



# Early Childhood DEVOTIONS



FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7

## IT'S *STILL* ALL ABOUT JESUS

FOCUS: WHO IS JESUS?

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).*

### Jesus Is ... Our Rescuer

BIBLE STORY: Matt. 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25

"The rescue we were waiting for has come most unexpectedly," writes Lutheran hymnist Jaroslav Vajda. This month's story is one of the surprising rescues in the Bible. God's love is always beyond our expectation or imagination. Another hymn writer, Isaac Watt, says this: "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." The great wonders of Jesus' miracles lead us finally to His greatest surprise, as on the cross He rescues us from sin, death and the clutches of Satan. Each biblical miracle narrative works to further open the eyes of children to the love and the power of Jesus' rescue.

### Greeting

Greet each child upon entry. "Good morning child of God. I am so happy you are here today."

### Tell the Story

*Instruct children to play their instruments when you point to them, and to stop at your signal.*

One evening, after speaking to many people, Jesus (bells) said to his disciples (rhythm sticks): "Let us go to the other side of the lake." Jesus (bells) got into a boat and his disciples (rhythm sticks) followed him. As they sailed, Jesus (bells) fell asleep. Suddenly a terrible storm blew over the lake. Thunder boomed (drums and woodblocks)! Lightening flashed (cymbals)! Rain poured down. Waves of water swept

over and into the boat (drums, woodblocks and cymbals). But, Jesus (bells) still slept! Afraid, the disciples (rhythm sticks) shouted, "Jesus (bells), save us!" Awakened by the



shouts, Jesus (bells) said, "Why are you so afraid?" Then Jesus (bells) said, "Stop wind! Stop rain!" The wind stopped! The thunder and lightning stopped! The rain stopped! All was quiet and calm again. Jesus (bells) looked at the disciples (rhythm sticks) and said, "Why are you so afraid? Do you not trust me? Where is your faith?" Terrified and amazed, the disciples (rhythm sticks) asked one another, "Who is this man? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" We know who Jesus is. Jesus is God's Son, our Savior.

**Note:** You will need the songbook: *Little Ones Sing Praise (LOSP)* from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVOTIONS • Vol. 22 • No. 2 • October 2017

ILLUSTRATION: THINKSTOCK/ DORLING KINDERSLEY

Pray:

Jesus, Savior rescue me,  
From my sin please set me free.  
Keep me in your loving care,  
Trusting you are always there. Amen.

## Remember the Story

### BIBLE WORDS TO REMEMBER

**PRE-K & K:** “He delivers and rescues” (DAN. 6:27).

**GRADES 1 & 2:** “He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth” (DAN. 6:27).

## Activities

**CREATE:** You need black and white tempera paint, paper plates, paint brushes and paper. Help children mix small amounts of black and white paint on and around paper plates to make various shades of gray, and then paint storm scenes. Option: Cut crosses from the paintings and display with the words “Jesus Rescues, and He Saves.”

As children work, talk about the disciples’ fear of the storm. What causes them to be afraid? (Note: Halloween costumes and displays often frighten young children.) Remind them of Jesus’ loving care all the time.



**SING:** “I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus” p. 24, *Little Ones Sing Praise* (LOSP).

**DO:** Gather items that make quiet sounds (e.g. dropping a paper clip, erasing a chalk board or tapping straws together) and loud sounds (e.g. a drum, a horn, a dropped book). Keep items hidden from children’s view. Create a circle on the floor using a 15-foot rope. Children stand around and outside the circle. Reference the biblical narrative as you discuss loud and quiet sounds. Instruct children to step inside the circle upon hearing a quiet sound and outside the circle when hearing a loud sound. When/where can they be loud? When/where should they be quiet?

## Live the Story

We are compelled by Christ to reach out to and be wholly present for children, parents and the community where God has placed us. There are personal, professional and biblical standards to which we hold ourselves accountable. At times, we fall short. The disciples, even with Jesus in the boat, fell short because of their fear. Children and their families are no different. Yet, we are all people rescued by Jesus, our Savior. Our teaching is one of the ways children and their families come to know and experience the grace and undeserved love of God in Christ.

## Sending

**You will need:** a beanbag

Gather children in a “Blessing Circle.” Pass a beanbag, inviting each child to briefly pray, asking or thanking Jesus for his care. Children may pass the beanbag without speaking. Conclude by saying, “Thank you Jesus for your care. You are with us everywhere! Amen.” As children depart say to each, “Jesus is with you!”

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