

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY: "Storm in a Bottle" Craft

Objective:

To help children understand that Jesus is with us during scary times and has the power to bring peace, just as He calmed the storm. "Jesus Calms the Storm" Luke 8:22-25.

Materials Needed:



Clear plastic bottles with caps (one per child)

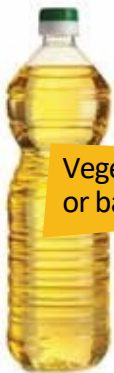
Water



Blue food colouring



Glitter (silver or blue)



Vegetable oil or baby oil



Superglue or strong tape (to seal bottles)

Small symbols (optional): tiny boat cutouts or stickers and Labels or markers for writing

Activity Steps: 1.

Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Gather the Children:**
 - Bring the children together in a circle.
 - Explain that they'll be learning about a time when Jesus helped His friends who were scared during a big storm.
- **Tell the Story:**
 - Use simple language to recount Mark 4:35-41.
 - Highlight how the disciples were afraid, but Jesus brought peace.

2. Discussion (5 minutes)

- **Ask Questions:**
 - "Have you ever been afraid during a storm?"
 - "What makes you feel better when you're scared?"
- **Relate to Seafarers:**
 - Explain that some people work on ships and might feel scared during storms.
 - Emphasise that Jesus is with them, just like He is with us.

3. Craft Activity (15 minutes)

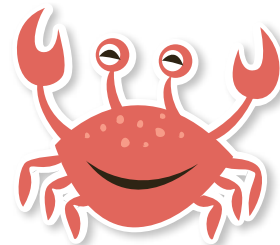
- **Step 1: Fill the Bottle**
 - Help children fill their plastic bottles with about one-third water.
- **Step 2: Add Colour**
 - Add a few drops of blue food colouring to represent the sea.
 - Let the children swirl the bottle gently to mix the colour.
- **Step 3: Add Glitter**
 - Sprinkle in some glitter to represent waves and the storm.
- **Step 4: Add Oil**
 - Fill the rest of the bottle with vegetable or baby oil, leaving a small air space at the top.
- **Step 5: Seal the Bottle**
 - Securely fasten the cap.
 - For safety, adults should seal the cap with superglue or strong tape to prevent leaks.
- **Step 6: Decorate**
 - Provide markers or stickers.
 - Children can write "Peace in the Storm" or draw symbols like hearts or crosses.

4. Demonstration (5 minutes)

- **Creating the Storm:**
 - Show children how to tilt and shake the bottle to create a stormy effect.
 - Then, let it sit to watch the “storm” calm down.
- **Relate Back to the Story:**
 - Explain that just like the bottle, sometimes things in life can feel stormy, but Jesus can help bring peace.

5. Reflection (5 minutes)

- **Talk About Feelings:**
 - Encourage children to share how it feels to know Jesus is with them.
- **Pray Together:**
 - Lead a simple prayer thanking Jesus for His peace.
 - Pray for seafarers who might be in storms.



6. Closing Activity:

- **Sing a Song:**
 - Teach a simple song like “With Jesus in the Boat (We Can Smile in the Storm)”.
 - Include hand motions for engagement.

Alternative Activity: “Stormy Seas Game”

If materials are limited, here’s an interactive game:

- **Setup:**
 - Clear a space in the room.
 - Use a sheet or large piece of fabric to represent the sea.
- **Gameplay:**
 - Children hold onto the edges of the sheet.
 - Practice making “calm seas” (holding the sheet still) and “stormy seas” (waving it up and down).
- **Incorporate the Story:**
 - As you narrate the story, have the children make the sea calm or stormy.
 - When Jesus calms the storm in the story, everyone brings the sheet to a gentle stillness.
- **Discussion:**
 - Talk about how the disciples felt during the storm and after Jesus calmed it.
 - Reinforce the message that Jesus is powerful and brings peace.

Linking the Activity to the Sermon

- **Reinforce the Message:**
 - Encourage children to show their “Storm in a Bottle” to family members and explain what it means.
- **Family Involvement:**
 - Suggest that parents ask their children about the activity to spark faith discussions at home.

Conclusion

The sermon and children’s activity develop the theme “Peace in the Storm “ to convey a powerful message of trust in Jesus during difficult times. The congregation, both adults and children, is invited to reflect on their personal storms and find solace in Jesus’s presence while also remembering and supporting seafarers who face literal and figurative storms in their lives.



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