s. NRSV.**

22 One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set sail, 23 and while they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep. A windstorm picked up and swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. 24 The disciples went to Jesus and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are going to die!" And Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. [He said, "Peace! Be still!"] Then the storm ceased, and there was a calm. 25 Jesus said to them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

**ASK (answers are in parenthesis)**

- Where were Jesus and his disciples going? (to the other side of the lake)
- What happened while they were going across the Sea of Galilee? (a storm picked up)
- What did the disciples do once the boat was filling with water? (they woke up Jesus)
- Any thoughts about why you think the disciples waited so long to wake Jesus up?
- What does Jesus do after he wakes up? (calms the storm)
- How do the disciples respond to Jesus? (they wonder who he is)

**TELL**

- We're going to watch a video now of the story.
- In it will be some ideas of why the disciples waited to wake Jesus up and what type of boat they were probably in. These things are not in the story that you just heard. Instead, there is some pretending about what might have happened that day to help us better imagine what this story looked like as it happened.

**WATCH DVD Video**

**ASK**

- Are there things that you think you can do and so you don't want someone to help you with it? (for instance, maybe you like to comb your own hair and not have your mom, dad or sibling do it)
- That seems to be what happened for the disciples, too. They thought they didn't need help, but then it turns out that they really did, didn't they?

**TELL**

- Now we're going to make our own movie.
- We have two groups of disciples that need readers (two or more readers to read at the same time OR if you're short on people, just one reader per disciple role). There's Jesus. And then I need someone who can make a good wind sound.

- There need to be holders for the wind, the cloud, the waves and the boat (if you have lots of students, readers and holders of puppets can be split up).
- (If need be, you can assign an “audience” part to the less than enthusiastic students).
- Our shepherd here will record our play (or maybe have a student help out here, too).
- So we’re going to go behind the screen, here.
- We’ll do a practice run through, where I’ll be the director, helping yall know what to do and when to do it.
- Once we got through the practice run, then we'll film it.

## **DO & RECORD Popsicle Puppet Play**

**Characters:** Disciples, Other Disciples, Jesus and the wind noise-maker.

**Non-character that needs to be held up:** The boat, the clouds, the wind, the waves.

### **POPSICLE PUPPET SCRIPT**

**Jesus:** We are going to the other side of the Sea of Galilee tonight.

**The disciples:** Aww man!

**Jesus:** Sailing is better than walking.

**The disciples:** Well, that's true...

**Jesus:** I'm going to sleep now. [Jesus moves to the front of the boat and sinks off stage]

**The disciples:** The boat sure isn't moving very fast tonight. We need some wind.

**[wind starts to blow (make blowing sound). Rock boat a little bit. Have the puppets move back a little bit, and have the boat move forward a little bit to show acceleration]**

**The disciples:** Yay, we've got wind!

**Other disciples:** We're going to be in trouble....that type of wind always brings a storm.

**The disciples:** Maybe the wind will get us to the other side before the storm hits.

**Other disciples:** Not a chance.

[Put up rain cloud puppet above the boat]

**The disciples:** Ack! Rain!

[Put up wind puppet in front of the boat]

**The disciples:** Whoa! That IS a strong wind. Should we wake Jesus up and tell him?

**Other disciples:** Jesus is still sleeping. Besides, what can he do that we can't? The trip would've been better without the storm, but we'll be okay.

[Put up waves puppet in front of the boat]

**The disciples:** Waves! Waves! AAAAAAAAAAHHHH! THE WAVES ARE COMING INTO THE BOAT! BAIL! BAIL! BAIL! ROW! ROW! ROW!

**Other disciples:** WE WERE WRONG! WE'RE NOT OKAY! JESUS WAKE UP! WE'RE DYING! WAKE UP! [Other disciples go to front of Jesus to wake him up.]

[Jesus puppet pops back up]

**Jesus:** Wind, Waves and Storm, I rebuke you. Peace to you. Be calm.  
[Remove wind and wave puppets]

**The disciples:** Whoa! That was cool. How'd he do that?

**Jesus:** Instead of trusting God, you trusted yourselves. That's why you were afraid. Next time call on God for help like I do. Do not call upon yourself. You are not God. You cannot do what God can do.

**The disciples:** We think you're a god. How did you do that!?!?!?

**Jesus:** I just told you. Where is your faith? Trust God, not yourself.

**The disciples:** And then we'll be able to stop storms?

**Jesus:** Trust God and then the storms won't get inside of you and fill you with fear and panic. Trust God and you'll know what to do all the time, every time.

**THE END**

**CLEAN UP**