

**Miracles over Nature**

Passages: Jn 2:1–11; Mk 4:36–41; Mt 14:22–33

*Memory Verse*

“But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (Matthew 8:26)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Jesus Christ has power and authority over nature.	God is the almighty Creator.	Trust in the Lord because all of creation is under His control.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Understanding Miracles
- B. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Transform Nature
- C. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Control Nature
- D. Jesus Christ Transcends Nature

**Life Application**

- 1. Looking to Jesus Christ in the Midst of a Storm
  - What Are Storms?
  - Looking to Jesus
- 2. Overcoming Fear with Love and Faith

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ is the Almighty God and Creator of the heavens and the earth. When we obey His words and put our trust in Him, He will never disappoint us.

## Spiritual Teachings

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### A. Understanding Miracles

In the Bible, there are many miracles recorded in the Old and New Testaments. A miracle is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's intervention in the lives of men. During His time on earth, Jesus Christ performed many miracles. These miracles were evidence that Jesus Christ is God, the Creator of the universe. Studying His miracles helps us to develop a better understanding of Christ, and of why we can trust in Him with our whole heart.

Let us look at how Jesus Christ proves that He is the almighty sovereign God through His miracles over nature. The chart describes the five miracles over nature performed by Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Bible.

Miracles over Nature	
Turned Water to Wine	Jn 2:1–11
Calmed the Storm	Mt 8:23–27; Mk 4:36–41; Lk 8:22–28
Walked on Water	Mt 14:22–33; Mk 6:48–51
Coin in the Fish's Mouth	Mt 17:24–27
Cursed the Fig Tree	Mt 21:18–22; Mk 11:12–25

In today's lesson, we will study the first three of these miracles.

### B. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Transform Nature

Let us begin by reading John 2:1–11.

#### The Problem

This passage records the first miracle that Jesus Christ performed during His ministry on earth. Jesus was attending a wedding in Cana of Galilee. During the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother informed Him that the wedding banquet had run out of wine. This would have been quite embarrassing for the bride and groom's families, because this meant that they had not prepared enough wine to serve the guests for the whole feasting period of seven days.

#### The Miracle

Jesus Christ simply gave instructions for the servants to follow. Six large stone pots, capable of holding twenty or thirty gallons of water, were set nearby. He instructed the servants to fill the pots with water. After they finished filling the pots, Jesus then instructed them to draw out some water and bring it to the master of the feast. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had turned to wine, he said to the bridegroom, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" (v. 10).

This miracle was the first of many signs to demonstrate Jesus' authority over nature. Jesus Christ has the power to transform one substance into another. Without Him, it would be impossible for water to become wine. However, He required action for this transformation to occur. First, the servants obeyed Jesus. Second, during the whole process, the servants did not question any of His instructions, but trusted in His words. As a result of their obedience and trust, they were witnesses to Jesus Christ's transformative power.

This miracle was also an unexpected blessing for the married couple. With His transformative power, Jesus Christ blessed their marriage and their new life together. Unless He had acted, the marriage feast may have ended in shame and embarrassment. But because of this miracle, their new life together began with joy. This is a blessing that we want to experience in our own lives in the future!

We also want to experience His power to transform, something that we can receive only when we put His words into action and trust in Him. This requires us to be obedient to His word and to trust in His word. For example, if we are currently struggling with anger, we can ask God to transform us. When we are willing to obey His word and trust in His ability to change us, we will be able to experience His transformative power in our life.

### **C. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Control Nature**

Let us continue by studying Mark 4:36–41.

#### **The Problem**

Jesus Christ and His disciples had been preaching to a multitude by the lake. When evening came, they decided to cross the lake. As they traveled across, Jesus Christ fell asleep in the stern of the boat. Suddenly, “a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling” (v. 37). The disciples were very afraid, so they woke Jesus, who was still sleeping during the storm.

#### **The Miracle**

When Jesus Christ awoke, He rebuked the wind and the sea. At once, the wind and waves ceased. Jesus then turned to His disciples, saying, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” (v. 40).

This miracle demonstrates Jesus’ ability to control nature. As the Creator, He has authority over His creation. This is why when Jesus Christ commanded the waves and winds to “be still,” they obeyed. After Jesus Christ calmed the storm, the disciples were afraid of Him and wondered who He was that even the wind and sea would obey Him (Lk 8:25). They did not understand that Jesus Christ was able to control the wind and the waves because He is God, the Creator, and thus has complete control over His creation.

Knowing that Jesus Christ has authority as the Creator is crucial to our faith. As the Creator, all things are under His control; understanding this truth enables us to trust in Him. The disciples lacked this knowledge, so their trust and faith in Him were lacking. Though Jesus Christ was with them in the boat, they were still afraid. They could not see that the Creator of all things was with them; they could only see how terrible the storm was. Their fear stemmed from their lack of faith and trust in God.

In our life, we will encounter difficulties or “storms” that may make us fearful. In Philippians 4:6, Paul encourages the members in Philippi to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” As humans, it is natural for us to be afraid when we encounter difficulties. However, we must remember that we have Jesus Christ, the Creator, with us. We can bring our worries and anxieties to Him, and He will help us weather them.

### **D. Jesus Christ Transcends Nature**

Jesus does not only control nature, He also transcends it. Let us turn to Matthew 14:22–33.

#### **The Problem**

After preaching to the multitudes, Jesus Christ sent His disciples ahead of Him on a boat, while He went up a mountain to pray. Later on in the evening, the disciples were in the boat being tossed around by the waves. They tried desperately to row to the other side, but the wind was against them.

### **The Miracle**

The disciples saw a figure walking towards them on the water. Thinking it was a ghost, they were afraid. It was at this moment that Jesus called out to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid” (v. 27). Instead of receiving Him warmly, Peter questioned Jesus, saying, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water” (v. 28). Jesus Christ granted Peter’s request and enabled Peter to walk on water. Initially, Peter walked on the water as Jesus did, but when he saw the great waves, he became afraid and began to sink, crying out to Jesus to save him. Reaching out His hand to catch Peter, Jesus admonished him saying, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (v. 31). Once Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, the winds stopped.

By walking on water, Jesus demonstrated His ability to transcend nature and do the impossible. No one else can walk on water or enable another person to do the same. However, Jesus Christ was able to do both. This miracle is another demonstration of His almighty power as God Himself and of how He surpasses nature.

The disciples were amazed by what Christ had done and worshipped Him as the Son of God, proclaiming, “Truly You are the Son of God.” We can see the growth in their understanding of who Christ is when we compare this to their response in the previous miracle. They no longer wonder who He is. They are now able to acknowledge that He is the Son of God.

Peter was on his way towards Jesus Christ when he began sinking. This means that both he and Jesus Christ still had a distance to cross before they returned to the boat. The Bible states that the wind did not stop until both of them were in the boat. Thus, during their return to the boat, the boisterous wind continued to blow. For Peter, the situation remained the same, but now he had Jesus by his side.

This miracle reminds us that we must always look to Jesus Christ. When Peter attempted to walk on water, he was able to do so initially. But when he focused instead on the great winds, Peter became afraid and began to sink. His fear was the evidence of his doubt in Jesus’ ability and power.

We may be the same as Peter. We initially have faith but begin to doubt once we see that our negative situation has not changed and that our problems still exist. We can easily lose focus on Jesus and allow the worries of the world to affect us. This is when our faith in Jesus may become shaken. It is crucial to remember that God wants us to trust in Him completely to the end. Rather than focusing on the waves, we must instead focus on Jesus by bringing our worries to Him in prayer. As we look upon Him, the winds will become insignificant.

Today, Jesus is able to help us through the storms in our life. This does not mean that all our problems will be solved immediately. However, it is an opportunity for us to learn how to trust in Christ’s love and protection. As we continue to witness the work of Christ in our lives, let us continue to deepen our understanding of our Almighty God, the Creator.

### ***Check for Understanding***

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**1. What was the first miracle that Jesus Christ performed?** He turned water into wine.

2. **How do we experience God’s transformative power in our lives?** By putting God’s word into action and trusting in Him.
3. **How is being afraid related to having a lack of faith?** When we are afraid, we do not completely trust and believe that God is able to protect or help us.
4. **Why do the wind and waves obey Jesus Christ’s command?** He is the Almighty God, the Creator.
5. **How do we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ?** By bringing our worries to Him and by trusting in His help.

### *Life Application*

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#### **1. Looking to Jesus Christ in the Midst of a Storm**

##### **What Are Storms?**

Have you ever stood outside in the middle of a storm? Close your eyes and imagine the rain pouring down on us and soaking our clothes. The strong wind blowing against us makes it difficult for us to open our eyes and see where to go. As we try to go forward, the wind pushes us back. Each step that we take is met with resistance as we try to find shelter from the storm.

Isaiah 54:11 compares affliction or suffering to being tossed in a tempest. In our lives, we will encounter storms that make us lose our focus on Jesus Christ. Just like real life storms, we may be so overwhelmed by these “storms” that we feel besieged and unable to escape. These storms may be addictions we have or temptations that we encounter. What are some examples of storms in our lives?

- We may have so many school assignments that we do not have any time to cultivate ourselves spiritually.
- We may constantly feel the need to fit in at school, so we may say or do things that are not Christ-like.
- We may be addicted to media, causing us to be distracted during church service.

##### **Looking to Jesus**

*You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

*(Neh 9:6)*

It is so easy for us to be focused on the storms in our life that we lose sight of our relationship with Jesus Christ. But the only way to overcome our storms is by rebuilding our relationship with Him. How do we rebuild our relationship with Jesus?

- Through daily cultivation in prayer and Bible reading (2 Pet 3:18)  
The most basic step to building a relationship is getting to know the other person. We need to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ in order to build our relationship with Him. The only way we can increase our knowledge of Jesus is through our prayers and studying of the Scriptures.
- Through humbling ourselves and submitting to His will (Jas 4:6–7)  
Just as we will go to lengths to please those we care deeply about, we must do what pleases Jesus Christ. In order to do so, we must humble ourselves before Him and listen to what He requires from us. Only then will we know what to do to please Him.

##### **Discussion Questions**

- What are some storms that you have encountered in your life? How did you overcome them?

- What are some storms that you are currently struggling with?

Though we may encounter many storms, in the face of them all we must turn to Jesus Christ as our Savior. Only with Him by our side will we be able to overcome the storms in our life.

## 2. Overcoming Fear with Love and Faith

Through the miracles that Jesus Christ performed over nature, we can see many demonstrations of His almighty power and His ability to do what seems impossible in the eyes of man. However, we are often like the disciples: in knowledge, we know in our minds that Jesus is almighty, but in practice, we are still fearful and anxious in the face of difficulties. Even right now, we can probably all think of something that we are anxious or fearful about.

In 1 John 4:18, the Bible teaches us that when love is perfected, it casts out fear. As a result, fear has no place in a person who has been made perfect in love. Oftentimes, we forget just how much Jesus Christ loves us, so we do not love Him as we should. We become preoccupied with our fears and lose sight of Jesus Christ and His love for us. We become numb to His love. But to overcome our fears, we must first have faith in Him and bring our fears to Him. Just as a young child will run to his parents for comfort and safety, we can also run to God. Whether it is during good times such as a wedding, or distressing times such as the midst of a storm, God is in control. As we immerse ourselves in His love and remember His love daily, we will be able to overcome our fears and come to truly love Him in return (1 Jn 4:19).

Discussion: Share a time when you were afraid and God helped you to overcome your fear.

- Why were you afraid?
- How did God help you?

Whether spiritual or physical, God is able to clear any storms that we encounter when we trust in Him. Let us read a testimony about a physical storm that a church was able to overcome through God's providence.

### Testimony

*A church was planning to hold a baptism. However, a few days before, the forecast called for a severe storm on the day of the baptism. With this in mind, the members prayed to God with one heart and one mind for a miracle. On the day of the baptism, the rain poured down according to the forecast. Nevertheless, the members made the decision with faith to drive to the baptismal site. Once they arrived, they found that the rain had stopped, though the skies remained cloudy. Suddenly, just as the first person was about to enter into the water to be baptized, the sun came out from behind the clouds and a ray of sunlight shone upon on the water. This miraculous sunlight remained until the end of the baptism. Once the baptism ended and everyone left the water, the sun disappeared again behind the clouds and rain once again began to fall. As the members returned from the baptism, they were all filled with joy and praised the Lord for His wondrous blessing!*

- Anonymous

### Memory Verse

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"But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm." (Matthew 8:26)

### Meaning

1. Our fear stems from a lack of faith in the Lord.
2. Jesus Christ has the authority to control nature because He is God, its Creator.

### **Conclusion**

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*You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

*(Neh 9:6)*

Jesus Christ is the Creator, and through these three miracles, He demonstrates His authority and power over His creation. Whether it is turning water into wine or calming a storm, He is able to transform and control nature according to His will. There is nothing that is impossible for Him. All that He requires of us is that we trust and have faith in Him as our Creator. When we are afraid or anxious, we should continue to believe and put our trust in Him, for when we have Him, there is nothing to fear.

## Lesson 6 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about Jesus Christ as God?  
*As its Creator, Jesus Christ has authority over nature.*
2. What does His first miracle teach us about Jesus' transformative power in us?  
*In order to transform, we must be obedient. We can experience His power to transform when we put His words into action and trust in Him.*
3. Why is it important for us to understand Jesus' full authority over creation?  
*Understanding this authority is crucial to our faith because it lets us understand that He is in control of everything, and thus can be fully trusted.*
4. What does Peter's attempt to walk on water teach us?  
*It teaches us to never lose sight of Jesus. Although his situation remained the same from the moment he stepped off the boat, he only began to sink because he stopped looking at Jesus. His fear was the evidence of his doubt in Jesus.*
5. What kinds of storms can we encounter in our lives? How can we overcome them?  
*Answers will vary.  
We can overcome them by overcoming our fear with faith through building a relationship with and looking to Jesus.*
6. Write down one verse you can meditate upon when you feel anxious or worried.  
*Personal answers. Examples may be: 1 John 4:18; Nehemiah 9:6; Philippians 4:6.*