BIBLE LESSONS
written by Margaret Law (Adelaide, South
Australia, 1985). Presentation: Colleen Plant
(email: hannahrt@bigpond.net.au)

GOD IS ....

LESSON 11: GOD GIVES … THE GIFT OF PEACE

AIM: The children need to know that because Jesus actually LIVES IN US, WE CAN TRUST Him at all times to care for us and it is trusting Jesus that gives us peace. You may need to define peace so that the children understand the concept. Peace means quiet, order, harmony, freedom from war and strife, security, etc. Even though our environment may not be peaceful, we can have inner peace through Jesus.

OPENING IDEA:
Display squares of coloured cardboard, e.g. black, white, orange, pink, green, blue yellow, purple. Ask the children to suggest a colour that makes them feel peaceful and happy (most will choose blue). Tell the story about a class of art students who had to submit a painting entitled 'Peace'. (*Ask the children what they would paint to best express the feeling of peace.)* One of the students painted a cat sleeping in the warm sunshine; another painted a sunset; another an early morning scene, all of which were OK, but rather boring. However, one person painted a fierce storm at sea with dark clouds and a raging sea. Great waves were breaking over the ship in the foreground of the painting. At the back of the ship, people crouched in terror, but in the stern of the ship was a man with his back against the cabin door, somewhat sheltered from the wind, looking down at the child he held against his shoulder. The child's face showed no signs of fear ort worry, he was fast asleep in his father's arms.

Discuss with children …. Why did the artist think this picture showed peace? Why wasn't the child afraid like the people crouching at the back of the ship?

MEMORY VERSE: (on boat shape)
"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! ...
so don't be troubled or afraid". (John 14:27)

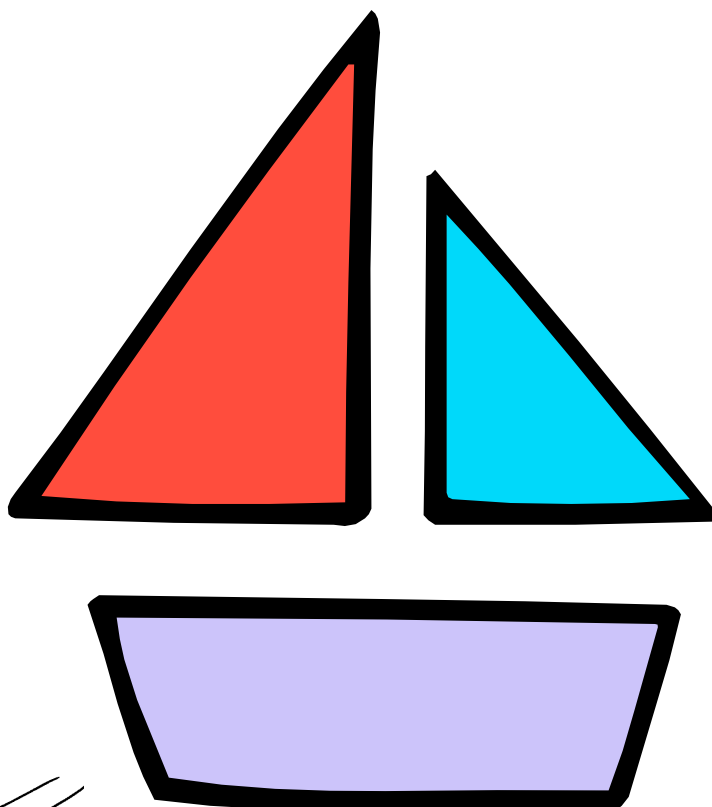**STORY**: **JESUS CALMS THE STORM** (Mark 4:35-41)
It would be good before commencing this story to give the children some background information:

- Jesus did a lot of preaching around the Sea of Galilee (really a lake). Show on map if possible, this helps the children to realize that it really does exist.
- Some of the disciples were fishermen.
- Jesus was very tired after a full day of walking and preaching.
- Jesus decided to cross the lake (about 14km wide) in the late afternoon.
- It was calm when they set sail, but a sudden storm hit the boat. The sea was so rough that the waves were crashing over the boat, filling it with water.
- Jesus was so tired, he slept in the boat and did not wake when the storm hit.
- The disciples were very frightened.
- At this stage, involve the children by asking them what they would do if they were the disciples.
- The disciples thought Jesus didn't care and so they woke Him up.
- Jesus awoke and spoke to the wind (remind the children that it is the wind that causes waves), then He spoke to the sea and they both became calm.
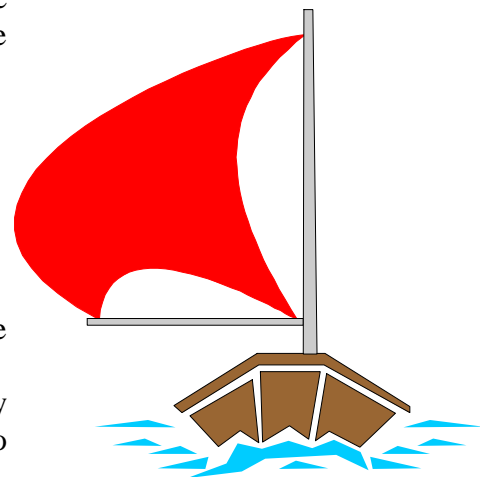
- Jesus told the disciples that they should have more faith to believe that He would look after them.
- Discuss situations that the children experience that make them worried or afraid. Encourage the children to trust God in those situations.
- It is important to note that even though Jesus was in the boat with the disciples, they didn't really trust Him enough to be at peace. Likewise, Jesus can be living in us, but WE still have to trust Him at all times to have peace in our hearts

SONGS: With Christ in my Vessel
            Fear Not for I am With You
            The Lord They God in the Midst of Thee
            I've Got Peace Like a River

JESUS CALMS the STORM

Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:36-41, Luke 8:22-25
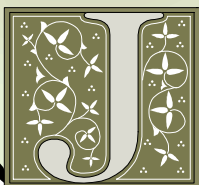
Jesus and his disciples were on the Sea of Galilee, aboard a small fishing boat. It was early evening, the water was calm, and Jesus, tired from preaching all day, fell asleep on some cushions in the stern. As they crossed the lake, suddenly a violent storm blew up. The sky darkened, the wind howled and gigantic waves crashed over the little vessel.

Frightened the disciples shook Jesus awake. "Save us, Lord!" they cried. "Our boat will sink, and we will be drowned."

Jesus awoke and when he saw what was happening, He asked the disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"   He was telling the disciples they should have had more faith to believe that Jesus would look after them, and be at peace, even in a storm.

Stretching out his hands over the lake, he spoke to the wind and waves: "Peace, be still."   Instantly the storm died down and the lake became calm. "How great a man his is," explained the disciples. "Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Trusting in Jesus gives us peace

God gives us a gift to calm the 'stormy' times in our lives.

Work out what Jesus said about this gift by taking each letter of this verse and writing **the one following it** alphabetically on the line below.

John 14:27

H   Z L   K D Z U H M F

I   A M   L E A V I N G

X N T   V H S G   Z   F H E S   N E

Y O U   W I T H   A   G I F T   O F

O D Z B D   N E   L H M C   Z M C

P E A C E   O F   M I N D   A N D

G D Z Q S.   R N   C N M'S   A D

H E A R T.   S O   D O N'T   B E

S Q N T A K D C   N Q   Z E Q Z H C.

T R O U B L E D   O R   A F R A I D.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

EVEN the WIND and the WAVES OBEY JESUS

Write the story of Jesus calming the storm in your own words. What does it mean to you that Jesus gives us the gift of inner peace?

Mark 4:35-41

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Suddenly, the little boat started rocking and tossing in a storm! The disciples were frightened, "Jesus! Wake up! We're going to drown!" they cried, "Why are you afraid?" asked Jesus, "Don't you know nothing can harm you when you're with Me?"
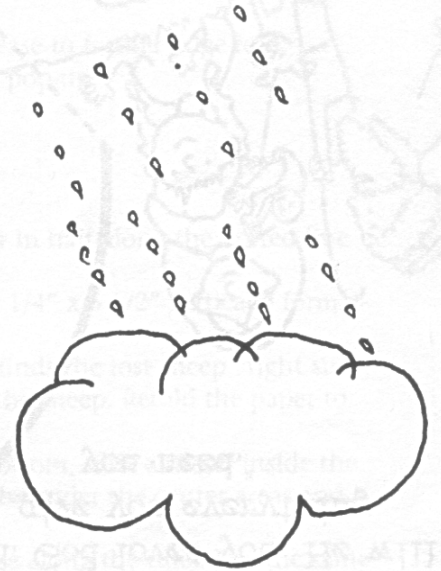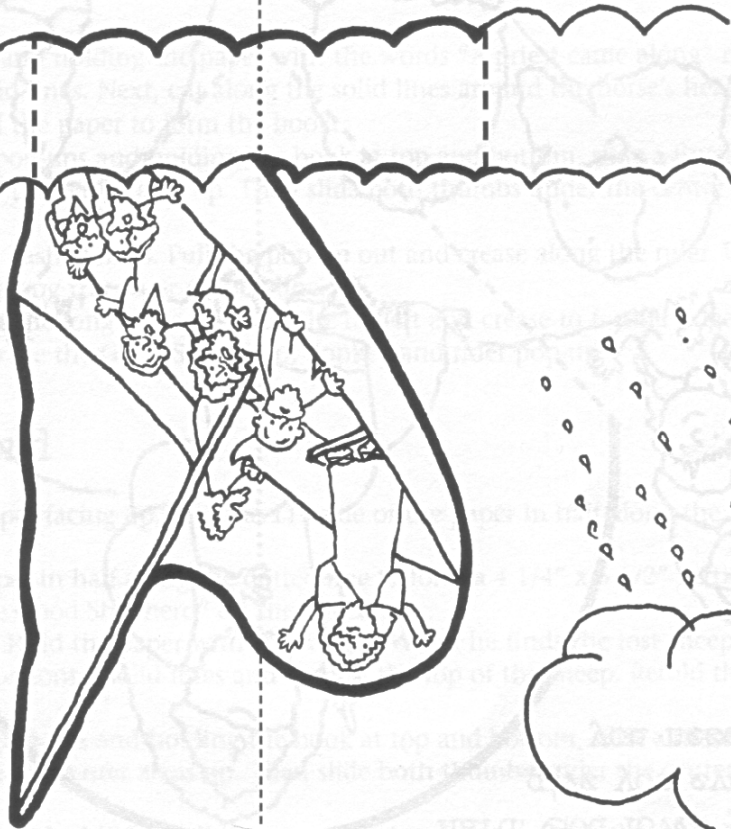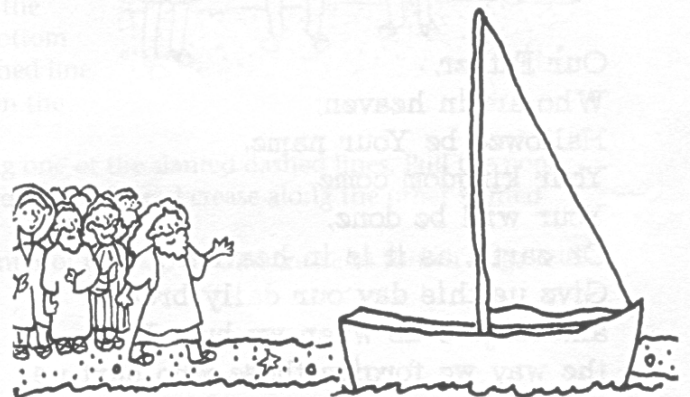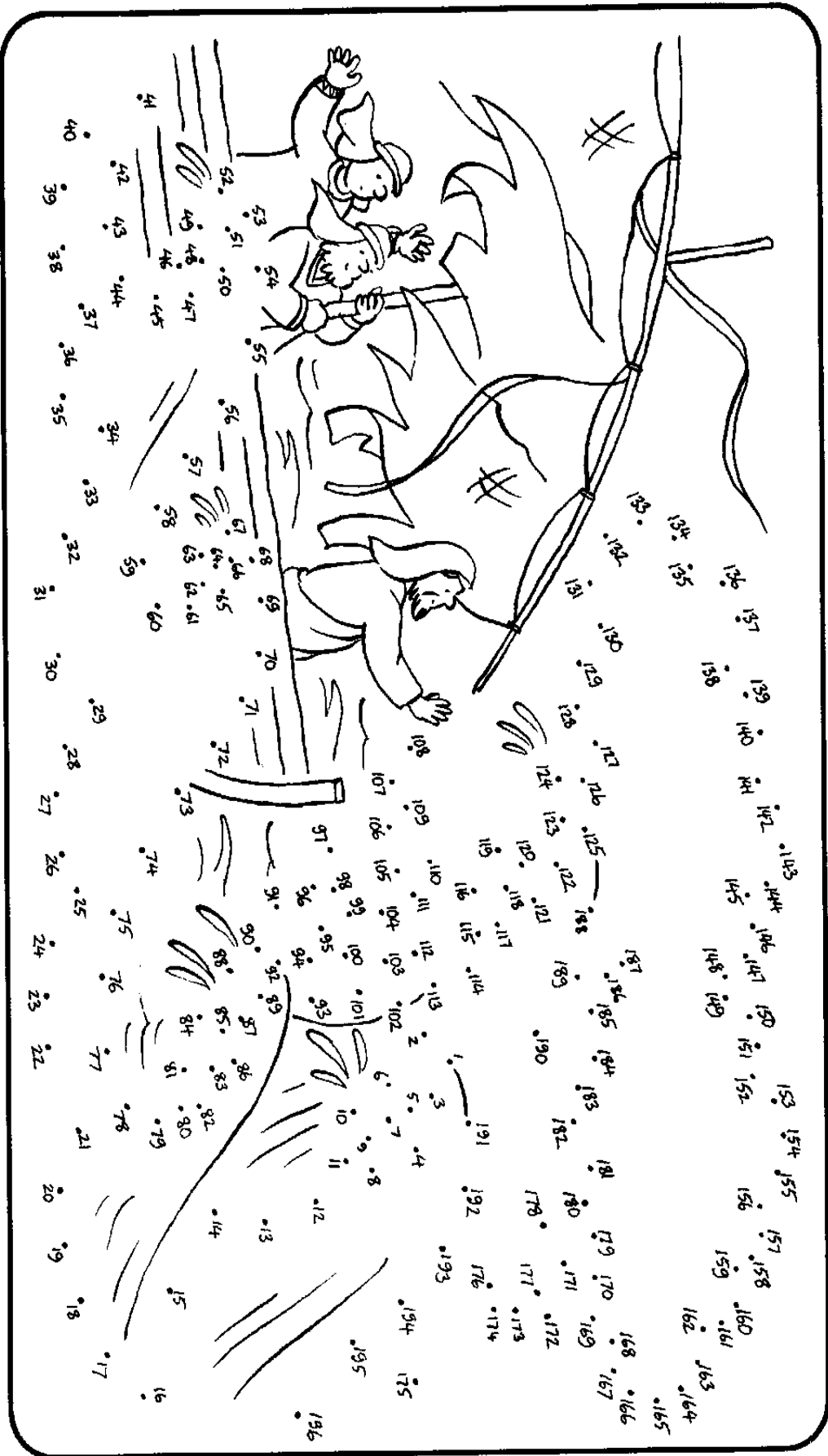
Jesus Calms a Storm

Luke 8:22-25
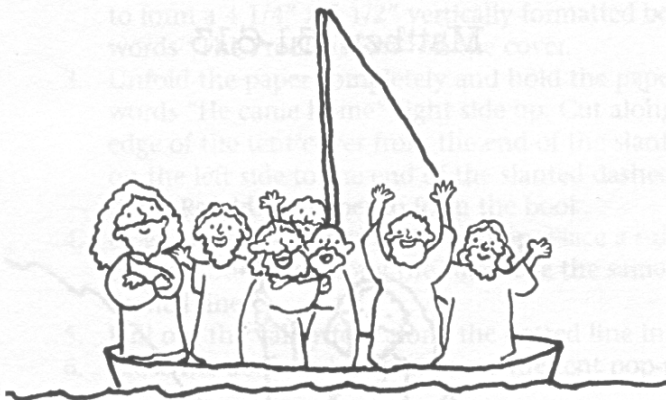
He told the stormy sea, "Be calm!" And the sea was calm. The disciples were amazed. "Even the weather obeys Jesus," they said.

One day when Jesus was teaching, many people crowded around Him. He and His disciples got into a boat to row across the lake. Jesus fell asleep.
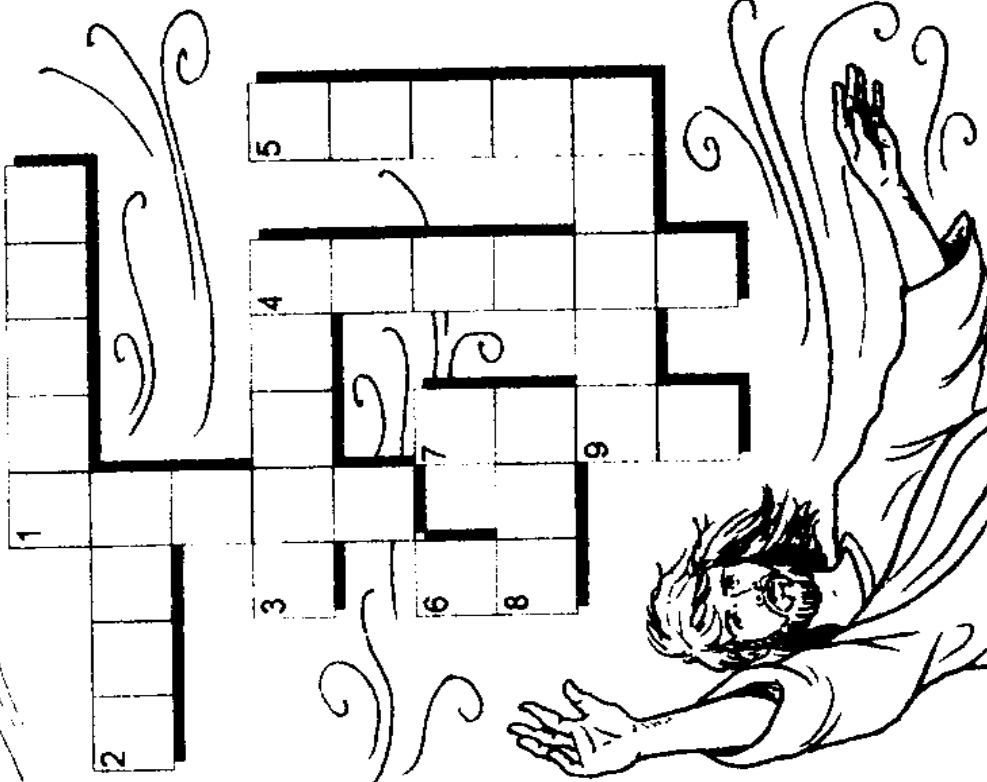
JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Join up the dots. What made Jesus' disciples so scared? (The w _ _ _ _.)

You can find this story in Matthew chapter 8, verses 23-27.

Jesus Calms the Storm
Mark 4:35-41

PUZZLE #38
CROSSWORD

Across

1. A violent disturbance of the air; tempest.
2. A small ship.
3. When you are tired, you go to bed and _____.
8. Large body of water, rhymes with "me."
9. Why did the chicken _____ the road?

Down

1. "Peace, be _____." Mark 4:39
4. What you rest your head on when you sleep.
5. Ridges or swells of water at sea.
6. You and me; rhymes with "fuss."
7. Opposite of front.