



Peace Be Still: The Sovereignty of God

Matthew 8:23-27

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Markers/Pencils
- ✓ 1 Yard of Blue Fabric (I used blue tulle. Any blue fabric will do)
- ✓ Something that represents a boat: cap from deodorant, small box, etc...
- ✓ Spray Bottle with water (for rain)
- ✓ Rainstick or wind chimes to represent the sound of rain.
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of crossword puzzle
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



Peace Be Still: The Sovereignty of God

Objective of Lesson

Demonstrate and teach what "sovereignty" means, and that the Lord is sovereign over all things and has the ability to even save His people from their sins.

Scripture Reference

Matthew 8:23-27

23 *And after He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.*

24 *And [!] suddenly, behold, there arose a violent storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered up by the waves; but He was sleeping.*

25 *And they went and awakened Him, saying, Lord, rescue and preserve us! We are perishing!*

26 *And He said to them, Why are you timid and afraid, O you of little faith? Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great and wonderful calm ([m]a perfect peaceableness).*

27 *And the men were stunned with bewildered wonder and marveled, saying, What kind of Man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!*

Lesson Instructions

1. Today I would like to review a story that teaches us the "sovereignty" of God. You all have probably heard your parents and your pastor use that word

in reference to our Lord. It is a very big word and it is a very important word. It even sounds important, doesn't it? Sovereignty is a word that tells us how big and powerful God is. Let's read a story that illustrates what this big word means. Stories like this are what the Lord uses to teach us about Him. He does this because firstly, He knows our brains (our understanding) don't have the ability to learn about Him any other way, and secondly, He doesn't teach with words that are impressive to men. He is speaking to His people in simple, earthly terms so we can understand. (John 3:12, 1 Cor. 1: 18-31, Matthew 13: 10-23)

2. Our story is in Matthew 8:23-27. I want you to act out this story as I read it from God's word. (Spread out the blue fabric and have each child hold an edge. Place the "boat" in the middle of the fabric. If you have more children than will fit around the fabric, have one child do the spray bottle, one do the rains stick, and one clap their hands for thunder. As you read the story have the children act it out.) Read the story...
3. Point out that the storm in this story is a picture of our life of sin. It pictures the times in your life where things are out of your control. Everything you do and say seems to bring you pain and heartache. Everything happening in your life feels scary, and you are full of fear and can feel your burdens pressing down on you like the waves of a stormy sea tossing you to and fro; but who is in control of all storms? God is! Who sends the storms of life to begin with? Our Lord does!
4. Why do you think the Lord sent this storm? It is because He was using it to teach His people His power and His abilities! He was using it to show us He has the power to save!!! The word sovereign means everything He says and everything He does happens every single time. It means what the Lord says goes and nothing can stop it! There is absolutely nothing that can stop Him or stay His hand. There is absolutely nothing that happens on earth or even in the heavens above us that our Lord Jesus Christ doesn't control. The Bible not only teaches this through these stories but states it plainly in many

different verses throughout the holy scriptures. (Hold up the following verses for the children to read... Rev. 21:6, Col. 1:16, Romans 11:33, Jeremiah 32:17, Psalm 103:19). These tell us what sovereignty is! He is in control of all things!

5. He rules over all things! God is the ultimate power and He is even the source of all power! That means if anybody on this earth has power and authority over anybody else, it is because God gave that power to them. Who on this earth has power and authority over you? Your parents, your teachers,... What about the president of the United States? He even has authority in some things over your parents and teachers! Where did they get their authority and power over people? God gave it to them. Does God have anybody over Him? No. He is the ultimate power! He is the top of the top! He is the sovereign over everything! Ah ha! There is our big word! Now you know what it means!!! Did you know when you disobey your parents or any person who has authority over you, you are not just disobeying them, you are also disobeying God? God is the first cause of all things! God is the one that gave them authority over you to begin with. God does not cause people to sin but He does allow certain things to happen if He is going to use it for the good of His people. (Psalm 76:10) So you can trust Him that all things work together for the good of His people. (Romans 8: 28)
6. In our story our Lord is so powerful and so sovereign that when He speaks even the wind and the waves obey His voice. He has authority over wind!! You mean He tells the wind what to do? Yes. You mean He tells the waves what to do? Yes. ALL things are under His control. The next time you find yourself in a storm and you are scared... it can be a real physical storm or a storm of things out of your control in your life - you can trust that our Lord Jesus Christ is in control of it. If your heart is full of fear because you are in a storm of sin and you can't stop yourself, He can even calm that storm!
7. Our Lord even has the power to save people from their sins! The ultimate power! Our sins are so numerous and horrible and vile that they will kill us

and sink us into Hell forever. We are in this little boat and our sins are just like this storm on the water - tossing us around and about to drown us. Oh, but our Lord! Our Lord Jesus Christ can fix that! Go to Him as these men did in our story! Go to Him in prayer and ask Him to save you from your storm of sin! He will say to you, "Peace be still," because He is sovereign! Amen

Lesson Activities

- Blue fabric demonstration
- Coloring Sheet
- Crossword Puzzle

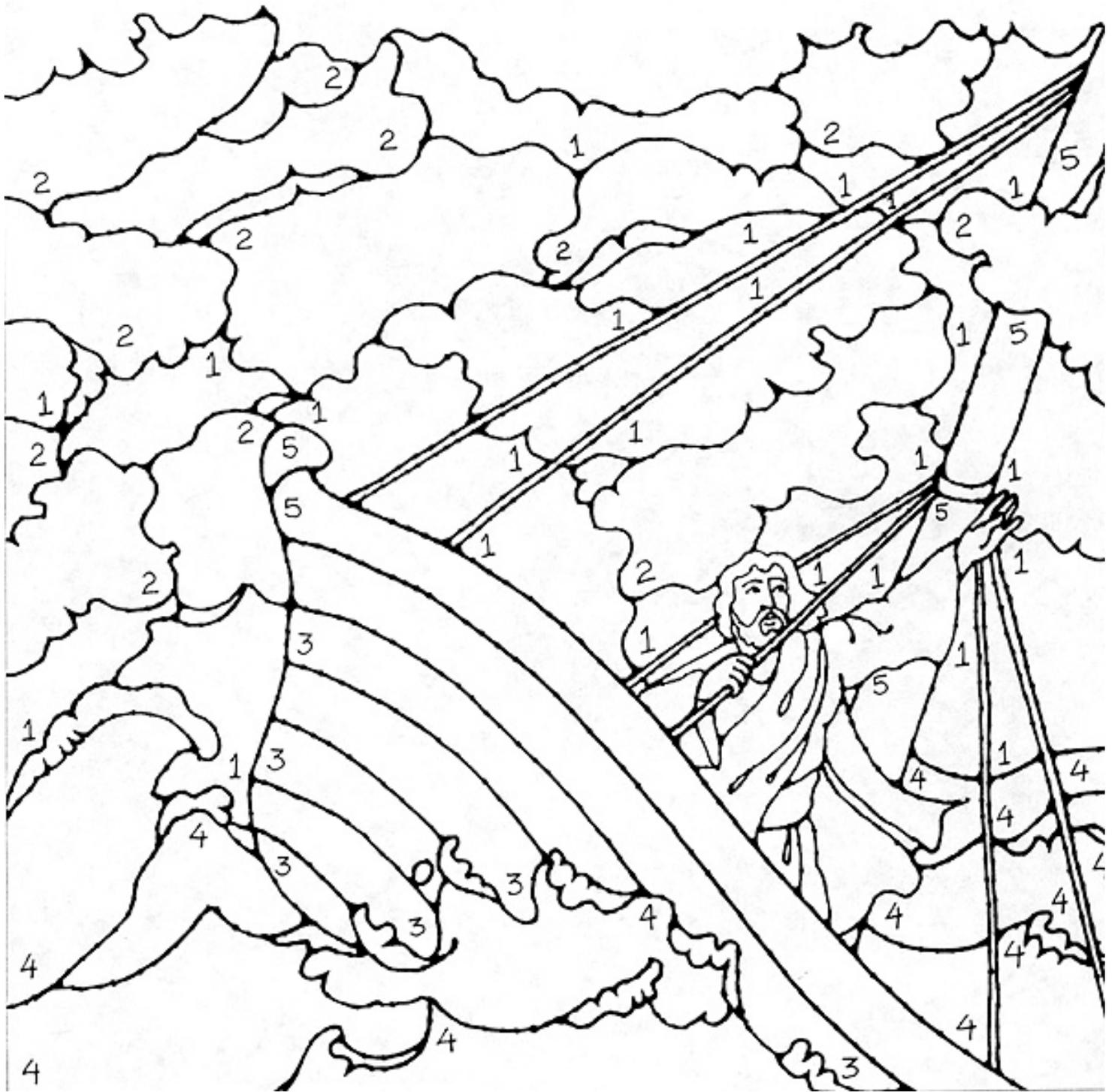


Take Home Lesson Overview

Scripture Reference: Matthew 8:23-27

Lesson Overview:

This lesson covers a wonderful story told in the Bible found in Matthew 8:23-27. Our Lord is a sovereign God and controls all things. This story is a wonderful picture of the word "sovereignty". We talked about what that word means and how its meaning is wonderful news to a lost sinner. It means the Lord is so powerful, even the wind and the waves obey His command! He is a God of grace and mercy. He sends the storms, and He calms the storms. He causes the wind to blow and the wind to settle into a calm. What a beautiful picture of our Lord's power to save. When we find ourselves in a storm in life; when trials and sin abound and it seems as if we ourselves are in a boat being tossed into certain death; when we have done as these men did and exhausted all of our knowledge and tried everything to no avail, do as these men did, go to the one who has the power to do all things. When you have come to the end of yourself and it seems nothing you do will calm your soul, look to Him. When your sins abound and you are sinking as a vessel in the angry sea of God's frowning face, look to Christ for your salvation - the one who can speak, "Peace, Be Still," and the tempestuous sea of God's wrath is calmed and He speaks peace to your soul.





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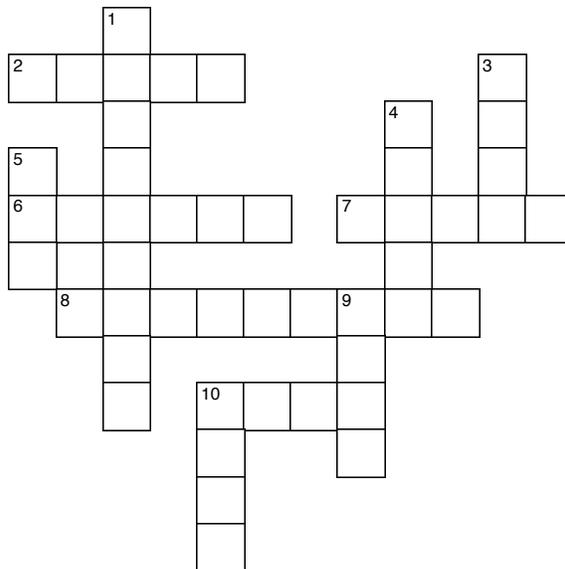
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The Sovereignty of God

Peace be Still!



ACROSS

- 2 a violent disturbance of the atmosphere with strong winds and usually rain, thunder, lightning, or snow
- 6 a feeling fear or anxiety; frightened
- 7 a complete trust or confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ, for everything you need, physically and spiritually
- 8 followers and students of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 10 to move at a regular and fairly slow pace by lifting and setting down each foot in turn, never having both feet off the ground at once

DOWN

- 1 the supreme ruler possessing supreme or ultimate power over all things wither they do happen or don't happen
- 3 a small vessel propelled on water by oars, sails, or an engine
- 4 to be calmed, silent and tranquil
- 5 a period of twenty four hours as a unit of time
- 9 a large body of water surrounded by land
- 10 a long body of water curling into an arched form and breaking on the shore