

Activity tie-in: Weather

Object- Umbrella

Bible verse- Jesus calms the storm: Matthew 8: 23-27 and Mark 4: 35-41

Lesson- Trusting in Jesus's words and works protects us from the rain and storms life brings.

Intro Idea

- Talk about experiences being caught in the rain, hiding out in the basement during a severe storm, etc.
- What other things can be used as protection against the weather? Shelter, rain gear, winter hats, gloves, boots, sunscreen
- Talk about how umbrellas aren't much help in severe storms like tornadoes or hurricanes.
- Talk about the unpredictability of weather, or how it seems like weathermen don't usually actually know what they are talking about.
- What emotions do storms/tornadoes bring out? Fear, uneasiness, helplessness

Lesson suggestions

- Read the story of Jesus calming the storm, focusing on the disciples' fear and helplessness, and contrast it with Jesus's calmness and control.
- Talk about the power of Jesus's words, how he was able to control the weather with them. Use this point to talk about the power of the Bible as a whole.
- Since the object is an umbrella, mention how an umbrella would have been useless in the storm on the Sea of Galilee. We need Jesus to weather the storms of life, not our own human "umbrellas", or efforts to do things on our own, in our lives.
- In reference to how unpredictable the weather seems, mention how God is in control of not only the weather but also everything else in this world.

- Use the analogy of the storms of life. First, emphasize that God does not promise an easy, problem free life because we are Christians. Then talk about how God uses these storms of life to bring us closer to him and to point to Jesus and all he did for us.

Questions

- Why do we not have to be afraid of the weather?
- How do we respond to unbelievers who ask why God would allow tornadoes, storms, etc.?
- How can we use the story of Jesus calming the storm as comfort to those who are struggling with hardships and struggles in their lives?

Prayer

Dear God, We know that you are in control of not only the weather but of all things on this earth. Help us to remember that you promise to be with us when we experience problems and troubles on this earth. Also, may we use this assurance to comfort others who are struggling with problems in their lives. Finally, thank you for sending your son Jesus to live, die, and rise for us so that we will be in heaven, where there are no storms at all. In your name we pray, Amen.