

## Multi Gen Service - Jesus Calms the Seas

Tell the congregation that you need their help to tell a story. Divide congregation into 4 groups. Whenever the word BOAT comes up in the story, Group 1 will say the word *creeeeeak*, using their voice to sound like a creaking board.

Whenever the word WAVES comes up, Group 2 will wave their arms back and forth while saying “*Swish, Swish*”.

Whenever the word WATER comes up, Group 3 will say *Blub blub blub*.

And whenever the word WIND comes up in the story, Group 4 will say *Whooooooo* to sound like the wind.

1. Boat – Creeeeeak
2. Waves – Swish swish
3. Water – blub blub
4. Wind – Whoooooo

You can also invite children up to act out the story. You might arrange in advance for an older child to act as Jesus and simply call up volunteers to be his followers. The boat can be chairs pushed together, and the children can act out the story as you read it. We also had very young children (2 and 3) with blue crepe paper streamers who came up with their parents and sat near the boat and waved their streamers when the word wave was spoken and when the storm came in. Feel free to give a few light stage directions as needed while reading the story. When the disciples shout about the storm, say each line one at a time and let the “disciples” repeat the line.

Jesus and his 12 disciples (followers / students) were traveling in a **boat** on the sea of Galilee. They were all traveling together in the **boat** over the calm **water**. The **waves** lapped gently against the **boat**. Jesus was very tired. He had been teaching, preaching and healing people all day long. The gentle **waves** of the **waters** of the sea of Galilee were making him sleepy and Jesus fell asleep on some pillows in the **boat**.

Suddenly a violent storm blew up. The **wind** blew harder. The **waves** got bigger. And the small **boat** rocked in the **water**. The followers of Jesus were frightened. In fact, they were terrified.

They shook Jesus awake. Wake up! They shouted. The **wind** is too strong! The **waves** will tip us over. The **boat** will sink. And we will drown in the **water**.

And Jesus said: Why are you afraid? Have you no faith. God is within you just as God is within me. And Jesus, knowing that the power of God was within him stayed calm, stretched his arms out over the **water** and said: Peace, Be Still.

Instantly, the **wind** became calm. The **waves** became calm. The **water** became calm and the **boat** rocked gently in the sea of Galilea.

Jesus followers exclaimed: How great a man is Jesus. He has the power of a God The **wind**, the **waves** and the **water** obey him.

And Jesus said to his followers. You can do everything that I just did. If you just have faith and believe that you can.

From that day on the followers tried hard to remember that their thoughts and feelings were important and they had the power to make a better world if they just followed Jesus example.

Keep children near the front and ask the following questions. Let older congregants help as needed.

Let's take a look at what's happening in this story.

When Jesus and his disciples first got into the boat was the sea gentle or stormy?

What did Jesus do when he got into the boat?

What had Jesus been doing all day to make him so sleepy?

What happened after Jesus fell asleep? Did the sea stay calm?

What were the disciples of Jesus thinking and feeling when the storm came?

Why were the disciples afraid? What were they afraid would happen to the boat in the storm?

What did the disciples do?

Was Jesus afraid? No, he stayed calm didn't he.

Why wasn't Jesus afraid? What did Jesus remember about God?

What did Jesus say to the storm? Peace Be still!

What did Jesus tell the disciples about what they needed to do to calm the storms?

Have faith and believe!

What do you think the disciples will do next time they come upon a storm? Will they remember to do the things Jesus told them to do?

What do you think the storm represents in this story?

In this story, Jesus is teaching us that God's power is in everyone including each one of us.

To use our God power we must stay calm when we are afraid or have a problem and think about what we want.

In Unity what do we call it when we make a positive prayer? Affirmation.

Think about what you want. (When you are afraid, are you thinking about what you want or what you don't want.)

Say what you want – Say an affirmative prayer

Remember when the storm comes to do what you know how to do.

This story reminds us of our 5 Unity Principles. Here are 5 words with symbols to help us remember.

Let's do them together. (Invite entire congregation to join in the five hand motions.)

God (Hands outstretched)

Within (Palms crossed on our heart)

Thinks (Index finger pointing to brain)

Prays (Hand starts at mouth and moves outward like words coming out of your mouth )

and Walks (Use first 2 fingers to make a walking sign)

Let's try that again – everyone together.