

## DAY ONE

### Picture It

Little children are sometimes afraid of the dark. At night, even the faintest sound, like that of the rain hitting the roof or the wind blowing in the trees can scare them. As children grow older they begin to trust the judgment of their parents. Even if there are real dangers outside, with mom and dad at home in a sturdy house with strong doors, they learn that they do not need to be afraid. Today in our story the disciples learned a similar lesson. They learned that even when there is danger, if they trust Jesus, there is no reason to be afraid. With Jesus to protect you, even the most dangerous things are as harmless as the sound of the rain on the roof.



Read Luke 8:22–25.

### Think about It Some More

The disciples already knew that Jesus was a remarkable man when they got into the boat with him that day before the storm. The disciples had never seen Jesus sin. They had watched him heal people of their sicknesses, and they had listened to the wonderful teachings Jesus had presented. Still in this story they discovered that Jesus had powers greater than they'd ever imagined. That is why when a fierce storm threatened to crash their boat and kill them, they all became afraid. They had no idea that, while Jesus was with them, the ferocious storm was as harmless as drops of rain on your roof. When Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples were amazed and wondered just who Jesus could really be.

### Talk about It

- :: What are you most afraid of? *(Parents, draw out your children here. If you remember a story of something they were afraid of, like the dark or perhaps the thought that something was under their bed or in their closet at night, remind them.)*
- :: Why were the disciples afraid? *(The disciples were caught in a terrible storm that could have sunk their small boat. They didn't realize that Jesus had power over the wind and the waves, so they were afraid for their lives.)*
- :: Why did Jesus say to the disciples that they shouldn't be afraid even though the storm was really dangerous? *(Jesus was in the boat with them, and he controlled the wind and the waves. Even though the storm was dangerous, the disciples were not in any danger with Jesus there.)*



### Pray about It

Ask God to help you trust him when you are in danger or are afraid.

# Discussions for Family Time

## MONDAY EVENING

### DAY TWO

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#### Remember It

What do you remember about yesterday's story? What do you think is going to happen today?



Read Luke 8:26–33.

#### Think about It Some More

In yesterday's story, the disciples were amazed when they saw Jesus calm the storm, and wondered who he could be. The demons in our story today knew exactly who Jesus was—and he terrified them. They called him the Son of the Most High God. They knew who Jesus was because they had once been angels in heaven and had worshiped him. However, they had then followed Satan and turned away from God becoming his enemies. God had sent them out of heaven to roam the earth until their time of final judgment (see Isaiah 14:12–14 and Revelation 12:9).

#### Talk about It

- :: Who did the demons say Jesus was? (*God's Son*)
- :: How did the demons know who Jesus was? (*The demons had been angels in heaven who had worshiped God, so they knew who he was.*)
- :: How do we know, from our story, that Jesus was more powerful than the demons? (*The demons didn't try to fight Jesus. They were afraid of him and even asked permission to go into the pigs. They knew Jesus could destroy them.*)



#### Pray about It

Praise God that he is more powerful than anything in heaven or on earth.  
Nothing is stronger than our God. He is LORD over all.


# Discussions for Family Time

## TUESDAY EVENING

### DAY THREE

#### Connect It to the Gospel

Today is the day we connect this week's Bible story to the gospel. The gospel is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation. Can anyone guess how our story this week looks forward to or back at the gospel?

 Read Luke 8:34–39.

#### Think about It Some More

When the herdsmen saw what happened to their pigs, they ran away. When the people came to see the man who had been rescued from the demons, they were afraid. When the people from the surrounding country heard what had happened, they were seized with great fear as well. But the man whom Jesus saved was not afraid. He didn't run away; he wanted to go with Jesus because Jesus had delivered him. God's power and judgment should make us, as sinners, afraid. But if we trust in Jesus to take our sins away, we don't have to fear God's judgment anymore.

#### Talk about It

- :: Why were the people in the story afraid? *(Parents, draw out your children. First, it is pretty scary to hear demons and then watch a herd of pigs run down and drown themselves. But the other people only heard about those things. They were more afraid of how powerful Jesus was. God is all-powerful, and when he uses his power, it can be a scary thing.)*
- :: Why wasn't the man who was delivered from the demons afraid of Jesus? *(The man who was delivered was finally free. He, more than anyone there, understood that Jesus had the power to set us free from evil.)*
- :: What did the man who was healed want to do? *(He wanted to go with Jesus.)*
- :: What job did Jesus give him that he also gives us? *(Jesus told the man to let everyone in his hometown know what God had done for him. That is the same command Jesus gave the disciples to pass on to us, to go and tell everyone about him.)*



#### Pray about It

Take time to pray for people you know, who need Jesus to help them.


*(This could be friends or relatives who do not believe in God, or people who are enslaved to life-controlling problems/addictions and need to be set free. Use discretion in leading this prayer time.)*

## Discussions for Family Time WEDNESDAY EVENING

### DAY FOUR \_\_\_\_\_

#### Remember It

What has God been teaching you this week through our Bible story?

 Read Luke 8:40–56.

#### Think about It Some More

All through the eighth chapter of Luke we have been learning how Jesus had power and authority over everything. On the first day, we learned that he had authority over nature, as he commanded the wind and the waves. On the second day, we learned that he had authority over demons. Today, we read that Jesus had authority over sickness and even death. When Jesus told those gathered over the dead girl that she was only sleeping, they laughed at him because they knew she was dead. But Jesus brought her back to life with two words, “Child, arise.” Nothing is impossible for God, and since Jesus is God, nothing—even raising the dead—is impossible for him.

#### Talk about It

How does reading stories about the amazing things Jesus did help us to trust in him for the things we need?

*(Parents, when we see that Jesus is all-powerful even over death, it makes our needs seem small. If God can raise the dead, then surely he can care for us. Knowing how powerful he has been in the past helps us to trust him now.)*

- :: How old was the man’s daughter who died? *(She was twelve years old.)*
- :: Why didn’t Jesus want the parents to tell people that he raised their daughter from the dead? *(In other places, when Jesus did miracles, the people tried to force Jesus to be king before his time [see John 6:15]. It could be that Jesus didn’t want that to happen.)*



#### Pray about It

Pray for those who you know are sick, that God would heal them.

# Discussions for Family Time

## THURSDAY EVENING

### DAY FIVE

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#### Discover It

Today is the day we look at a different Bible passage—from the book of Psalms or one of the prophets—to see what we can learn from it about Jesus or our salvation.



Read Psalm 23.

#### Think about It Some More

There are many ways that this psalm points to Jesus. David called the Lord his shepherd, and we know that Jesus said he was the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). David was satisfied in the Lord because of how God provided him rest. Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

In Revelation 7:17 we read that one day the Lamb, who is Jesus, will lead us to springs of water and wipe every tear from our eyes and live with us forever. That matches the description David gives in his psalm. Although this passage does not claim to be a prophecy about Jesus, it certainly points to him. The only way David, who was a sinner, could walk on paths of righteousness is if God took his sin away. That is exactly what Jesus did on the cross. And it is only by believing in God’s plan of salvation, which came through Jesus, that David could live in the house of the Lord forever.

#### Talk about It

- ∴ Can you think of one way this psalm points forward to Jesus? *(Parents, if your children can't remember any of the ways this psalm points to Jesus, read it again slowly and have them raise their hands when they think they know a way. You can also give them clues by emphasizing the words shepherd, rest, and other words that point to Jesus as you read.)*
- ∴ How can this psalm of David comfort us today? *(In the same way that David trusted the Lord in his time of trouble, we can too. The Lord is also our shepherd.)*
- ∴ Why should this psalm be even more special to us than it was for David? *(When David wrote the psalm and trusted the Lord, he did not know Jesus. He didn't know how God was going to save him and bring him into the Lord's house forever. We know the whole glorious, wonderful story of Jesus. If David could trust the Lord with the little he knew, we should be able to trust the Lord even more since we know the whole gospel story.)*



#### Pray about It

Ask God to help you trust in Jesus to both rescue you from your sins and provide the things you need each day.