



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

Resource Centre

## Greater than the Storms

### Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 14

Title: Greater than the Storms  
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Theme: Jesus is stronger than the  
storms in our hearts and on  
the sea.  
Text: Matthew 14: 22-33

#### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if the other children were afraid during the thunderstorm too.
- I wonder how stuffed toys help us feel loved and safe.
- I wonder how many of us Jesus has helped by calming our fears.

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#### Gathering Activity:

*Welcome the children warmly as they gather for this time of children's worship. As they do so, engage them with questions such as these:*

- How many of you have ever been scared?
- What sorts of things scare you?
- Are any of you scared during thunderstorms?

*Encourage them to grow still and prepare their hearts for a story that will help them understand what Jesus is like. Show them Matthew 14 in your Bible and tell them that today's Gospel reading is about a time when the disciples were very frightened because they were in a small boat on a stormy sea. Jesus helped them by calming that storm. If this text isn't being read elsewhere in the service, read it here. The story you will tell them is about Jesse, a boy who was frightened about a number of things. Some of the children might want to count how many things frightened Jesse.*

**Story:**

Jesse was very nervous. He was going to his friend Max's house for his first ever sleepover birthday party with other friends from school. He liked Max a lot and he liked birthday parties, but he had never slept over at someone else's house before. Jesse still slept with a teddy bear and was scared that the others would tease him, but he needed his teddy to fall asleep.

Before Jesse left for the party, his Mom and Dad tucked Jesse's teddy bear into his overnight bag. Then they gave him a big hug and a kiss and said, "Remember that we love you and be brave." They knew that Jesse was nervous about the sleepover.

At the sleepover, Jesse and the other children had lots of fun playing together. They did not even notice the sky get darker as they played outside. Suddenly, they saw lightning in the sky and felt rain on their faces. They all ran inside. Jesse was very scared of thunderstorms and lightning, but he wanted to be brave. He managed not to cry. It was hard because the thunderstorm lasted until bedtime.

But, when bedtime came, Jesse felt like the thunderstorm had moved inside of him. He was scared of the stormy weather, and scared because he was not going to sleep at home tonight. He asked if he could go home, but Max's parents said the storm made it unsafe to take Jesse home.

Max saw that Jesse was nervous, so he asked Jesse what was wrong. Jesse told Max that the storm scared him and that he wanted to go home. He told Max that it felt like there was as much storm inside of him as outside in the sky. Max said, "When I felt that way and told my Dad about it, my Dad told me that Jesus was strong enough to stop the storms, both outside and inside. All I had to do was ask Jesus to help me. Do you want me to ask Jesus if he will help you, too?" "I guess so," Jesse replied. So, Max asked Jesus to help Jesse. Jesse felt a bit better.

Then Max crawled into his sleeping bag with his stuffed toy elephant, and got ready to sleep. Now Jesse knew it was okay to pull out his teddy bear, so he did. The storm inside of him was settling as he got into his sleeping bag.

Just before he fell asleep, Max whispered to him, "You know Jesse, you can talk to Jesus any time you want to, too, and he will help you if you're scared, or sad or angry."

Jesse thought about that for a while. He thought about how Jesus was stronger than his fears and that he could talk to Jesus anytime, just like Max had. He also thought about what a great friend Max was, and how good it was to spend a night at his place. Soon Jesse was sleeping peacefully, with his teddy bear tucked right up against his face.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, your storm calming powers are awesome. Thank you for calming Jesse's stormy fears. Thank you that you also calm the storms and fears inside of us when we ask for your help. It is so good to be your child. Amen.