

Lesson 158

TEXT Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES John 16:33; Isaiah 57:20,21

OBJECTIVE The students will be capable of telling that the Lord has power over the universe as well as over men. He can bring peace to elements as well as to the hearts of individuals.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. — John 14:27

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. — Isaiah 26:3

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **God Heard My Cry**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Peace**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Peace, according to Webster is defined as “a state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relations; a state or period of mutual concord between governments, or a pact or an agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity.”

When the Lord created this world, He intended that peace should be universal. There were no predatory animals—all ate of the plants and fruit trees. But sin entered into mankind and peace was eroded. At some point, certain animals became carnivorous, some became enemies of man, and most became fearful of man. The beautiful tranquility of nature was gone. Hatred arose in the heart of man and murder was committed in the first family. Very shortly after the confusion of tongues at the

building of the tower of Babel, the various peoples began to war against each other and so it has gone ever since.

The Prophet Isaiah knew where the source of perfect peace was to be found. He foretold of the One who would bring peace to this earth. He also spoke of the time when nature would again be at peace—the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the kid, the calf and the young lion, all being led by a little child; the cow and the bear feeding together; and the lion eating straw like the ox (Isaiah 11:6-9).

When Jesus was here on earth, He not only was able to calm a troubled sea, but He was able to give peace to a troubled soul. Today Jesus is still seeking to bring peace to the sin-burdened life. And the Christian is looking forward to the day when Jesus will reign in righteousness and there will be perfect peace.

YOUR OPENER

Peace

TEXT: Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 16:33; Isaiah 57:20,21

KEY VERSE: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. — Isaiah 26:3

Our Lord was a miracle-working Savior on earth, both in the lives of men and in nature. We know He is the same in our day. He gave peace to those who had no peace—He will do the same today. He caused the winds to cease and calmed the raging water—He can do the same today as He puts at rest the storms in the lives of men.

RESPONSES

1. He displayed no fear but exemplified perfect trust in His heavenly Father. Help your class recognize that at times in life they may be surrounded by problems and cares which would ordinarily cause a person to be extremely troubled in spirit. But if their trust is in the heavenly Father, they have a peace and assurance that is unassailable.

2. The Lord was awakened by the disciples. He immediately rebuked the winds and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." Discuss with your class the simple manner in which a great storm was turned into a great calm by just a few words. Perhaps they will never be involved in a physical storm in which it is necessary to cry to the Lord for deliverance. However, ask your class to point out some of the trials which may come to them to cause them to call on the Savior. How can these be stilled by the Lord?

3. Fear is the opposite of faith. Jesus wants His people always to have faith in God. Circumstances may at times cause temporary fear, but "perfect love casteth out fear." The Lord often encouraged those about Him: "Fear not," "Only believe," "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth," etc. Allow a few moments to talk about the fears by which mankind is often bound. Encourage your class to cite specific examples from their own experience, or the experiences of others. Were there any situations that were beyond the Lord's help?

1. Note the scriptural description of the storm on the Sea of Galilee as given in the text: "There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full." Have you ever been on a ship at sea during a storm? What significance is shown by Jesus' restfulness during the storm?

2. What caused the Lord to awaken from His sleep? And what was His response?

3. The Lord rebuked His disciples for being afraid. Why? Is there never reason for us to fear? What lesson can we apply to our own lives from this happening?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" the disciples wondered after the calming of the storm. Name several other instances in which Jesus displayed His power over nature. (See Matthew 14:20,25; 17:27; 21:19.) What do these miracles prove, and what should be our response?

5. In what condition did Jesus and the disciples find the demoniac? What was the cause of this condition?

6. What were the results of man's efforts to help the situation?

7. How was the man healed? What was the evidence of his healing?

8. What was the attitude of the citizens of the city and country? What did the man who was delivered want to do? What instructions were given to him by the Lord?

9. For what purpose was the Son of God manifested? See 1 John 3:8.

4. Jesus increased the loaves and fishes to feed five thousand men as well as the women and children. He walked upon the water. He knew that Peter would find tribute money in the mouth of the first fish that he caught. The fig tree withered at Christ's word when He found no fruit. Your students should conclude that all the miracles Jesus did, prove that He is the Son of God, and that He has all power in Heaven and earth. Our response should be a desire to serve Him. He came to give us everlasting life. The unavoidable result of ignoring or refusing to serve Him is eternal punishment.

5. He was bound by the powers of demons as a result of sin. The discussion should bring out that if one sells out to the devil, the same depravity results today. Many are in the same condition as the demoniac. However, in modern times, medical terms are often used to define spiritual problems.

6. Man failed to improve the situation. This answer will show the futility of man-made remedies in dealing with satanic forces. Help your students see that no case is too hard for Jesus. This might be a good opportunity to present to your class the testimonies of some who have experienced deliverance from the powers of the devil. You may choose to distribute a tract such as "Delivered in a Moment of Time" (No. 79), or "Down Skid Road to Despair" (No. 108).

7. Jesus commanded the devils to come out of the man. This answer will show the class that a simple command of Jesus will cause evil spirits to leave. As evidence of the completeness of the demoniac's healing, the people found him sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind. Have your students compare this miracle with the calming of the sea. Lead the discussion to the availability of God's help for them.

8. The citizens prayed that Jesus would depart from their coasts. The man who had been delivered from the demons wanted to go with Jesus. However, Jesus desired that he remain in his own country to tell his friends what great things the Lord had done for him. This should lead to a discussion of the importance Jesus placed upon being a witness to others of His great power to bring peace to troubled hearts and minds.

9. To destroy the works of the devil. The answer will show that a distinct purpose was given to Jesus. Help your class talk about the importance of allowing Jesus to be the Christ of every crisis, that both spiritually and physically they might enjoy perfect peace.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why was Jesus able to sleep during the storm?

How would you have felt if you were on that boat in the storm? What would you have thought when Jesus calmed the waves?

Why didn't the demoniac have peace? What are some of the things which keep people from having peace in their life today?

Before you became a Christian, what were some of the things that caused strife in your life?

Are Christians always at peace? Is there something a Christian must do to have peace?

As a Christian, what are some of the things in your life which might hinder you from having that perfect peace?

What are some of the storms that come up in a person's life? Can you think of some inward storms and outward storms?

What are some of the inner battles that sinners go through? What are some of the inner battles that Christians go through?

Why can a Christian say that he has more peace than a sinner? Is there some kind of peace a Christian will always have, no matter what happens?

Our ANSWER story describes a near tragedy on a lake. Compare that happening to the storm-tossed existence of the sinner. What happened in the story? What can be the end result of the sinner?

THINGS TO DO

Prepare an interview of the demoniac after Jesus had healed him. Sample interview questions:

- I hear you have had a real change in your life. What kind of a life did you used to live?
- You are so different now. How did this change come about?
- Do you have peace in your heart?
- How did Jesus bring this peace into your heart?
- Can anyone have this same peace that you have?

On a large sheet of paper, have students write graffiti statements or draw pictures related to the lesson theme of

peace (Peace is . . .). The students' statements and pictures are then discussed to arrive at a definition of peace.

After reading Mark 4:35-41, have the class summarize the message it portrays. Then allow the students to work in small groups to illustrate the sequence of events in the Scripture passage. Have each group display and explain their work to the class.


Write the word PEACE vertically on a large sheet of paper or chalkboard. Have the students write words or phrases (horizontally) which relate to peace. When the writing is completed, discuss with your class the words or phrases written. Example:

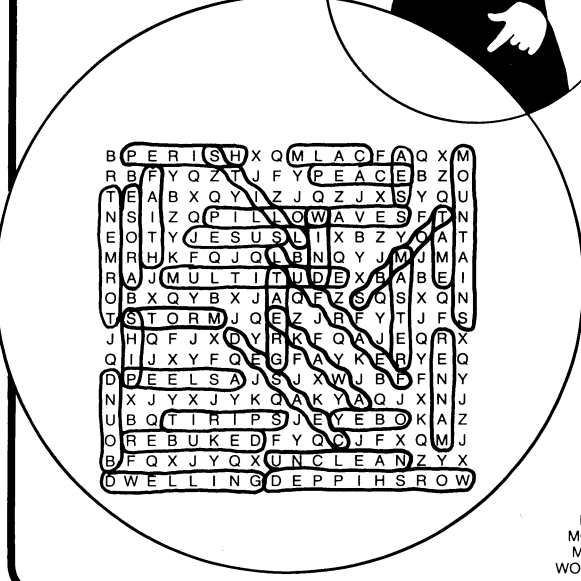
- Passeth all understanding
- Ends frustration
- All men want it
- Christ is the giver of it
- Eternity in Heaven

Answers for ANSWER

All Around You

The peace that God gives encircles you and you know that He is in control. The words listed are from the text and can be found in the word-find. Remember, they read up, down, across and diagonally.





SEA
CALM
OBEY
SHIP
TAME
WIND
AROSE
AWAKE
BOUND
FAITH
GREAT
JESUS
PEACE
STILL
STORM
TOMBS
WAVES
ASLEEP
CEASED
MANNER
MASTER
PERISH
PILLOW
SPIRIT
FEARFUL
REBUKED
TORMENT
UNCLEAN
DWELLING
MOUNTAINS
MULTITUDE
WORSHIPPED