

WEEK 1

Seeing Jesus through the Uncertainty

AN INTERACTIVE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

JESUS IS WITH US IN THE STORM

Mark 4:35–41

Main Idea

JESUS IS WITH YOU WHEN THINGS ARE HARD, AND HE HAS THE POWER TO HELP YOU.

Memory Verse

**“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**

JOSHUA 1:9, ESV

LEADER: Can you each tell me about a time when you felt like you were in the middle of something really hard? How did you feel?

Go around the family and have everyone give an answer. Here are some examples to get you started:

- *When my grandmother died, I felt sad and scared.*
- *When my friends at school started saying unkind things about me, I felt hurt and angry.*
- *When I couldn't go to school because of a new sickness, I felt confused and frustrated.*

LEADER: What are some questions you had for God during that storm?

Let each family member share questions. Here are some examples to get you started:

- *How could this happen?*
- *Does anybody care about what I'm going through?*
- *Whose fault is this?*
- *God, where are you?*

LEADER: Things have happened in your life—or maybe are even happening right now—that make you ask some hard questions. They might even make you wonder if God is with you or if He cares.

Read the Bible story of Jesus calming the storm from Mark 4:35–41.

LEADER: What do you think the disciples were feeling during the storm?

Let your family answer. Some answers might include scared, angry, confused, panicked.

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LEADER: What question did the disciples ask Jesus?

Answer: Don't you care if we drown?

LEADER: What questions did Jesus ask the disciples?

Answer: Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?

LEADER: Why do you think Jesus asked those questions?

Answers could include things like, "The disciples had seen Jesus do many miracles," or "The disciples had been with Jesus and knew that He was powerful."

LEADER: Even though the disciples had witnessed the power of Jesus many times before, in the middle of the storm, they were controlled by their feelings instead of what they knew about Jesus.

This same thing happens to us. Jesus is the same today as He was back in the Bible. He is powerful. He cares about His people. He is there for you. But sometimes when we have big feelings—like fear or anger or hurt—we forget that He is powerful, and He is there for us.

As a family, let's promise to remind each other when things feel like a big storm all around us, Jesus is with us, and He is powerful.

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ACTIVITIES

Try doing one of these activities a day as a family to help you remember the lesson. Each day, repeat the memory verse and the main idea.

DAY 1: Complete the devotional lesson as a family.

DAY 2: Write your memory verse using chalk on the sidewalk or your driveway! Post a picture with the hashtag: #JesusIsWithUs #NAMBFamDevo

DAY 3: Use the memory verse tool on the next page to help you memorize the verse.

DAY 4: Make storm sounds using your hands (rubbing hands, snapping fingers, patting thighs, clapping hands, then do it again in the reverse order).

DAY 5: Tell the Bible story using things in your home. For example, you might float a Styrofoam cup “boat” in the bathtub with minifigures to represent Jesus and the disciples. Turn on the shower for the rain, and flash the bathroom lights for lightning while stomping out thunder. Have your kids narrate the story, and post the video using the hashtags #JesusCalmsTheStorm #NAMBFamDevo

DAY 6: Color the provided picture of this story. Either have each member of your family color their own, or color it together as a family.

DAY 7: Divide the elements of the story up between family members to draw. For example, one kid draws Jesus, another kid draws the disciples, mom draws the boat and dad draws the storm clouds. Cut each element out, and glue them together on a piece of large paper to create the whole scene.

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MEMORY VERSE INSTRUCTIONS

The memory verse activity is included on the following page.

1. Fold the paper along the dotted lines so the scripture memory sheet is folded into fifths.
2. Fold the paper so only the top verse (presentation one) is showing.
3. Read the verse out loud five times.
4. Turn the first fold backwards so it's no longer visible and only presentation two is visible.
5. Keep presentation one hidden and fill in the blanks of presentation two.
6. Fold the page again to presentation three. Fill in the blanks of presentation three.
7. Fold the page again to presentation four. Fill in the blanks of presentation four.
8. Turn to presentation five. Just looking at the first letter of each word, attempt to say the entire verse on presentation five. Practice saying the verse aloud again.

JOSHUA 1:9, ESV

“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9, ESV

“Have I not commanded y___?
Be s_____ and courageous.
Do not be f_____, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9, ESV

“Have I not commanded y___?
Be s_____ and courageous.
Do n___ be f_____, and do n___ be dismayed,
for the L_____ your G___ is with y___ wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9, ESV

“Have I not c_____ y___?
Be s_____ and c_____.
Do n___ be f_____, and do n___ be d_____,
for the L_____ your G___ is w___ y___ w_____ you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9, ESV

“H I n c y?
B s a c.
D n b f, a d n b d,
f t L y G i w y w y g.”

MARK 4:35-41

