

PROPER 7

Sunday between 19 and 25 June inclusive
(if after Trinity Sunday)

Thought for the day

What kind of person is this? Even the wind and waves obey him.

Readings

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49 or
1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16 or Job 38:1-11
Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 133 or Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Aim

To explore the implications of the calming of the storm.

Starter

What are we? Explain that they are some kind of group with some kind of leader, and they can work out what they are by asking the leader questions (yes/no answers only). They may be objects, animals or people, or a combination. To start them off they are given one clue.
Here are some possible scenarios:

- A group of planes at different flying levels, waiting to be given permission to land from ground control. (Clue: boiled sweets and travel wrist bands/travel pills)
- Swallows perched on a telegraph wire gathering in the autumn for their leader to set them off on migration to Africa. (Clue: a feather)
- Members of a morris dance team with the leader playing an accordion. (Clue: bells and a white hanky)
- A mountain rescue team in thick fog on Snowdon guided by the compass. (Clue: A map and a first aid kit)

Teaching

What does it mean for God to be in charge? First read the chosen Old Testament passage, looking at it from this point of view. Notice what it does and doesn't mean – responsible loving, picking up pieces, drawing together and planning, yet following natural laws and allowing us the freedom of choice.
Now read from Mark's Gospel the account of Jesus calming the wind and waves.
Why do they think the disciples woke Jesus up?

Do they think they would all have drowned if Jesus hadn't commanded the weather to calm down?

Why might Jesus have chosen to do this instead of comforting the disciples and cheering them through the difficult situation? (Feeling compassion for them/showing a sign?/fighting with evil?) What did it help the disciples to understand about Jesus in a very dramatic lesson?
What does it help us to see about Jesus as we read the account nearly two thousand years later? Share ideas and other questions they may have.

Praying

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
or the world's tempestuous sea.
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee.
Yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Activities

On the sheet there are some of the questions people ask about God intervening, and hints and references are given to help them work out possible answers. They are also invited to look at possible storms into which Jesus speaks calm – in their own lives, in the Church and in the news. This can all lead on to prayer and action.

Discussion starters

1. When were you last stunned by the awesome power of the living God? Share your experiences and how they affected your understanding of God.
2. If people know something of what God is really like, how is it likely to affect the way they pray?

Notes