

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

STORMS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Jesus stills the storm (Luke 8: 22-25)

The Gospel writers demonstrate Jesus' power over the forces of evil and chaos. Jesus has already driven out demons and cured the possessed. In today's narrative Jesus is doing more than simply calming a storm at sea. In this narrative Jesus is engaging with the primordial forces of chaos, just as God overcame the forces of the storm in the original act of creation. No wonder that the disciples were afraid and amazed.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Jesus' power over the wind and the raging waves is *storms*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 8: 22-24; for reflection throughout the week)

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples,
and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.'
So they put out,
and while they were sailing he fell asleep.
A gale swept down on the lake,
and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger.
They went to him and woke him up, shouting,
'Master, Master, we are perishing!'
And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves;
they ceased, and there was a calm.

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you bring calm to the storm.
Bring your peace to our troubled lives,
your peace to our troubled world;
now and always.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 8: 22-25

Jesus calms a storm

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 8: 22-25)

Begin to explore how Luke describes Jesus' power over the wind and the raging waves by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you make of Jesus falling asleep during the storm?
- What do you make of the disciples waking Jesus?
- How do you interpret Jesus' question 'Where is your faith'?
- How do you interpret the significance of the disciples' question 'Who then is this'?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Compare Luke's account of Jesus' power over the wind and the raging waves with Mark and Matthew.

- Mark 4: 36-41
- Matthew 8: 23-27

Explore another narrative in Mark and Matthew that Luke omits.

- Mark 6: 45-52
- Matthew 14: 22-33

Explore imagery of the raging sea in the Psalms.

- Psalm 55: 6-8
- Psalm 89: 9-10
- Psalm 93: 4-5
- Psalm 107: 23-31

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (YEAR C) Sunday 23 February 2025

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of Jesus' power over the wind and the raging waves by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Jesus calms the storm
- Raging seas in the Bible
- Images of storms at sea

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Jesus' power over the wind and raging waves is *storms*. Draw on your own experience of storms. For example:

- What is your experience of being caught in a storm?
- What is your experience of rough seas?
- Do you recall storms in films or in books?

What have you learned about storms?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of Jesus' power over the wind and raging waves or by the image of storms.

- Create a collage of pictures about storms.
- Make a poster about Jesus calming the storm at sea.
- Make a display of verses from the Bible about the raging sea.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Jesus' power over the wind and raging waves or on the image of storms.



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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