

THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

Lesson 6:

Sky, Sea and Land

CONTENT:

1. After God made day and night, he made the sky and sea and land.
2. Because God made everything, he has power over everything.(CCC 268)
3. When Jesus' disciples witnessed the calming of the storm at sea, they realized God's power.
4. Sometimes, when things seem to be going wrong, we may feel that God is powerless.



But we must believe in God's power. The angel Gabriel told Mary- 'Nothing is impossible for God!' and Mary believed.

ASSIGNMENT: Find out: To whom did an angel say: "Nothing is impossible for God."
Sowing of seeds is done as described below.

REFERENCES: Gen. 1:6-10; Mk 4:35-41; Luke 1:35-37; CCC 268-69, 272-73.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handout, One sheet of paper each for making boats/ helium balloon.

I. STARTER:

[Those who have an interesting fact about the sun, moon or stars, share it with the class.]

[Teach the children to make paper boats. Let them place them on their desks and blow on them to make them move. If feasible, put them in a basin or pool of water. The first part of the lesson can be done outdoors, in the same place.]

- Do you know anyone who is a sailor in the Navy or a fisherman? Have you ever been out to sea in a ship or boat? *[Allow children to share]*
- When you go right out to sea you can see only water and the sky. Then you know that you are quite small and helpless, especially if there's a storm at sea.
- Maybe you have gone to play in the sea on a beach. The waves are so powerful, they can push you over....
- Do you know who made the sea? *[God!]* The Bible says that after God made day and night, he made the sky and sea and land.

ALTERNATIVE STARTER-

[If it is feasible, take the children out to a grassy field and let them lie on their backs close to you, and look at the sky. Talk to them thus-]

Look at the sky... Do you think you can reach the end of it? No, of course not.. It is so very high! Even the strongest eagle can't fly to the end of the sky.

[You could draw a face on a balloon filled with helium, and say as you release the balloon:]

Imagine you are this balloon. You don't know how high it will go, or where the wind will take it. But God knows, because he made the sky and the sea, the wind and the land. The Bible tells us that after God made night and day, he made the sky and the sea and land.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

God made the sea. He made the sky and the wind and the rain. He made the land with its mountains and rivers, hills and valleys and sandy beaches. God can do whatever he wants with them, because he has power over everything. With one word he can make a mountain fall down or a river dry up. He can make the wind blow and bring us rainclouds, or he can stop the rain. God is all powerful! Much more powerful than Superman or Batman!

STORY: Jesus Calms the Sea.

Jesus' friends didn't know that God was so great and powerful, but one evening something happened and they realised God's power.

That day, Jesus had sat on the beach next to the sea and taught big crowds of people. He had told them many stories about God. Then the sun started going down and it began to get dark. Jesus knew that at night we must go home and sleep, so he sent everyone away. Then he and his friends got into a boat so that they could cross the sea and go to another place on the other side.

Jesus was very tired, so his friends gave him a cushion at the back of the boat and he went to sleep there. Suddenly, when they had reached the middle of the sea, there was a great storm. A strong wind began to blow and the water of the sea began to go up and down, up and down. The boat also began to go up and down, up and down and water started pouring into the boat. It was very scary!

Jesus' friends were grown up men but they were very frightened. They knew that the boat would go down into the sea if it got full of water. "We're going to drown!" they cried. "We're going to die!" Then they saw that Jesus was still sleeping at the back of the boat. That part of the boat was higher, so it wasn't full of water as yet. They went and shook Jesus and shouted, "Teacher! Wake up! Don't you know that we're all going to drown and die? Don't you care?"

Jesus got up. He stood up and stretched out his arms. He told the wind to stop. He looked at the water and said, 'Peace! Be still!'

At once the wind stopped. The water became quiet and calm like a mirror. The friends of Jesus looked with big eyes at what was happening around them. They looked at Jesus. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened? Don't you believe in me?'

They said to each other, "Wow! Even the wind and the sea listen to him! Who can he be?"

III. PRAYER:

- When Jesus' friends saw what Jesus had done, they asked each other, "Who can he be?" Do you know the answer? [*Jesus is God!*] He made the wind and the sea. That is why the wind and the sea obeyed him.
- Jesus said to his friends, "Don't you believe in me?" Do you believe in Jesus? Do you know that he can do anything he wants?
- Sometimes things may go wrong. Someone in your family may get very sick.... or you may get lost in a crowd. What can you do? Think of Jesus, then pray! Say, "God, I know you are very powerful. You can do anything. Help me!" You can sing this song to help you believe in Jesus:

Our God is so great, so strong and so mighty,

There's nothing that he cannot do! [2]

The hills are his, the rivers are his, the wind was made by him too! WHOOOO!

Our God is so great, so strong and so mighty,

There's nothing that he cannot do, for you... for you... and for me!

[Give out hand-outs, learn the song and sing it with actions. They are then silent for a while and pray silently, telling Jesus that they believe in his power to take care of them.]

IV. ACTIVITY:

[The words in the handout are read out, the children repeating after the teacher. They fill in the words- 'PEACE, BE STILL' in the call-out and colour the picture. They could write, 'GOD IS ALL POWERFUL' on their paper boats and keep it in their files.]

Home assignment:

1. The children get the help of a family member to find out who was told by an angel- 'Nothing is impossible to God.'
2. Give each child a paper cup, or ask them to bring an old plastic container (we set an example and re-cycle rather than buy new plastic cups). They write their names on the cups and fill them with soil. Give each one a seed to sow in the soil. The cups are placed in a sunny spot in the classroom and watered every day. This activity should be done about a week before Lesson 7 is done.