



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Meet the God/Man, Jesus  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 37

# Jesus—The Rescuer

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus is the Rescuer and he is real!  
*\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.*

**Bible Event:** Mark 6:45 – 56. Jesus walking on the water.

**Key Verse:** Mark 6:50b, "...Immediately, he [Jesus] said, 'Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!'"

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Jesus walking on the water.
- Jesus is real and the rescuer of us.
- Key Bible verses where we can meet Jesus as our real Rescuer.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Courage as they recount times of being afraid and how Jesus can be their real Rescuer in such times.
- Compassion for those people who do not know Jesus as the real Rescuer from sin and the power of the devil.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify times in the life in which they were really afraid.
- Apply how Jesus is the real Rescuer so that they can call upon him at all times.
- Prepare Bibles to be marked for a special witnessing effort or mission project.

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids talk about a time they were very scared.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>votive candle (optional)</li> <li>matches to light candle</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	3-4  7-9  10-11  12-13	<b>Overview</b>  <b>“Meet the God/Man” Game Show</b> ---This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the word “Rescuer.”  <b>Bible Presentation:</b> Interactive Storytelling -- “Jesus Calms the Disciples (and the storm)” from Mark 6:45-56.  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Meets the Rescuer” – Gordy appears with his life jacket because he is afraid of drowning. He learns he can trust Jesus to take care of him because Jesus is the Rescuer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy with a life ring buoy, life jacket, or water rescue device</li> <li>game show set</li> <li>sport coat</li> <li>large placards with letters <i>Option:</i> pieces of construction paper with letters boldly printed on them.</li> <li>game board for letters to be attached to <i>Option:</i> foam core or poster board.</li> <li>bell, horn, or buzzer (2-4)</li> <li>spray bottles or squirt gun</li> <li>large fan or fans</li> <li>waves with strips of blue table cloth</li> <li>fog machine</li> <li>strobe light or a flash camera</li> <li>sheet metal for “thunder”</li> <li>Jesus costume</li> <li>glow-in-the-dark cross—purchase from <a href="http://www.orientaltrading.com">www.orientaltrading.com</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	Kids make a picture reminding them that Jesus is real and will rescue them when they are afraid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>white paper</li> <li>pencils</li> <li>crayons</li> <li>one glow-in-the-dark cross per child (purchase from <a href="http://www.orientaltrading.com">www.orientaltrading.com</a>)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Today's lesson introduces Jesus as the Rescuer. Typically, the warm-up time is very clear in presenting the theme for the day. Today and throughout this series, however, the warm-up must be much more subtle in stating the day's theme. The reason for this is that the large group presentation will be in a game show format. Contestants will be trying to guess the theme of the day. Therefore, today we do not want to blatantly mention beforehand that Jesus is the Rescuer. Even if this is not clearly spoken, the kids will be involved in a warm-up activity related to the topic.*

The warm-up time is very simple. Ask the children to tell of a time when they were really scared.

To enhance the atmosphere of this special small group sharing, the shepherd might want to have the room darkened and light a candle. The shepherd then can begin discussion with a personal example of his own. Most children will find it easy to talk on this subject.

Encourage the children to listen to one another. This is an excellent opportunity for group building and will later set the stage for them to identify with the disciples.

After all have shared, continue with:

**In today's Bible event, the disciples, in the midst of their fear, did not see Jesus as real. However, when they did realize he was truly the God/Man, they discovered that he does rescue us from our fears.**

Conclude the small group time by asking the kids to pay special attention to today's Bible event and see if Jesus' disciples ever got scared. If they did, were the disciples more scared than they were at their scariest time? Maybe the disciples discovered how to have courage in the middle of their fear. Maybe we can discover that today, too.

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**“Meet the God/Man” Game Show**---This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the word “Rescuer.”

**Bible Presentation:** Interactive Storytelling -- “Jesus Calms the Disciples (and the storm)” from Mark 6:45-56.

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy Meets the Rescuer” – Gordy appears with his life jacket because he is afraid of drowning. He learns he can trust Jesus to take care of him because Jesus is the Rescuer.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Mark 6:45-56 in their Bibles.

**What was Jesus doing by himself on the mountainside while the disciples were out in the boat?** *(Mark 6:45-46. Praying.)*

**What kind of danger were the disciples in?** *(Mark 6:48. The wind was blowing against them and the boat might sink. It was a storm and it was the middle of the night.)*

**When Jesus came walking out to them, what did they think he was?** *(Mark 6:49-50. A ghost.)*

**What did the disciples do when they thought they saw this ghost?** *(Mark 6:49-50. Screamed!)*

**What did Jesus say to them to calm them?** (*Mark 6:50. "Calm down. It's me. Don't be afraid."*)

**What happened when Jesus then climbed into the boat?** (*Mark 6:51. The wind calmed down and they were amazed.*)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

If the disciples were sitting with us today, what do you think they would tell us about Jesus being our rescuer? Who would like to pretend to be one of the disciples and tell us what that disciple might say?

For younger children or shy children you might pretend to be a disciple and say something like:

*We were so scared. It was so dark and windy and we were afraid of drowning. We really needed someone to rescue us. When we first saw Jesus, we were even more scared. We didn't think he was real. He must have been a ghost. But when he talked to us, we knew he was real and he was our friend. But we didn't know that he could walk on the water or make the wind die down. We really didn't understand that he was the Son of God, but now we are learning that he is.*

**Why do you think Jesus walked on the water as he approached the disciples in the storm?** (*Maybe to show them how powerful he was.*)

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Sometimes we forget that Jesus is real and wants to be our rescuer, just like the disciples forgot. How do we act when we forget?** (*Scared. Want to panic.*)

**Remember when you described a time that you were really scared? When we are scared, we need to remember that *\*Jesus is the rescuer and he is real!***

**We can remember what Jesus said to his disciples in Mark 6 just like he is talking to us: "*Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!*"**

**Let's figure out how Jesus the rescuer can help us as we do our craft project.**

Application Activity:

*Supplies needed: paper, pencil, crayons, and glow-in-the-dark crosses*

Pass out paper and pencils and say:

**On this clean sheet of white paper, draw about a time when you were scared. The gray color of the pencil might remind us of the dark and how the disciples were scared on a stormy lake in the middle of the night.**

Encourage kids to talk about their fears as they draw.

After the kids have finished their pictures, have them tape one of the glow-in-the-dark crosses to the backside his/her drawing. Use moveable tape if possible. Then give the children each a crayon and have them do a crayon rubbing of the cross on the front side of their paper so that the imprint of the cross is in the middle of the picture, which will also bring color to the page.

Say:

**When I color this page with the cross beneath it, I can see the imprint of the cross come onto the page. This reminds me that, though at times, Jesus might seem hidden because we can't see him, he is real and wants to be right in the middle of the things that make us afraid.**

**Jesus can rescue us. The shape of the cross reminds us of how much God loves us. Since Jesus took our sins on himself when he died on the cross, we can always be friends with God, no matter what happens.**

**Take these crosses home with you to remember: *\*Jesus is the rescuer and he is real!***

Closing Prayer:

After each child names his/her fear in prayer, have them repeat the take-home point: ***\*Jesus is my rescuer and he is real!*** Close by thanking God that he is faithful to keep his promises.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# **Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes**

## **“Meet the God/Man” Game Show**

*The large group format for the “Meet the God/Man” series is a game show. The large group presenter is the game show host and Gordy is an assistant who ad-libs comments during the game show. Immediately after the game show, Gordy helps introduce the topic discussed that day. He does this with a brief scripted dialog, in which he presents a typical view of a third grade boy.*

*The more creative the set is for this game show, the more fun it can be for adults and children alike. In advance, gather adults to help with special props or decor. The large group presenter needs to have a bright or colorful sport coat or something to serve as a game show host costume. This will help the kids know when he is functioning as a game show host and when he is presenting the Bible event.*

*Throughout the series, large placards with letters will be necessary to make the mystery word and provide visual effect for the game. Today’s mystery word is “rescuer.” The God/man, Jesus, is a “rescuer.” Seven placards with the letters spelling “rescuer” need to be available. Number letters like below. As contestants answer questions, these letters are attached or turned over on the board or the wall. Be creative in your own facility as to how these letters can be posted. Foam core or poster board might be excellent backing.*

*The game format operates as follows:*

*The official beginning comes with the kids singing the “God/Man” theme song or a song of your choice that enhances the theme. It will be used throughout the series. To receive your copy of the music, go to [http://www.awaken.nu/music\\_godman.php](http://www.awaken.nu/music_godman.php) You can download the mp3 file (sample) for free or purchase a CD (includes trax and demo) for \$5.00, plus shipping and handling. Sheet music is \$3.00 plus shipping and handling.*

*Gordy then introduces the game show host. The game show host welcomes all of the contestants to the game “Who Is the God/Man?” (A game show sign would be helpful.) They would then randomly select contestants from the ping-pong ball container. Two boys and two girls should be selected to represent the team of each gender. Give the children the option of picking someone near them to substitute for them if they do not want to come up and be part of the show. This will compensate for kids who are shy.*

*The game show is conducted before the Bible event is read. Kids are guessing the answers, but then are better prepared to hear the main points of the Bible reading that is read after the game show.*

*The game-show host will read a question and the contestants will beep in with a bell, a horn, or a buzzer. Whoever beeps first gets to answer the question. If they beep in before the question is completely asked, the host will not tell them the rest of the question. If they answer the question correctly, they get a chance to look at one of the letters to be placed on the board. They will have five seconds to guess what the word is*

that describes who our God/Man is. If they fail to answer the question correctly after beeping in, the other team can answer the question following an additional clue. If that team correctly answers, then they will have five seconds to guess the descriptor for the God/Man. If neither team correctly answers the question, the letter is still revealed for the clue though no one is allowed to guess the word.

Typically, the kids will guess the word before all of the letters are given. Whichever team does this, wins the game. It might be interesting to keep a weekly tally of who is doing the best job. Nonetheless, it is still fun and helpful to complete the clues even after the word has been guessed. The remaining clues are given to Gordy so the questions can quickly be covered.

**Clue Sheet**  
**“Meet the God/Man” Game**  
Mark 6:45 - 56

R - E - S - C - U - E - R  
6   7   1   4   3   2   5

For letter number one, can you answer the following? Last week Jesus talked about how not to use a lamp. He said, “You don’t light a lamp and then place a \_\_\_\_\_ over it.”

- A. Hat
- B. Water balloon
- C. Bushel basket

(Answer: C. Bushel basket)

You win the letter S! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number two and letter number seven, can you tell me the following? Last week we heard Jesus say, “I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.”

- A. Light
- B. Ruler
- C. Champion

(Answer: A. Light)

You win the letter E, which is both in the number two and number six spots! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.



For letter number three, can you tell me the following? In today's lesson, Jesus will be traveling across the water. What will he use to get across the water?

**A. *Water skis***

**B. *Boat***

**C. *His feet . . . walking***

*(Answer: C. His feet. He walked on the water.)*

**You win the letter U! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

For letter number four, can you tell me the following? In today's lesson, the disciples will mistake Jesus for someone else. Who do they mistake him for?

**A. *John the Baptist***

**B. *A ghost***

**C. *An angel***

*(Answer: B. A ghost)*

**You win the letter C! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

For letter number five, can you tell me the following? In today's lesson, Jesus will tell the disciples to stop being afraid. What else will he say that helps them not be afraid? He will say:

**A. *"Hope you can swim."***

**B. *"Relax. Grab your life jacket."***

**C. *"Calm down! It's me."***

*(Answer: C. "Calm down! It's me.")*

**You win the letter R! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

For letter number six, can you tell me the following? In today's event, the wind stopped blowing when Jesus:

**A. *Got into the boat.***

**B. *Landed on the shore with the disciples.***

**C. *Started to fly a kite.***

*(Answer: A. Got into the boat.)*

**You win the letter R! And the God/Man is...Our rescuer!**

# Jesus Calms the Disciples (and the storm)

## Interactive Storytelling

*The presentation for today's Bible event will be an interactive storytelling. The presenter will need to ask four or five kids from the audience to be disciples in the boat. An adult can be drafted beforehand to play the role of Jesus. It will be helpful for this character to have period costuming, as his robe blowing in the wind will add additional effect. This person needs to be able to memorize his line: "Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!"*

*Use your creativity in designing the special effect of a storm with disciples afraid for their lives. Some suggestions for this include:*

- *having the lights darkened to create a shadowy effect*
- *large fan or fans blowing*
- *something that simulates a boat, or perhaps a real boat*
- *someone making waves using a long strip of blue plastic tablecloth that is fixed to a stable object on one end and waved by a person on the other*
- *dry ice in a bucket of water for foggy effect*
- *strobe light or a flash camera*
- *wobbly sheet metal for thunder effect*
- *spray bottles of water*

To begin you might say:

**To help me read and tell the story, I need a few volunteers from the audience. Thank you. Here is one, two, three, four, five. But you must try out for your part. On the count of three, I would like you to show me your most scared look and your most frightened scream. One, two, three... Aaaagh! Fine. You qualify for some disciples who are about to get scared. Now, come over here to me and I'll tell you what to do when I start the Bible event.**

**Audience, you need to practice your part and your part is making the sound of a gentle wind, (audience demonstrates) a strong wind, (audience demonstrates) and now a blowing thunderstorm, a huge wind, (audience demonstrates) very good, thank you. We are ready to begin.**

Insert the following script into a Bible so that it appears you are reading from it. (The script includes direct quotes from the Bible.) Direct Jesus to stand by you and the disciples. Then say:

**From God's Word, Mark 6 beginning at verse 45. *Jesus quickly made his disciples get into a boat and cross to Bethsaida ahead of him while he sent the people away.***

Direct disciples to go and get into their boat.

***After saying goodbye to them, he [Jesus] went up a mountain to pray. When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on the land.***

Ask for audience participation. **The wind began to blow stronger... and stronger... and stronger. Let me hear you, wind. A storm arose until it was tossing the boat all about. The disciples must have been afraid for their lives. This is what happened.**

***Jesus saw that they were in a lot of trouble as they rowed, because they were going against the wind. Between three and six o'clock in the morning, he came to them. He was walking on the sea. He wanted to pass by them. When they saw him walking on the sea, they thought "It's a ghost!" and they began to scream.***

**Okay disciples let me hear you. One, two, three...(disciples scream ahhh.) *All of them saw him and were terrified. But immediately Jesus said this...***

Have Jesus character say: ***"Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!"***

**Jesus got into the boat with them (Have Jesus get into the boat.) and the wind stopped blowing. *The disciples were astounded. (They didn't understand what had happened with the loaves of bread. Instead, their minds were closed.)***

**This refers to Jesus' miracles, but the disciples still did not understand he was the Son of God. But one thing the disciples were learning to understand was that Jesus is our Rescuer and in the middle of our frightening experiences Jesus is there to say...**

Have Jesus character say: ***"Calm down! It's me. Don't be afraid!"***

**Now the Bible goes on to tell us that Jesus did more than just rescue the disciples. When they got to the shore on the other side this is what the Bible says, *As soon as they stepped out of the boat, the people recognized Jesus. They ran all over the countryside and began to carry the sick on cots to any place where they heard he was. Whenever he would go into villages, cities, or farms, people would put their sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch the edge of his clothes. Everyone who touched his clothes was made well.***

**So now Jesus...**

**Direct the Jesus actor to walk among the audience.**

...as you walk through these people and as they touch your clothes, they can be reminded that when the sick touched Jesus, they were rescued and healed.

So today, we want to remember that Jesus is not a ghost. He is not someone who just lived a long time ago. Jesus is real and when we face frightful experiences we can say, *\*Jesus is the Rescuer and he is real!* Jesus will rescue me!

## **Gordy Meets the Rescuer**

### **Puppet Presentation**

*Gordy appears on stage with a life ring buoy, life jacket, or some type of water rescue device on.*

*Prop: glow in the dark cross*

**Mr. King:** Today we learned that *\*Jesus is the Rescuer and he is real!* Let's see what Gordy thinks. Gordy, are you there?

Gordy: Hi, Mr. King. I'm here.

**Mr. King:** Oh my, what's with the swim gear?

Gordy: Well, I can sure understand how the disciples felt. I'm afraid of drowning too! That's why I'm extra prepared.

**Mr. King:** Well, the disciples found out they needed to be prepared with more than just a boat or life jackets.

Gordy: Well, what else is there?

**Mr. King:** Gordy, there is Jesus. They found out that Jesus is real.

Gordy: Oh, yeah! At first they didn't believe he was real. They thought he was a ghost. I really like what they said.

**Mr. King:** What did they say?

Gordy: Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

**Mr. King:** That's enough, Gordy.

Gordy: Do you think he was glowing in the dark? They thought he was a ghost and everything.

**Mr. King:** No. He wasn't glowing in the dark. Well, wait a minute...maybe he was, in a way.

Gordy: He was?

Hold up the glow in the dark cross.

**Mr. King:** You see, sometimes when we are scared it feels very dark around us. And it was certainly dark for the disciples. But Jesus is real and Jesus came to them. He said, “Be calm, it’s me.” Then, suddenly it didn’t seem so scary. He even made the storm stop.

Gordy: Yeah! He rescued them!

**Mr. King:** And he will rescue you, too, and others.

Gordy: Well, how does he do that? By glowing in the dark?

**Mr. King:** In a way. Remember that Jesus is like the light that comes into our darkness. He forgives us from our sins. Remember how he gave his life for us on the cross and he rose again from the dead?

Gordy: How does that help us?

**Mr. King:** Well, that means that no matter what happens, when we trust him, we will be friends with him and live with him forever.

Gordy: But how does that help me if I’m scared of the water?

**Mr. King:** Gordy, don’t you know that Jesus is real and he is right here with you even when you are afraid?

Gordy: Oh, I guess he is.

**Mr. King:** When you remember that, it’s just like Jesus saying to you, “Calm down. It’s me, don’t be afraid.”

Gordy: But what if something bad happens to me?

**Mr. King:** Remember, Jesus is the Rescuer, so don’t worry about something bad happening to you. Just trust that Jesus will take care of you.

Gordy: I think I can do that.

**Mr. King:** Well why don’t you give it a try. Would you close us in prayer?

Gordy: Dear Jesus, thank you for being our Rescuer. And thank you that you are real even if we can’t see you. When it feels dark around us or we are afraid, we need someone that glows in the dark like you. Even though you don’t really glow in the dark. You do help the darkness go away and if something bad is going to happen, you always rescue us. Thank you, Jesus, Amen.