



Jesus Has Power Over Nature

2

Key Theme

- God has authority over His creation.

Key Passages

- John 1:1–3; Matthew 14:22–27, 14:33; Luke 5:4–7

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Connect Jesus's role as Creator to His power over nature.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the letter clues. If time allows, they may recite the verse to a partner or to the class using only the letter clues.



Activity 1: Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus did miracles to show that He could control nature. He calmed a storm, walked on water, and caused Simon to catch a net-breaking, boat-sinking load of fish! How could Jesus do those things? Scripture is clear: Jesus is the Creator. Jesus IS God.



Activity 2: Power Over Nature Game

Students will play a board game in teams to review the lesson material.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE CLASS NOTES

- Print one Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Has Power Over Nature Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



POWER OVER NATURE GAME

- Print the Power Over Nature Game Components from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Game Board for every 2–3 students.
- Keep the Power Over Nature Game Questions and Teacher Guide for your use.
- Cut out the Game Numbers and place them in a cup. These will be used to move game pieces as the game proceeds.

- Power Over Nature Game Boards
- Power Over Nature Game Teacher Guide
- Power Over Nature Game Questions
- Game Numbers in a cup
- One game piece (button or coin) for each team



Memory Verse

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords, began his ministry with an ordinary bunch of disciples. Many had been fishermen, and there was a tax collector, a political zealot, and others that we don't know a lot about. At the beginning of Jesus's ministry, He began to perform public miracles in the presence of His disciples. All these miracles pointed to Him as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus did not heal the sick and raise the dead for the sole purpose of removing suffering, but to demonstrate who He was and that His message was true.

In John 10, Jesus stated, "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him" (John 10:37–38). The works of Jesus were to reveal that He was in the Father and the Father in Him—that He was God in the flesh.

In the book of Colossians, Paul gave one of the most complete statements that exists anywhere in Scripture of Jesus's deity.

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:15–20)

Jesus is the Creator of all that is. Jesus is the Sustainer of the entire universe. As Creator and Sustainer, Jesus has authority over His creation—over every atom. It is no problem for Him to change water into wine (John 2:1–11) or to multiply bread and fish (John 6:1–14).

In this lesson, we look at two of Jesus's miracles over nature that reveal Jesus is God: the miraculous catch of fish and the calming of the storm.

Luke 5 records an event early in Jesus's ministry when He called His first disciples. Simon Peter had been fishing all night long . . . but had caught nothing. In the morning, after using Simon's boat as a pulpit, Jesus told him to let his nets down into deep water. At first Simon complained, but then he obeyed. What happened next was amazing: the catch of fish was so great that the nets began to break. Another boat was called in to help, and there were so many fish that the boats began to sink. Only the Lord of creation could do such a thing. Peter, recognizing that he was in the presence of no mere man, fell at Jesus's feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). Who can control fish, except the one who controls all things—the holy, omnipotent God?

As the disciples witnessed Jesus's miracles, they began to get a better understanding of who this man was in their midst. A defining moment for Jesus's disciples, and particularly for Peter, was the calming of the storm, recorded in Matthew 14.

After many days of teaching and ministry, Jesus sent His disciples by boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. He remained behind for some much needed time with His Father. In the middle of the night, the disciples were facing a storm on the sea—strong winds and tossing waves. During "the fourth watch of the night" (3–6 a.m.), Jesus came to His disciples, walking on the water. The disciples were afraid and thought Jesus was a ghost. But Jesus calmed their fears, reassuring them that it was He. It was then that impetuous, bold Peter showed his faith. He said to Jesus, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28). Jesus commanded Peter to come, and Peter proceeded to walk on the water. Wow! What faith! Peter is often derided for his lack of faith that caused him to sink, but none of the other disciples got out of the boat.

At the end of this episode, Jesus got into the boat and commanded the storm to be still—and it obeyed its Creator. The disciples were astonished. The account finishes by telling us that "those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God'" (Matthew 14:33).

Yes, truly Jesus is the Son of God—God in the flesh—the Creator of all that exists. He has power over nature. He walked on the water! He calmed the sea! He produced an overwhelming catch of fish. These things and so much more He did so we would KNOW

that He is the Son of God. He alone deserves all our worship and praise! And He has all power to do whatever He wills in heaven and on earth.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) record about 35 separate miracles Jesus performed. These were not the only ones He did, but these specific ones the writers picked out, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to represent Jesus's power and to show us who He is.

The most important thing about the miracles of Jesus recorded in the New Testament is what they teach us about Jesus Himself. Jesus's miracles authenticate His claim to deity. They demonstrate the following: God was with Jesus (John 3:2; Acts 10:38); Jesus was from God (John 3:2, 9:32–33); God had sent Jesus (John 5:36); Jesus had authority on earth to forgive sins (Mark 2:10–11; Matthew 9:6–7; Luke 5:24–25); Jesus was approved by God (Acts 2:22); the Father was in Jesus and Jesus was in the Father (John 10:37–38, 14:11); in Jesus the kingdom of God had come (Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20); and Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God (Matthew 11:1–6, 14:25–33; John 10:24–25).

The miracles we read about in the pages of the Gospels are examples of the power that belonged to Jesus; they validated His message and demonstrated that He was God in the flesh. Jesus had one dominating purpose in life—to fulfill His Father's will. This is brought out clearly in John's Gospel (see John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38). Jesus did not regard any of His works as His own; they were the Father's works (John 5:19, 9:3–4). And the final work of God—the final act of obedience of the Son to the Father—was the death of Jesus on the Cross. He willingly became the perfect substitute, taking God's wrath against sin, and giving His righteousness to all who will come to Him in repentance and faith.

At the end of John's Gospel, he writes that there were many other signs Jesus did in the presence of His disciples, which are not written. But the things that are recorded are there "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

During the past several hundred years, scholars have tried to deny the miracles of Jesus. A major attack against the Bible was the "higher criticism" that arose

in Germany around the end of the 17th century, continuing into the 20th century. The promoters of higher criticism, such as Bultmann, Graff, Eichhorn, and Wellhausen, insisted that the Bible was a human product, brought about by the church to express what individual men had to say about God. These critics had been affected by European rationalism—the belief that human reason, unaided by divine revelation, is adequate for attaining all truth. They did not approach the Bible from a believer's standpoint, one of trusting in the authority and accuracy of God's Word. No, instead they put the Bible under the microscope of a rational, skeptical point of view—a point of view biased heavily by a faith in atheism. These critics had decided that miracles were impossible, and therefore, any miracles in the Bible were either natural phenomena wrongly interpreted by the biblical writers or were inserted later by men who wanted to "beef up" the resumé of Jesus, to present Him as more than He really was.

Thankfully, God raised up conservative, evangelical scholars, such as Hodge, Warfield, Machen, and Allis, to take these critics head-on. They demonstrated the historical accuracy of the Bible and the reliable textual history of the New Testament, and they defended the biblical worldview—a world where God is very much alive and involved in the affairs of men.

Praise God that He has inspired and preserved the true account of Jesus. We can trust God's written Word, and we can trust God's living Word—our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Jesus, blessed be your name! You are infinite, almighty, Creator God. It is so interesting to study your miracles and understand the purpose behind them. Each moment of your life was purposeful—each act and every word. You were the Word who became flesh. Help me to receive your words, treasure your commands, and apply my heart to understanding all the days of my life. Use this lesson for your honor and glory. Impart understanding to my students, that they, too, will glorify your name with their lives.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes together as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that Jesus showed He is the Creator God through the miracles He did.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus came to earth to glorify His Father by finishing the work God had given Him to do. He finished that work by obeying perfectly even to the point of death. His Resurrection from the dead completed God's purpose. Jesus made a way for sinners to have eternal life with God!

As we move on, we will study Jesus's life while He was on earth. He wanted people to understand His purpose, who He was, and that God had sent

➤ Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Him to show His own glory. Jesus’s amazing life shows us all these things and more.

? First, let me ask you something. Who is Jesus? *Allow discussion.*

Jesus is God in the flesh! The Son of God, the Savior, the promised Messiah.

? But how do we know that? *Allow discussion.*

We know that because the Bible tells us it is true. Jesus is God—God’s only Son. Jesus came to give God glory by obeying His Father. But don’t take my word for it. Turn in your Bibles to John 1:1–3. We are going to read that right now. *John 1:1–3. Choose students to read the verses.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? In verse one, who is the Word? *John 1:1. Allow discussion. Jesus.*

Yes. The Word is Jesus.

? Who was the Word—Jesus—with? *John 1:1. The Word was with God.*

? The Word was with God. What does John 1:1 say after that? At the very end of the verse. Who was the Word? *John 1:1. The Word was God.*

? That one verse tells us a lot about Jesus and God. Will someone read #1 on your class notes for us? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Word. Have students complete #1.*

? And what about #2 on the notes? Who will read it? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #2.*

? And #3? Someone read it and answer it. *Assign a reader. Was. Have students complete #3.*

Ok. Let’s go back to the Bible. Someone read John 1:2 again. *Assign a reader.*

? When was the Word—Jesus—with God? *John 1:2. In the beginning.*

So, the Word was Jesus. And the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God.

? Will someone read #4 on your class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Beginning. Have students complete #4.*

? Now look at John 1:3. What was made through the Word—Jesus? *John 1:3. All things were made through Him.*

? And what does “all things” mean here? This is not a trick question! *It means everything was made through Him!*

? Look at #5 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. All. Have students complete #5.*

All things were made through Jesus—the Word. And without Jesus nothing was made! Jesus is God. He is the Creator.

- ? Look at #6 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Creator. Have students complete #6.*

Refer to Attributes of God Poster. Jesus was a man. But He is also God! Jesus is eternal, holy, wise, sovereign, omnipotent, faithful . . . and so much more. We will never FULLY know Him because He is infinite.

- ? Can someone tell me what that means? It's on the Attributes of God Poster. *Assign a reader. Beyond all that we can imagine; cannot be measured.*

Jesus is beyond what we can even imagine. He cannot be measured. He is bigger than all we can think.

Discover the Truth

John 1:1–3 tells so much about Jesus and God. Let's read #1–6 on the class notes as a review. *Assign readers to read each point.*

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Word. Jesus (the Word) was with God and IS God. And Jesus has been with God from the very beginning.

- ? What happened "in the beginning?" If you need a hint, look in your Bible at Genesis 1:1. The very first verse in your Bible. *Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Do you see a connection here? Genesis 1:1 says God created. John 1:3 says that all things were made through Jesus, the Word. What the Bible is telling us is that Jesus IS God. And Jesus IS the Creator. He was there at the beginning. All things were made through Him.



READ THE WORD

As the Creator, Jesus had power over all of the creation. The Bible tells us about the power He showed as Creator while He lived on earth. Jesus wanted people to know who He was.

Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 14:22–27. This is an exciting account of Jesus, His disciples, a storm, and Jesus showing that because He is the Creator God, He has power over His creation. What we are about to read occurred after Jesus had spent a long day teaching many people. Let's read what happened! *Matthew 14:22–27. Choose students to read the verses.*

Matthew 14:22–27

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Where did Jesus tell His disciples to go? *Matthew 14:22. Into the boat. To the other side.*
- ? Where did Jesus go after He sent the disciples and people He was teaching away? *Matthew 14:23. Up on the mountain to pray.*

► You may want your students to re-read these verses individually as you ask these questions.

? What was happening to the disciples in the boat while Jesus was praying? *Matthew 14:24. They were in the middle of the sea getting tossed around by the waves.*

OK. Let's stop a minute. Jesus sent the disciples ahead in the boat and went up on the mountain to pray. The disciples were in the middle of the sea, and a storm came up. So, it was storming and dark. The boat was being tossed about.

? The disciples looked up in the middle of this storm. What did they see? *Matthew 14:25. Jesus walking on the sea.*

? This troubled them. What did the disciples think they were seeing? *Matthew 14:26. A ghost.*

? What was their reaction to this "ghost"? *Matthew 14:26. They were afraid.*

? Who was the "ghost"? What did He say to them? *Matthew 14:27. It was Jesus. He said do not be afraid.*

? Jesus was coming toward them on the sea. How was He doing that? Look back in *Matthew 14:25* for the answer. *Matthew 14:25. He was walking on the sea.*

He was walking on the sea! Sometimes we read things like this, and we don't really think about it. Let's think about it now.

? Can YOU walk on water? Can ANYONE you know walk on water? *No.*

Discover the Truth

Of course we can't walk on water! But Jesus could. He created the seas, and He can walk on them. The Bible tells us that when Jesus got into the boat, He calmed the storm just by stretching out His hand. He could do all this because He is the Creator. He is God! Jesus walked on water. He calmed the storm. He had power over the very nature that He had created.

? Look at #7 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Water. Have students complete #7.*

? And what about #8. Can someone read that for us? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Storm. Have students complete #8.*

Matthew 14:33

? How did the disciples react to Jesus? What did they do? Will someone read *Matthew 14:33* for us? *Matthew 14:33. Choose a student to read.*

? What did the disciples do and say after Jesus got into the boat and calmed the storm? *Matthew 14:33. They worshipped Him.*

? And what did they call Him? *Matthew 14:33. Son of God.*

The disciples saw Jesus's power—power only God could have—and knew that He was God.

? Someone read #9 for us. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Worshipped. Have students complete #9.*



READ THE WORD

Jesus showed His power over nature more than once. Let's look at another time. Turn in your Bibles to Luke 5:4–7. Jesus was teaching a great crowd near the Lake of Gennesaret. Jesus noticed the fisherman, Simon, on the shore washing his nets. Simon had been fishing all night and hadn't caught any fish. He thought he was done fishing for the day, but Jesus had other plans for Simon. Let's read. *Luke 5:4–7. Choose students to read the verses.*

Luke 5:4–7

EXAMINE THE WORD

That was another amazing miracle! Let's answer some questions about it to see what it says about Jesus.

Observe the Text

- ? When Jesus was finished preaching, He asked Simon to do something. What was it? *Luke 5:4. Launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a catch.*
- ? Simon thought he was finished. But Jesus told him to go back out into the lake. What did Simon say to Jesus? *Luke 5:5. We have been fishing all night and didn't catch anything. But I will let down the net.*

Simon didn't want to do it. But because it was Jesus, he obeyed and let down the net.
- ? What happened when Simon obeyed Jesus? Look in Luke 5:6. *Luke 5:6. Simon and the other fishermen caught a great number of fish.*
- ? What was happening to their net because of this catch of fish? *Luke 5:6. It began to break!*
- ? How many fish did they catch? Look in Luke 5:7. *Luke 5:7. They filled two boats with fish. And the boats began to sink.*
- ? Take a look at your class notes. What is the answer to #10? Will someone read it? *Assign a reader. Fish. Have students complete #10.*

Discover the Truth

It takes a lot of fish to tear a fishing net and sink fishing boats! Simon, the disciple, was a very good fisherman. Fishing is what he did for a living. He thought he was finished for the day. He had caught nothing. But Jesus knew better. Jesus is God. Jesus is the Creator of all things. Jesus has power over nature. And Jesus told Simon to go back out to sea. Simon obeyed, and he hauled in a ship-sinking load of fish! It was likely that Simon had never caught that many fish at one time. This was a great miracle that only God could do.



- If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



Power Over Nature Game

MATERIALS

- Power Over Nature Game Boards
- Power Over Nature Game Teacher Guide
- Power Over Nature Game Questions
- Game Numbers in a cup
- One game piece (button or coin) for each team

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will compete in small teams, moving forward on the game board as they get the review questions correct. Teams will take turns answering the questions presented. The first team to the finish line is the winner.

? **Is everyone ready for a fun review of today's lesson? Yes!**

Your team will have a good chance of winning if you were paying attention during the lesson. And you can use your Bible to find the answers. I'll give you the verses you

can look at. Try to work together as a team to get the right answer. *See the Power Over Nature Game Teacher Guide for complete details. Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

I hope that you had fun working together as you answered the questions from today's lesson. And I hope you get just as excited about knowing God's Word better and better with every lesson we study! God loves it when we read His Word. He helps us understand what it says. And He loves it when we apply what we know from His Word to our lives. I hope you will always remember that Jesus is God. The Bible says it, and Jesus showed it through the miracles that He did.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word IS God. We read today that the Word—Jesus—has been with God from the very beginning. What the Bible teaches us is that Jesus is the Creator God. Everything was made through Him.

As Creator, Jesus has power over nature. And He showed that power when He came to earth as a man. We read today that He walked on water!

He calmed the storm. And He knew that Simon would catch more fish—so many fish that the nets began to break, and the boats began to sink. He is God. He is worthy of all of our worship and praise.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Jesus performed so many miracles while He was on earth. His miracles often included helping people—healing them, feeding them, and protecting them. Jesus loved the people He ministered to very much and showed it by His miracles.

But, that was not the main reason Jesus performed miracles. You see, more than anything, Jesus wants people to believe that He is the Creator God.

Some people don't believe that about Jesus. They think He was just a good person, a wise teacher, or a prophet sent by God. But that is NOT true.

He IS God in the flesh. And it is only through Jesus—God in the flesh—that we can be saved and forgiven of our sins. That is why we have to believe He is God. Because only God can forgive sins. Jesus was God in the flesh; He lived a PERFECT life, died on the Cross for sinners, and rose from the dead. He alone, as the perfect and sinless sacrifice, can give eternal life to all who put their trust in Him. He is the hope of sinners. He is the way, the truth, and the life. We can only get to heaven through Him.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is so much bigger and greater and wiser and holier than any man will ever be. He always knows what is best for us, and we can trust Him.
- Praise Jesus, God in flesh, who revealed His power through His miracles and showed that He is the Creator God.

