

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### **A Storm**

from Matthew 8:23-27.

#### **Following Jesus, we do not have to be afraid.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- storms on a sea
- swamping a boat
- to perish
- to rebuke
- dead calm on a sea

Windstorms can represent chaos. "Rebuked" is the word used by Jesus not only when he calms the storm but also when he casts out demons.

#### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

Spark Story Bible pages 286-289

Spark NRSV Bible page 1067

#### **Family Prayer**

Dear Lord, like the disciples whose boat was being swamped in a storm, we can be swamped by our experiences—even though, like the disciples, we have you in the boat! We thank you for staying by us when we are afraid. In Jesus' name, we thank you for calming our seas. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT

### **Family Conversations**

- 1 What do you experience with your five senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell) during a storm?
- 2 What does it feel like to be afraid? Describe some ways in which feeling afraid is like being in a storm.
- 3 Why did Jesus tell the disciples they had little faith? What does faith have to do with fear?
- 4 Take turns telling a short story about your family as a group of disciples who become frightened by an experience that is resolved by Jesus.



### **Eye Spark**

Watch the sun shine in water drops, through a glass of water, or on the surface of a stream or river, lake, or ocean. Remember God creating all good things.



### **Ear Spark**

Listen for the sounds made by water—in machines, from the faucet, hitting the cement, falling onto grass, pouring into more water, blown into ripples or wild waves. Imagine the sound of Jesus' voice as he commanded the seas.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

During the next snowstorm or rainstorm (not electric storm), run out into the yard together and let the precipitation pour down on you.

Go ahead and sing, dance, spin. Find some safe puddles to jump in or make a snowman. God is with us in all weather. Rejoice!

### **For younger kids**

The next time you have a bath, bring some things that float. Make waves with your hands. Blow hard like the wind. Pretend a storm is swamping the disciples' boat. Then, calm the storm like Jesus.

### **For older kids**

Find out how the lake on which the disciples fished compares and contrasts to Lake Superior and to the Pacific Ocean.

