

rvc4th/5th Small Group

W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—October 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:36-41

Bottom Line: God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Monthly Memory Verse: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. • Psalm 46:1

Week Memory Verse: When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. • Psalm 56:3

Note: Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Parent Cue Card
- Devotionals for Kids



Bible Story

Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:36-41

Bottom Line

God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Memory Verse

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. • Psalm 46:1

5 min

Social

5 min

Opening Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Blue construction paper	Several
	Floor tape	1
	Large cardboard box or rug	1
	Smart watch or timer	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	Several



EveryChild tips

- Provide noise-cancelling headphones.

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Designate a space to house the boat. (May be used for all Small Group Activities in this lesson.)
- Create a boat outline out of tape, or create a box boat, or simply use a rug to be the boat, one per Small Group.
- Crumple blue paper to make paper wads, 30 per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Tell your group that you will be playing a game today called "Sinking Ship." Explain the directions:
 - The group will be split into two teams: Team A and Team B.
 - Team A starts inside the boat while Team B starts outside the boat.
 - Team B will quickly try to "sink" Team A's ship by tossing water inside the boat (i.e., blue paper wads).
 - Team A will work quickly to get as much "water" (paper wads) out of their boat.
- When the leader says "Go!", play begins and continues for one minute.
- When the leader yells "Freeze!", everyone must stop immediately.
- Count the number of paper wads left inside Team A's boat.
- Teams switch places. Team B moves inside the boat, and Team A now tries to sink Team B's ship.
- Repeat the game for one minute and count the number of paper wads left in Team B's boat.
- The team with the fewest paper wads ("water") left in their boat wins and successfully keeps their ship from sinking!
- If time allows, play two additional rounds.

What You Say:

"Raise your hand if you have played the game Battleship before. It's very exciting to sink other people's battleships, isn't it?! It's not so fun being the one on the side who has the most battleships sunk. In today's story, there is no battle, but there is a group of people who ended up in a crazy storm on a boat. Let's go find out what this is all about!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Bible Story Extension | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Bible	1
 "Scaredometer" Activity Page	1
 Sticky arrow tabs	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Scaredometer" on cardstock, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Say, "The disciples were ordinary men, following an extraordinary man & God (Jesus was fully human and fully God). And they had a huge variety of emotions throughout their daily encounters with Jesus. Today's Bible Story is found in Mark 4:35-41. We are going to use a "Scaredometer" to show the level of concern, worry, and fear that you think they were feeling."
- Give each kid a "Scaredometer" Activity Page and a sticky arrow tab.
- Say, "I'm going to read today's Bible Story and pause at certain parts. When I pause, I want you to use your arrow to show what you think the disciples were feeling. For example, if I read "The disciples all got ice cream from the ice cream truck before they got in the boat." What emotion would you point your arrow to? (*Allow kids to respond.*) If I said, Peter found a spider crawling around in his ice cream. What emotion would you point your arrow to? Obviously, those are silly examples that are not actually included in the Bible. Let me read through the real deal, and I will let you determine how chill or how scared the disciples may have been."
- Read Bible Story details from Mark 4:35-41, pausing after each statement. When kids give different "Scaredometer" ratings, allow them to discuss why they gave the rating they did.
 - When evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake."
 - They left the crowd behind. And they took Him along in a boat, just as He was. There were also other boats with Him.
 - A wild storm came up.
 - Waves crashed over the boat. It was about to sink.
 - Jesus was in the back, sleeping on a cushion.
 - The disciples woke Him up. They said, "Teacher! Don't you care if we drown?"
 - He got up and ordered the wind to stop. He said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down. It was completely calm.
 - He said to His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have any faith at all yet?"
 - They were terrified. They asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

- Say, "I don't know about you, but I can absolutely relate to the disciples' feeling scared. Now, I'm going to read some possible present-day scenarios. After I read each scenario, I'm going to have you rate how you might feel if this were something happening to you."
- Read the following scenarios, pausing after each one to allow kids to rate each on their "Scaredometer." Discuss their responses as appropriate.
 - It's the night before the first day of school, and none of your friends are in your classes this year.
 - You have been invited to two different friends' birthday parties that are on the same day and start at the same time.
 - You have to give a presentation in front of the class.
 - The lights suddenly go out, and everything is dark.
 - You get separated from your family for a few minutes in a big store.
 - You try out for a new team or audition for something.
 - A big storm starts, and thunder shakes the window.

What You Say:

"Will God help us with the real stuff, the tough stuff, in our lives? Yes, He is present! Because we know that God is in control, and because He is good, we can trust Him with anything we face. When we feel concerned, worried, scared, or terrified, those emotions are like warning lights telling us that we are facing something bigger than what we can handle on our own. That's when we need to turn to God to be our help and our refuge. God created everything, and He is more powerful than anything else, ever. Everything answers to Him. That means that God is bigger and more powerful than any difficult thing you will ever face. God does not cause terrible things to happen, but He can work in and through all things for our good. Because of this, we can remember that **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him!**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Take a Snapshot

What You Need

 Plastic cups or wooden blocks Several



EveryChild tips

- Let kids complete the challenge with both feet on the floor or while seated if needed.
- Encourage teamwork and celebrate creative solutions instead of focusing on building the tallest tower.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Divide the kids into small teams and give each team a pile of cups or blocks.
- Explain that their goal is to build the tallest tower they can before it falls.
- Give them one minute to build.
- After the first round, have everyone stop and look at the towers.
- Challenge the teams to build again, but this time add one challenge at a time:
 - Build using only one hand.
 - Build while standing on one foot.
 - Build without talking.
 - Build while the leader slowly counts backward from 20.
- After each round, allow the towers to fall or have the teams carefully take them apart before beginning again.
- Ask:
 - "Which round was the easiest?"
 - "Which challenge made building the hardest?"
 - "Did your tower stay standing forever?"
 - "What did you do when your tower fell?"
 - "Could you stop every tower from falling?"

What You Say:

"Some of your towers stayed up for a while, and some fell over right away. You couldn't control every part of what happened, even when you tried your best. Life can feel like that too. There are things we can't control, and sometimes they make us feel worried or afraid.

"The disciples couldn't stop the storm either. Even though some of them were experienced fishermen, the wind and waves were stronger than they were. But Jesus wasn't worried because He was in control the whole time. Sometimes God calms the storm, and sometimes He walks with us through it. Either way, we can trust Him because He is always good, always with us, and always in control. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** **God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Verse Debris" Activity Page	1
	Flashlights	2

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Optional: Use the 'boat area' from the Opening Activity.
- Turn down the lights or turn off the lights in your Small Group space if possible.
- Scatter the cards from the "Verse Debris" Activity Page around your Small Group space, away from the "boat."

During the Activity:

- Guide kids to sit inside the area designated as your Small Group's "boat."
- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Psalm 46:1 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Say, "Oftentimes when ships are at sea, they might come upon some debris floating in the water. This may be driftwood or debris from another ship or boat. Right now, floating in the waters outside of our boat is debris, each piece with a word from our Memory Verse on it. You are going to take turns, two people at a time, swimming out, collecting one piece of debris, and bringing it back to our boat. Each person will have a flashlight to help them see."
 - Remind kids that they have to swim when they are outside of the boat.
 - Give two kids a flashlight and have each of them go retrieve a piece of the Bible Verse.
 - Send out two more kids after the first pair have returned.
 - Repeat until all the "Verse Debris" cards are collected.
- Have the kids put the "Verse Debris" cards in order and say the Memory Verse. Then have them turn their backs to the verse and say the Memory Verse again.

What You Say:

"In today's true story from the Bible, the disciples were scared because of the storm that surrounded them. They forgot that God is their place of safety and that He is always there to help us in times of trouble. They had not realized yet that Jesus is fully God and that even the wind and waves obey Him. One of the reasons we work to memorize verses is that God's Word has a way of coming to our minds just when we need it. I hope that when you encounter a storm or tough situation, this verse will encourage you to turn to God and trust Him because He is in control."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:
 - **[Conversation Starter] What is something you can trust God with right now?**
 - Why do you think Jesus was able to sleep during a massive storm that was rocking the boat and waves were crashing over the sides?
 - Mark 4:41 says this about the disciples, *"They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'"* How did the disciples' perspective change after Jesus calmed the storm?
 - When we turn to God with storms in our lives, He either takes away the difficult thing or walks with us through the difficult situation. Why do you think that He doesn't just automatically take away the tough stuff?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	Kraft paper	1
	Bottles with lids	1
	Writing supplies	1
	Twine	1
	Scissors	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Cut twine into 12-inch lengths, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a piece of kraft paper and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that they will create a message in a bottle that will include words of encouragement for someone else in the room. Tell them that they will not know who gets their message, so they can ask the Holy Spirit to help them with the words that they will write in their message.
- Encourage kids to ask you for help if they get stuck. Kids can also add drawings if they prefer.
- Instruct kids to roll up their scrolls tightly and tie with a piece of twine.
- Tell kids to put their message in a bottle and to seal it with a cap.
- Ask kids to place their bottles in the center of the Small Group area.

What You Say:

"We've talked a lot today about how God is always with us to help us in times of need and trouble. One of the ways that God might help you in a time of need is to guide another believer to come alongside you and encourage or pray for you. God will also use you to be an encouragement and support for someone else who is going through a difficult time. This is why the church is so important. God doesn't just promise to be with us; He gives us a whole family who is there to celebrate the good times and encourage us through the hard times. You are going to have an opportunity to encourage someone in this Small Group by making a message in a bottle."

"Each of you will receive a message in a bottle to take home with you today. When you get home, open up the message and read and receive the words that are there for you. When storms come into your life, you can remember **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.** You can also remember that you have friends here who are rooting for you and praying for you. Let me pray for you right now."

(Optional: Ask kids to share any tough stuff that they have in their life right now and pray specifically for those needs.)

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for these amazing guys and girls here today. I know You have created them for amazing things. You are powerful and in control, even when tough things come into their lives. Help us all to trust You as You walk with us through every step of our journey. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Getting Ready |

Small Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Blue construction paper, 30 pieces per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Large cardboard box or rug, one per Small Group
- Smart watch or timer, one per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies

- *Noise-cancelling headphones, one per kid*

What You Do:

- Designate a space to house the boat. (May be used for all Small Group Activities in this lesson.)
- Create a boat outline out of tape, or create a box boat, or simply use a rug to be the boat, one per Small Group.
- Crumple blue paper to make paper wads, thirty per Small Group.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Blocks, or cups

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Bible, several per Small Group
- "Scaredometer" Activity Page, one per kid
- Cardstock, one piece per kid
- Sticky arrow tabs, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Scaredometer" on cardstock, one per kid.

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Made to Play**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Verse Debris" Activity Pages, one per kid
- Cardstock, three pieces per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Flashlights, two per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Verse Debris" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Made to Reflect**What You Need:**

- "Scroll" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Water bottles (dry and with lids), one per kid
- Twine or yarn, one per Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per kid
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Scroll" on paper, one per kid.
- Cut twine/yarn into 12-inch lengths, one per kid.

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies:

- EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones

Supplies

Opening Activity | Made to Play

1.	Offering container	1
2.	Blue construction paper	Several
3.	Floor tape	1
4.	Large cardboard box or rug	1
5.	Smart watch or timer	1
6.	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	Several

Bible Story Extension | Made to Reflect

1.	Bible	1
2.	"Scaredometer" Activity Page	1
3.	Sticky arrow tabs	1

Take a Snapshot

1.	Plastic cups or wooden blocks	Several
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Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

1.	Bibles	1
2.	"Verse Debris" Activity Page	1
3.	Flashlights	2

Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

1.	Kraft paper	1
2.	Bottles with lids	1
3.	Writing supplies	1
4.	Twine	1
5.	Scissors	Several