



Leader's Guide: The Lord of the Storm

To get the most out of your script, here are three things you can do:

1. Read the SCRIPT with as much drama as possible
2. Read the original STORY in your favorite Bible
3. DISCUSS the story



Good discussion requires preparation. This guide provides notes, questions, fun facts and illustrations to make your group discussion rich and enjoyable.

A word about questions: not all the discussion questions in this guide may be useful for your family or group. Pick and frame the questions to suit the ages of your members.

A word about illustrations: paintings and maps bring stories to life. You can use the links and search terms in this guide to make a slideshow to accompany your reading of the Bible story. You may want to put these illustrations on a tablet or cast them onto a big screen for maximum effect.

Before reading each script, ask the Lord to guide your family or group into a greater revelation of his love and grace. These are his stories based on his words. You can trust him to bring forth good fruit.

Feel free to [contact me](#) if you have questions, suggestions, or testimonies of what God has done as a result of reading the Jesus Scripts. And don't forget to [sign up](#) to be notified when new scripts are released.

Grace and peace,
Paul Ellis
JesusScripts.com

Script: The Lord of the Storm

Story: Read Mark 4:35–41. See also Matthew 8:23–27 and Luke 8:22–25.

Leader's Notes

A fun way to read this script is to dim the lights and light some candles to simulate a dark night on the Sea of Galilee. Have a cup of water or a spray bottle handy to simulate wild waves during the stormy scenes. For background ambience, select an audio playlist of storm noises.

This script is suitable for four to six actors:

Characters	4 actors	5 actors
1. Narrator	1	1
2. Jesus	2	2
3. Andrew	3	3
4. Peter	4	4
5. Matthew	3	5
6. Little James	4	5

Discussion Questions

1. What did you like about this story? Which bit stood out?
2. What does this story reveal about Jesus?
3. Why were the disciples upset with Jesus when he was sleeping in the boat?

Because they were afraid. When we are fearful and stressed, anger is never far away. When we're going through trials it may seem as though God is sleeping and does not care. Jesus slept in the boat, but our heavenly Father never slumbers (see Ps. 121:3–4).

4. We may not be sailors, but we all face storms in life. There will be times when our boat seems to be coming apart. What are some storms that you have faced?

Age-specific answers may include: school pressure, exams, family issues and work troubles.

5. At the start of their trip, Jesus said to the disciples, "Let's go to the other side of the lake." What was the significance of this remark?

When the Son of God speaks, his word is true. Had the disciples believed him, they might not have feared the storm.

6. Jesus asked the disciples, “Where is your faith?” (Luke 8:25). When we go through storms, what does faith look like?

Faith saying “Yes” to God. It’s reminding ourselves of what he has said and believing that his word will come to pass despite our circumstances.

Fun Facts

Who

At least four of the twelve disciples were fishermen: **Andrew, Peter**, James and John (see Matt. 4:18–22). Thomas and Nathanael may have been fishermen as well, for they went fishing with Peter (John 21:2–8).

Two of Jesus’ disciples were named James. In the script, **Big James** is the brother of John and the son of Zebedee, while **Little James** is the son of Alphaeus.

Whose boat was it? Andrew takes the tiller because the boat belongs to his brother Simon Peter (see Luke 5:3). If the boat had belonged to Zebedee, then either of his sons, James or John, would have been in charge (Matt 4:22).

Where

The story takes place on the Sea of Galilee. In the script, Peter says they were heading east into the wind, but the actual journey saw them crossing from north to south. We know this because the trip began in Capernaum and ended in the region of Gadara, on the south-eastern shores. (Matt 8:5, 18, 28; see Map).



Source: [Bible Mapper](#)

Note: Mark and Luke say the trip concluded in the territory of Gerasa or the Gerasenes (Mark 5:1, Luke 8:26). Gerasa and Gadara were different towns, but both were off the south-eastern corner of the lake.

On the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee are mountains that are up to 2000 feet high. The air on top of these mountains is often cool and dry, while the air on the lake shore is warm and moist. When the wind blows from the east, the collision of the different air masses can lead to violent storms such as the one experienced by the disciples.

What

A first-century fishing boat known as the [Sea of Galilee Boat](#) or the Jesus Boat was unearthed during a 1986 drought that lowered water levels in the Sea of Galilee. Radiocarbon dated the boat to around the time of Jesus. The boat is 27 feet long and a little over 7 feet wide and pictures of it can be found online. The boat is probably similar in size and design to the one used by Andrew in this story.

Was it a demonic storm? Jesus rebuked the wind and the word used (*epitimaō*) is the same Greek word that is used when Jesus rebuked the devil (Matt. 17:18) and various demons (e.g., Mark 1:25). This has led some to conclude that the storm was demonic in nature. However, the Bible never says this and we risk glorifying the devil by attributing to him powers he may not have. In the poetry of the prophets, it is the Lord who is ultimately credited with the wonders of nature:

When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; he makes lightning for the rain, and brings out the wind from his storehouses. (Jer. 10:13, 51:16)

This is not to suggest that God sent the storm that nearly sunk the disciples. Just as it is wrong to blame the devil, it is equally misguided to think that all the storms that come our way were sent by God to test us. The story rather illustrates the power we have in Christ to still the storms of life. The story inspires us to trust in the Creator who made the heavens and the earth.

Illustrations

A classic painting of the storm is Rembrandt van Rijn's 1633 seascape, "[Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee](#)" (see below). An illustration which puts Jesus front and centre is "[Peace, Be Still](#)" by the English illustrator Simon Dewey. A more recent illustration is "[Storm on the Sea of Galilee](#)" by the Catholic artist Matthew Brooks. Many paintings portray Jesus riding the boat in the storm. An exception is the wonderfully calm "[Peace, Be Still](#)," by American artist Stephen Gjertson.



“Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee,” by Rembrandt

Scripture for reflection

But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

– Isaiah 43:1-3

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord for being greater than the storms we face. You are the Maker of heaven and earth and you are with us! Whether we walk through the fire or the flood, you are with us. When we walk through the shadowy Valley of Death, you are with us.

Help us to walk with the confidence and peace that comes from trusting you. Help those in the tempest to hear your voice. Thank you, Lord, that no matter what happens, you have promised to bring us safely to the other side. May your Name be glorified in our lives. Amen.

