



# Faith Together at Home

## Safe with Jesus

Learn  
about God

### Gather Together

Gather around a candle or in the coziest room in your house to read the story of Jesus Calming the Storm from Matthew 8:23-27 or from your favorite children's Bible. Share highs and lows from the day, then talk about the things that frighten you (storms, family arguments, loss of job, school bullies, taking tests, etc.). Talk about what frightened the disciples in today's Bible story and notice that they shared their fears with Jesus.

### Discover Together

Ask a child to retell the story of Jesus calming the storm. Using a large piece of paper and some markers, work together to draw a picture of the story, but place your family in the boat. Draw big waves around the boat and write the things your family members are afraid of in the waves. Sketch Jesus looking at the members of your family. Draw a conversation balloon and write the words that Jesus is saying to your family about your fears. Display the picture in a prominent place in your home, so that everyone can remember Jesus is with us in the scary moments of our lives. The disciples were Jesus' closest companions, and yet even they felt afraid when life got wavy! They noticed that Jesus alone was not afraid, and they asked him for help. In fact, they begged him for help. When does your family share fears and ask Jesus for help? Look at the Bible story again. Besides the storm, what else does Jesus calm?

### Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- When does your life get wavy?
- Why do you think Jesus slept through the storm?
- How do we try to hide our fears?

### Play Together

Let an older child cut out a bookmark from cardstock. Let a younger sibling decorate it with lots of stormy scribbles and swirls. Use the bookmark to mark Matthew 8:23-27 in your favorite Bible. Read this passage the next time stormy weather comes around. Gather in a safe location while you ride out the storm. Sit together on a blanket for your "boat." Bring along a flashlight and a snack. Pray together. Cuddle together. Act out the story while you wait in safety. Offer thanks to Jesus when the storm passes through.

### Serve Together

Your family is not alone in sometimes feeling frightened and needing Jesus to calm your fears. Think of friends, family, or neighbors who are going through fearful times. Contact these people. Pray with one another as each of you faces life's waves: school exams, job interviews, friendship problems, illness. Think about God's people all over the world. What fears do they face? Pray for these families.

### Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Dear Jesus, we often feel afraid. We need your help. We depend on you to travel with us through choppy waters and calm seas. Amen.**