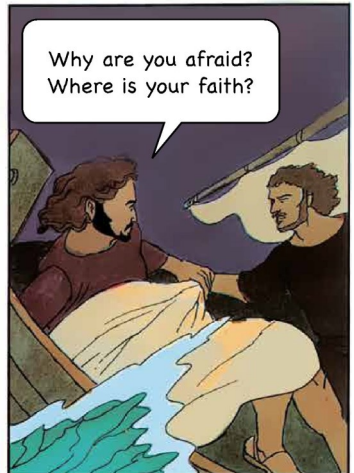
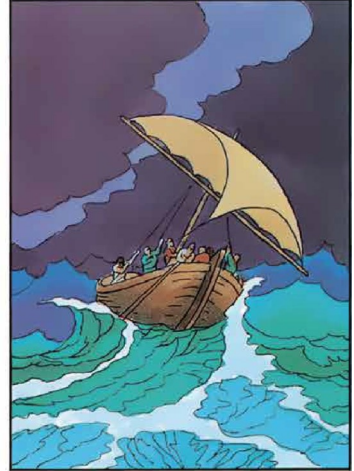
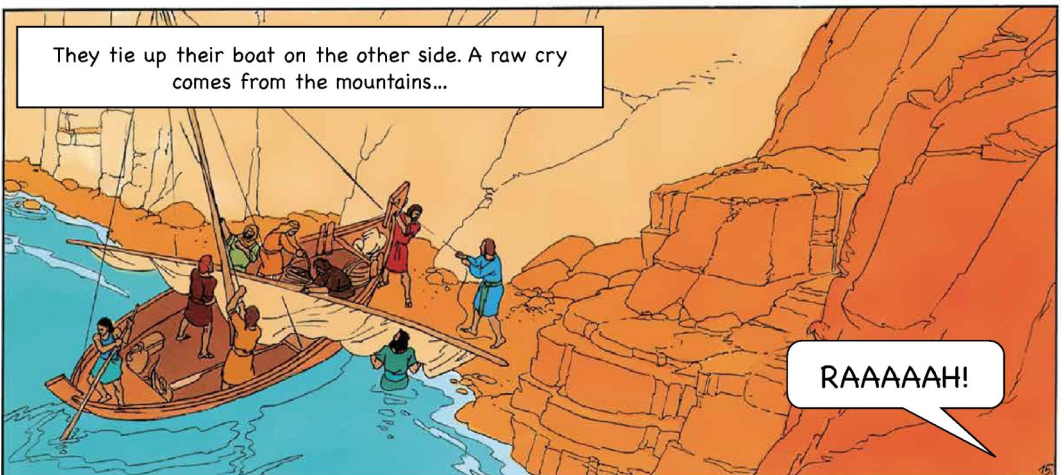
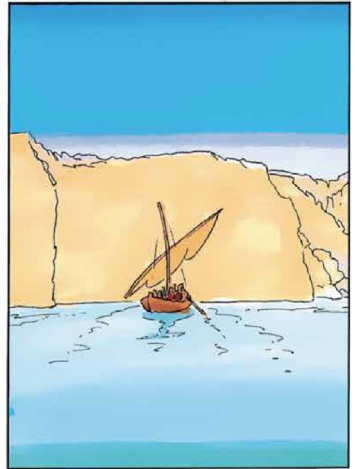
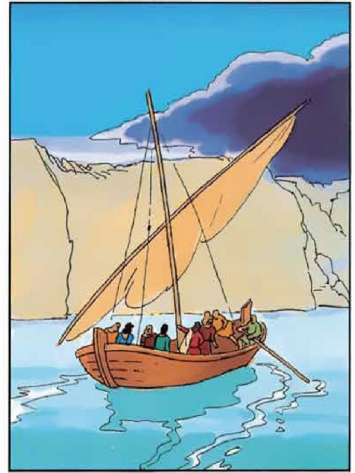
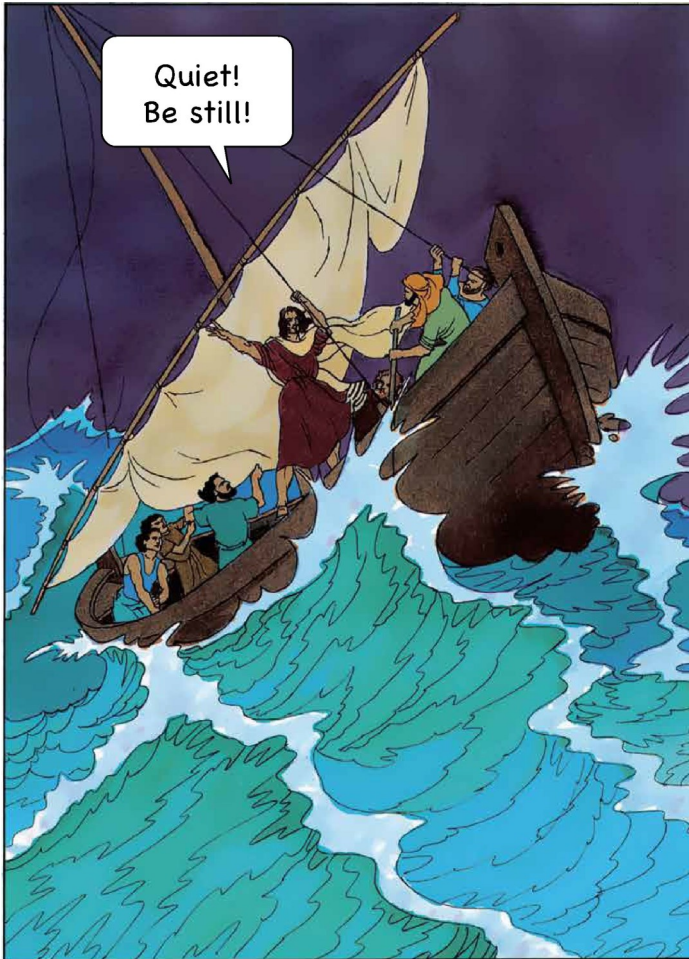


WITH JESUS IN THE BOAT

READ FOR YOURSELF: *Matthew 8:23-27*

As the tension between Jesus and the leaders arises, Jesus withdraws. He sails onto the lake with his disciples. But...







WITH JESUS IN THE BOAT

The disciples of Jesus are in big trouble. It's good they go to their Master with them. He may have a solution...

Of course He has a solution. Jesus rules over everything, even over the storm. Jesus sleeps in the storm. He has peace even then. He just commands the storm; So much power He has.

Nature suffers a lot from the results of sin. It can rage extremely wild. Jesus is the Lord over creation: Even nature must obey Him.

Problems may enter your life suddenly like a storm. Suddenly it happen: a stupid mistake, a wrong decision, a fight, annoying people, feeling insecure, or just bad luck. Fear starts filling your heart.

You don't have to be afraid if you are close to Jesus. He fills you with His peace and His faith. Maybe you still don't have that much faith in Him. Bad luck? Or do you bring all your worries to Jesus? What I would do: I would bring it to Jesus, I would pray; I would listen to what He tells.

He promises He will always be with you. When He says so, you can have peace. In every circumstance He has the last word. Trust in His word. Then everything will be calm again.

MEMORY VERSE

*"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31b)*

WHO IS JESUS?

The First

*"Christ existed before all things, and in union with Him all things have their proper place. He is the head of his body, the church; He is the source of the body's life. He is the firstborn Son, who was raised from death, in order that He alone might have the first place in all things."
(Col. 1:17-18)*

God spoke and all things were created through His Word (Genesis 1). In the very beginning, Jesus already existed. He is God's Word. God made all things through Him. (John 1:1-10).

Jesus was the first, when God created everything. He is also the first who rose from the dead. That is why everything and everyone should bow before Him. When Jesus speaks, it happens. Everything and everyone will someday say: "Jesus is Lord!"



OLD TREASURES

Hundreds of years before Jesus came it was written in the Psalms that the coming Messiah would have authority over nature.

*"I have exalted a young man from among the people.
I have found David My servant;
with My sacred oil I have anointed Him.
I will set his hand over the sea,
his right hand over the rivers.
He will call out to me, `You are My Father,
My God, the Rock My Saviour.
I will establish his line forever,
his throne as long as the heavens endure."
(Psalm 89:19b,20,25,26,29 NIV)*

Many times in the Old Testament the Messiah is called David (as in Psalm 89:20). But when you read carefully, you notice that it is not about King David, who ruled over Israel and died. It is about the Messiah who is born as a descendant of David and who will rule as king for ever. (That is what you read, for example, in Psalm 89:36,37)



EXTRA INFORMATION

Storm

The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by beautiful mountains. When a storm passes the mountains, it can fall down on the lake. The water becomes wild, as if you were blowing in a bowl. The water has nowhere to go. The waves whirl and hit everything. The small fishing boats have no real chance in such wild storms.

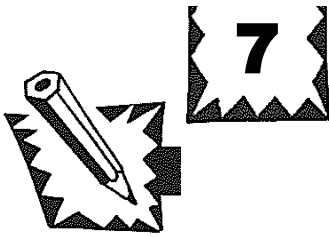
Sometimes storms and water floods are caused by the powers of darkness. Think about the Great Flood in Noah's time. God saved Noah and his family in the ark. (Genesis 6:18) Noah's name means "peaceful". He had the same peace and the same faith as Jesus. That's why God gave him so much grace.

GO TO JESUS WITH YOUR PROBLEMS

When something goes wrong, you can do one of three things:

1. Feel sorry and let it be.
2. Try to find a solution yourself as soon as possible.
3. Go to Jesus with your problems.

What do you do?



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is Jesus doing when the storm falls on the lake?

2. What are the disciples doing in the storm?

3. Why does Jesus reprimand the disciples for being afraid in the storm?

- a) Jesus cannot change the fact that it is storming.
- b) Everybody can see that it's only a small storm.
- c) They are safe with Jesus, even in the heaviest storm.

4. What does Jesus do to solve His disciples' problems?

5. With what did God create the world?

6. Why is Jesus the master over creation?

7. Why is Jesus called the First?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Romans 8:31-39
Mon	Matthew 8:23-27
Tue	Psalm 89:9-19
Wed	Psalm 89:20-38
Thu	Psalm 107:23-31
Fri	Colossians 1:15-20
Sat	John 1:1-10



ACTION POINT!

- Take a piece of paper.
- Write down all the problems Paul mentioned in Romans 8:31-39:
7 items in verse 35 and
6 items in verse 38.
- Make up at least three more. Also write your own problems.
- And then write over it the words of Romans 8:31 in red ink.
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