

Life toward God

KIDS

daily devotions

Promise: God Will Be With You

Jeff Jordan

Scripture

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:35-41

Devotion

After Jesus finished preaching one day, he told his disciples that it was time to leave the crowds and to sail in their boat to the other side of the lake. But while their boat floated serenely over the lake, a great storm arose very suddenly, and the waves were crashing into their boat causing it to sink. Have you ever been in a bad storm? Imagine being on water while the wind and the waves make the boat bounce up and down and left and right and side to side until you feel like you're going to be sick. Now picture the lightning filling up the sky and imagine hearing the loud thunder booming in your ears. The disciples think they are about to die! But, as they talk about what to do among themselves to survive, and as they count heads to make sure no one has fallen overboard, they realize they are missing one person. Where is Jesus? They panic! They start looking over the sides of the boat in case he has fallen out. But instead, they find him in the most unlikely place doing the most unlikely thing. He is in the stern (a compartment in the bottom of the boat) and he is, of all things, asleep! How can he sleep at a time like this? They wake him up, and say, "Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing?" Then Jesus does something even stranger to them than sleeping- he speaks directly to the storm. Like one talking to a trained dog, Jesus says, "Peace! Be still!" And the storm listens to him, and, as quickly as it came, now the water becomes calm.

What is pictured here in this story is true for us as well. In Isaiah 43, God says to his people, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and the waves will not overcome you." In Matt 28, when Jesus commissions his disciples to tell the whole world about the gospel, he ends with this promise: "Behold I am with you always, to the end of the age." In John 14, Jesus says the Holy Spirit will "dwell with you and will be in you." One of Jesus's own titles is "Immanuel," which means "God with us." In all our trials, tasks, and experiences, God promises to be with us. This is very comforting for us, since we know the winds and the seas still obey his voice. The Heidelberg Catechism says, "He watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven."



Life toward God

KIDS

daily devotions

Questions

3-5-yr-olds

Have you ever been scared before? What comforted you?

1st-3rd graders

Jesus says to the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" What do you think it means to have faith in God? What does he promise to do for us?

4th-6th graders

The disciples were afraid of the storm. But when the wind calmed down, it says they were filled with "great fear." How were their two "fears" different? What did they learn about Jesus that was both startling to them and comforting for them?

Prayer

Father, thank you for your promise that you are always with us. When we feel afraid, teach us to put our trust in you. May we, like the disciples, be in awe of your power- that even the wind and waves obey you. Help us to remember that your Spirit dwells with us and inside of us.

