

Welcome to the story of A Storm! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **On the Beach**

Jesus and the disciples got into the boat on the beach. Sit in two groups. Play pretend beach volleyball. While you are passing the ball, think about how important the beach is to fishermen.

- **Afraid Actions**

The disciples were afraid when the storm hit. They went to Jesus to help them. Talk about when you are afraid. How do you act? Who do you ask for help? Remember Jesus is with us even when we are afraid.

- **Fill In the Blank**

Jesus said the disciples had little faith. Take turns sharing how you would fill in the blank in this statement. "My faith in Jesus shows when I _____." It's important to share faith in stormy times and calm times.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- I wonder if all the disciples could swim.
- Why did Jesus say the disciples had "little faith"?
- How do you feel when you are awakened by a storm?
- Why were the disciples afraid?
- Why were the disciples amazed by Jesus' actions?
- How can we show that our faith is BIG?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Balancing the Boat**

The disciples climbed into the boat after Jesus. To climb into a small fishing boat, you need good balance. Balance carefully on a line on the floor by putting one foot's heel in front of the other foot's toe in order to walk. Look out! Don't fall in the water.

- **Wild Wind**

A gale wind hit the fishing boat. That's a huge gusty wind. Push against the wind as you move to your next activity. Be careful of big gusts—they might knock you over!

- **Sleepwalking**

Jesus was sound asleep on the boat, then the disciples suddenly woke him. Make one person in your group the alarm clock, while the others walk in their sleep. When the alarm clock buzzes, everyone wakes up quickly.

- **Windmills**

The wind was blowing on the lake. Make your arms into windmills. Show the wind getting stronger and stronger by speeding up the circle motion the windmills make. When you get to your destination, show "dead calm" on your windmills. Phew! That was a lot of wind.

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- **Obeying Others**

The storm obeyed Jesus' command. Why is it so hard for us to obey others? Share times when you struggled to obey someone. Remember that Jesus cared for the disciples even when they did not obey.

- **Leap of BIG Faith**

Jesus said that fear is a result of "little faith." When did you have a big leap of faith? When did you take a risk based on your faith? Share stories about ways that you are a courageous believer.

- **Life Saver**

When the disciples were afraid, they yelled, "Lord, save us!" Think of times that you wanted Jesus to be a lifesaver. Close your eyes and imagine Jesus throwing you a life preserver. Open your eyes and share a story about a time when you really need Jesus.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- How are fear and faith related?
- Why is this story called "A Storm"?
- How does following Jesus involve risk?
- I wonder who got the water out of the swamped boat.
- Can you name three times when your life was stormy?
- Why didn't the disciples, who were fishermen, see the storm coming?

Transition Tips

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- **Wave Riding**

A huge wave hit the boat when Jesus was sleeping. Pretend you are on a surfboard riding the wave to your next activity.

- **Authority Figure**

Jesus was an authority figure to the disciples. He used a calm command to stop the storm. In your most commanding voice, put your hand out and say, "Stop, storm!" Remember that Jesus also showed grace in his voice when he commanded.

- **Synchronized Swimming**

The disciples followed Jesus into the boat. Following the actions of others takes a lot of focus. Do some swimming as you move to your next location. Synchronize your swimming strokes as you move along. Try dog paddle, breaststroke, side stroke, back stroke, and front crawl as you follow the leader.

- **Stepping Up**

The disciples followed Jesus into the boat. As you move to your next location, step up and over the side of the boat. Hold onto the boat's sides to keep from falling. Don't trip or you'll get wet!

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- **Storms of Life**

Jesus calms the storms in our lives. Share some stories about stormy times in your life. When you finish, say the words of “Jesus Loves Me” together.

- **Give a Hand**

When Jesus and the disciples climbed into the boat, they helped each other. As a group, make a list of little things you can do to give a helping hand to others. Do some of these things for each other during your time together.

- **Scary Is . . .**

The disciples were scared of the storm. Talk about what scares you. Who helps you when you are feeling scared? How can Jesus help when we are scared?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why did the disciples wake Jesus?
- How did the disciples get the boat into the water?
- Why did Jesus say the disciples had “little faith”?
- I wonder if Jesus knew a storm was coming.
- Would you follow Jesus into the boat? Why or why not?
- How do you think the boat got out into the middle of the lake?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Do the Wave**

Waves hit the fishing boat. Have your group make a giant wave as you move to your next activity. Start with your hands in front of you down low. The next person raises his or her hands over his or her head. Each person starts his or her wave when the person before him or her gets hands to waist.

- **Bailing Out**

Jesus' boat started to fill with water. It almost got swamped. Start bailing the water from that boat. Use your hands to throw the water out of the boat back into the lake. Bend over so you can get more water. Bail water all the way to your next location.

- **Storm Sounds**

There was a huge storm on the lake. Jump to your next activity, making storm sounds as you move. Remember crashing waves, whistling winds, lightning, and thunder. Be sure others know a storm is coming.

- **Rock the Boat**

Jesus and the disciples were in a boat, and strong winds rocked their boat. Plant your feet apart, as wide as your shoulders. As the boat rocks, try to keep your balance. Look out—here comes a gust of wind!