



- ◀ **REVIEW PREVIOUS STORIES** *(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story)*
- ▼ **TELL THE SCENE** *(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)*

SCENE 1: Calming the Storm

Evening came, and Jesus was exhausted from teaching all day. He asked his disciples to get into a boat so they could cross the lake and get away from the crowds. As they took off, Jesus went to the back of the boat, put his head on a cushion and fell asleep. All of sudden, a terrible storm came up with strong winds and crashing waves. No matter how hard the disciples tried, they couldn't keep the boat from filling with water.

The disciples ran to the back of the boat in a panic to wake Jesus, shouting, *"Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"*

Jesus awoke, stood up, and said to the wind and waves, *"Quiet! Be still."*
As soon as he said this, the wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm.

Then, Jesus asked them, *"Why are you so afraid? Don't you believe in me yet?"*

The disciples just sat there—filled with wonder!

They asked each other, *"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

Jesus healed people with every kind of sickness and disease. News spread quickly about him and huge crowds began following him wherever he went. People traveled from miles away to be near him and see the incredible miracles he performed.

- ▲ **RETELL THE SCENE** *(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)*
- ▼ **DIALOGUE** *(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)*

- **Which of our other stories talk about the wind and the waves?**

What happen in those stories?

When Israel crossed the Red Sea and God brought a strong east wind to open the sea and returned it by bringing a strong west wind in order to kill the army of Pharaoh.

Noah and the Ark...

- **If you were in the boat, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus?**
- **What do we learn about the disciples from this scene?**
Why do you think they woke Jesus up? Why do you think they waited so long?
- **Why do you think Jesus waited to calm the storm until the boat was full of water?**
Maybe he was just a really hard sleeper!
- **What do we learn about Jesus from this scene?**

(story continued on next page)



STORY FROM...
Matthew 8
Mark 4, 5

Miracles

SCENE 2: Recognized by Demons

When Jesus reached the other side of the lake, a wild man, filled with demons ran towards him from a nearby cemetery. This man had been chained to some of the tombs to keep him from hurting people, but he snapped the chains from his wrists and ankles. Now he wandered around all day and night, screaming and hitting himself with stones. No one could control him because he was too strong!

As he approached Jesus said to him, *"Come out of this man you demons!"*

The man fell down in front of Jesus and screamed, *"Why are you bothering me Jesus, Son of God? Please, don't torture me!"*

Then Jesus asked, *"What is your name?"*

"Legion," the man replied, *"because there are many of us inside of this man."*

Over and over the demons begged Jesus to not send them far away. There happened to be a heard of pigs feeding on a hillside nearby. *"Send us into those pigs!"* the demons pleaded.

Jesus replied, *"All right, go!"* And the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs.

The entire heard of two thousand pigs immediately rushed down the steep hillside into the lake where they drowned!

Those who witnessed what had happened ran into town to tell everyone they could find. Soon, the entire town came out to see what had happened. They were astonished when they saw the man fully clothed and no longer insane! Then the crowd begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

So Jesus and his followers went back to their boat. As they were leaving, the man who had been filled with demons asked if he could go with them.

Jesus said to him, *"You need to go back to your friends and tell them the great things the Lord has done for you and how he showed you mercy."*

So the man went and visited towns all over that region, telling people about the great things Jesus had done. Everyone he talked to was amazed by what had happened.

▲ **RETELL THE SCENE** *(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)*



▼ **DIALOGUE** *(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)*

- **What do we find out about the man who met up with Jesus in this scene?**
(Describe everything that comes to mind)
- **What are demons? Where did they come from?** *Fallen angels, created by God.*
- **How did God treat the demons in our first story?**
God judged them and cast them out of His presence.
- **How do you think the demons knew who Jesus was? Why were they afraid of him?**
- **How did people who saw what happened respond?**
- **Why do you think the crowd begged Jesus to go away?**
- **How did the man who was set free from the demons respond?**
- **Why did Jesus tell him he couldn't go on the boat?**
- **What do we learn about Jesus from this story?**

Scene 3: Power over Death

When Jesus and his disciples went back across the lake, a large crowd was already waiting for him on the beach.

One of the local Jewish leaders named Jairus (JAY-rus) ran to Jesus and fell down at his feet. He begged Jesus to heal his twelve year-old daughter. *"My little girl is very sick and about to die,"* he cried. *"Please come and heal her so she can live."*

Jesus went with Jairus towards his house and the crowd followed behind them. Along the way some of Jairus' friends stopped him saying, *"We just came from your house. Your daughter has died. There's no use bringing the teacher to your house now."*

But Jesus ignored them and said to Jairus, *"Don't be afraid—just trust me."* Then Jesus told the crowd to stay back, and he only let three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, come with them.

When they arrived at Jairus' house there was a crowd of people inside weeping loudly. Jesus asked them, *"Why are you crying? The girl is not dead—she's sleeping."* The crowd laughed at him. Then Jesus sent everyone outside except for the girl's parents and the disciples that were with him. When they went into the girl's room, Jesus took the girl's hand and said, *"Little girl, get up!"*

Immediately the girl jumped out of bed and began walking around! Her parents were absolutely amazed! Jesus told them to give her something to eat, and asked them not to tell anyone about what they'd just seen.

▲ **RETELL THE SCENE** *(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)*



STORY FROM...
Matthew 8
Mark 4, 5

Miracles

▼ **DIALOGUE** *(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)*

- What kinds of emotions do you think the girl's parents were feeling during this scene?
- Why do you think that people doubted Jesus in this scene?
- Why do you think that Jesus sometimes asked people not to say anything about his miracles?
- How did people usually respond to Jesus' miracles?
- What do we learn about Jesus from this scene?

From all three of the scenes we just looked at...

- What are some of the reasons that Jesus performed miracles?
- Did people always believe in Jesus after seeing him perform miracles? Why or why not?
- From the stories, what has Jesus shown that he has power over? Where have we seen power like this in the stories before? Is anything or anyone more powerful than Jesus?
- What are we learning about Jesus from our stories so far?

◆ **APPLICATION** *(Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)*

- What did you notice from the story for the first time?
- What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
- How did the story challenge or encourage you?
- What amazes you the most about Jesus?
- What miracle do you think would have amazed you the most?
- How should we respond to Jesus today?