



Jesus Has Power Over Nature

2

Key Theme

- God has authority over His creation.

Key Passages

- John 1:1–3; Luke 5:4–6

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 putting together the Memory Verse Review Puzzle. If time allows, have some students recite and/or read the verse from their puzzle.



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 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: Three In A Row Review

Students will compete to get three in a row (similar to Tic-Tac-Toe) as they answer questions from the lesson.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print and cut out one Memory Verse Review Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Put the puzzle pieces into envelopes or small plastic bags.
- Save these puzzles to use through Lesson 5.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Puzzles in envelopes of small plastic bags



JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE CLASS NOTES

- Print, collate, and staple one Jesus Has Power Over Nature Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student (2 pages). 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.
- Print and cut out one each of the eight Board Work Display Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print the Board Work Display Guide for your use during the lesson.

- Eight Board Work Display Signs
- Board Work Display Guide
- Student Take Home Sheets



THREE IN A ROW REVIEW

- Print one Three In A Row Review Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Make a 9-block grid similar to Tic-Tac-Toe (or X's and O's) on the floor with masking tape.

- Three In A Row Review Questions
- Masking Tape
- Paper plates in two different colors for 2 teams



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Nine Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces used during the Come On In Activity
- Masking tape



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.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Puzzle. 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. I will tell you when it's time to answer the questions.

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 God the Father by His life, death, and Resurrection. He obeyed His Father perfectly in all things—even dying on the Cross. And when He was raised from the dead, God's purpose was completed. Jesus made a way for sinners to have eternal life with God!

Jesus wanted people to understand why He came, who He was, and that He came so that God would be glorified. Jesus's amazing life shows us all these things and more.

➤ The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

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

Jesus is God in the flesh! I mean He was a human being, a person, just like one of us. But He is fully God and fully man. He is 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. But don’t take my word for it. Let’s see what the Bible says. I’m going to read from the Gospel of John. Listen carefully. *Read John 1:1-2 with enthusiasm.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? In John 1:1, who is the Word? Listen again to the verse. *Re-read John 1:1. Allow discussion. Jesus.*

Attach Sign #1 to the board according to the Board Work Display Guide. Yes. Jesus is the Word.

? Who was the Word—Jesus—with? *Re-read John 1:1 if necessary. The Word was with God.*

That’s right. *Attach Sign #2 to the board. Recap both signs. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Word. And the Word was with God.*

Attach Sign #3 and Sign #4 to the board. So Jesus is the Word, right? And John 1:1 also says the Word was God.

➤ 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.

? So what does this verse tell us? Will someone read Sign #1 and Sign #2 for us? *Jesus is the Word. The Word was with God.*

? And how about Sign #3 and Sign #4? Can someone read those? *Jesus is the Word. The Word is God.*

? Now look at your class notes and complete #1, #2, #3, and #4. Use these signs on the board for help. *Have students complete #1-4 copying the necessary words from the board.*

Everyone finished? Great! Now let’s go back to the Bible. I’m going to read John 1:2 again. This verse tells us *when* this happened. *Attach Sign #5 to the board. Listen carefully! Read John 1:2.*

? When was the Word with God? *John 1:2. In the beginning. Attach Sign #6 to the board.*

*Refer to Signs #1-6. So, the Word was Jesus. The Word [Jesus] was *with* God, and Jesus, the Word, is God. When was Jesus the Word with God? In the beginning.*

? What happened in the beginning? I mean in the VERY beginning. *Allow discussion. Attach Sign #7.*

Let me read from Genesis 1:1. This gives the answer. Listen. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

- ? So what happened in the beginning? *God created the heavens and the earth.*
- ? Attach Sign #8. So what was made in the beginning according to Genesis 1:1? *Allow discussion. All things were made.*
- ? OK. Look at #6 on your class notes. When did this happen? Who can read that for us? *Assign a reader. In the beginning. Have students complete #6.*
- ? OK. Look at #8 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. All things. Have students complete #8.*

And that is exactly what John 1:3 says. Listen to this verse! *Read John 1:3 enthusiastically.*

- ? What do you think “all things” means? This is not a trick question! *It means everything was made through Him!*

All things were made through Jesus—the Word. And without Jesus nothing was made! Do you see? Jesus is God. AND He is the Creator of all things!

Discover the Truth

Refer to the board and/or class notes. Jesus is the Word! The Word was with God. The Word IS God! Jesus was with God in the beginning. And ALL things were made through Jesus!

Refer to Attributes of God Poster. Jesus IS God! He 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. Let’s read that. *Beyond all that we can imagine; cannot be measured.*

Jesus is beyond what we can even imagine. He cannot be measured. We can’t even imagine how great and powerful He is.



John 1:3

INFINITE

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

READ THE WORD

Jesus is the Creator God, and He had power over the creation He made. He showed this power by doing miracles! Miracles are things that only God can do. We are going to talk about some of those miracles now!

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Look at the Lesson Theme Poster with me. You may have heard how Jesus showed His power by walking ON TOP OF the water during a storm on the sea! When the disciples saw Him do this miracle, they all worshipped Him. They could see He was God.

And we are going to read about another miracle. This is in the Gospel of Luke 5:4–6. 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 ANYTHING! He thought he was done fishing for the day, but Jesus had other plans for Simon. Listen to what happened. *Read Luke 5:4-6 with enthusiasm.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Re-read the verses if necessary. Students can answer these questions from the text.

? When Jesus was finished preaching, He asked Simon to do something. What was it? *Re-read Luke 5:4. Launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a catch.*

? Simon thought he was finished, didn't he? He had fished all night long! I think he was probably tired and disappointed. Have you ever gone on a fishing trip and come back with no fish at all? *Allow discussion.*

Well, Simon had been working hard all night and had come back with nothing! But Jesus told him to go back out onto the lake.

? What did Simon say to Jesus? *Re-read Luke 5:5. We have been fishing all night and didn't catch anything. But I will let down the nets.*

It doesn't sound like Simon really wanted to go back out. But because it was Jesus telling him, he obeyed, took his boat back out, and let down the net.

? What happened when Simon obeyed Jesus? Listen to Luke 5:6 again. *Re-read Luke 5:6. Simon and the other fishermen caught a great number of fish.*

? A great number of fish? How many do you think that is? *Allow answers.*

If you're just going out to fish for fun, catching 5, 6, or maybe 10 fish would be a great number of fish. But that's not what happened here!

? What was happening to their net because of this catch of fish? *Re-read Luke 5:6b. It began to break!*

Wow! The nets are really strong, and they can hold a lot of fish. But these nets began to break! And not only that, the Bible tells us that the boat started to sink because of all the fish. That is definitely a HUGE number of fish! Jesus showed that He had power over the creation—even the fish He created.

? Now. Let's go to our class notes again. Turn to page 2. These are true or false questions. What is the answer to #9? Will someone read it? Is that true? Or false? *Assign a reader. False. Have students complete #9.*

? Ok. How about #10? Who will read that? *Assign a reader. Is that true? Or false? True. Have students complete #10.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. It takes a lot of fish to tear a fishing net and sink fishing boats! Simon Peter, the disciple, was a very good fisherman. Fishing is what he did for a living. But after he obeyed Jesus and went back out to fish again, Jesus showed him that He was God by causing lots of fish to come to Simon Peter's net. It's likely that Simon had never caught that many fish at one time ever before! The Bible says that when Simon saw all the fish, he fell down before Jesus and worshipped Him. This was a great miracle that only God could do. Jesus is God, the Creator. He has power over all of His creation, even the fish!

- ? Let's finish our class notes now. What is the answer to #11? Will someone read it? Is that true? Or false? Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #11.
- ? And the last question, #12? Who will read that? Is that true? Or false? Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #12.



► If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



Three In A Row Review

MATERIALS

- Three In A Row Review Questions
- Masking Tape
- Small paper plates in two different colors

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one Three In A Row Review Questions for your use. Using masking tape put a 9-block grid similar to Tic-Tac-Toe (or X's and O's) on the floor large enough for a paper plate to fit inside each square. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team different colored paper plates. Ask each team a question. If team one answers correctly, a player can place a plate on the Three In A Row Grid. If the team cannot answer correctly, allow the second team to answer. If no one gets the answer, give the correct answer and repeat the question later. Repeat the process above until a team gets three in a row. Continue play as time allows mixing up and repeating the questions. Encourage the students to look at their class notes, the Lesson Theme Poster, and other posters that may help them during the game.

We're going to play a fun game to see how much you remember from our lesson today. Each team will get a chance to answer a

question. If you get the answer right, you may place a paper plate on the Three In A Row grid. If the answer is incorrect, the other team will try to answer. You may use your class notes and the posters to help you. The idea is to be the first team to get three in a row! So, let's get to it! *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. Jesus is God. It is an important truth. The Bible says it, and Jesus showed it through the miracles that He did.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

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

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of the nine Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces used in the Come On In Activity
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces onto nine students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing.

If you have fewer than nine students, tape more than one piece, in the proper order, on some students. If you have more than nine students, repeat if time allows.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times. *Cover the poster before starting the game.*

Now I am going to tape these nine Memory Verse Review Puzzle Pieces onto your backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order. We'll check the verse when you are finished. *Tape the nine puzzle pieces onto the students' backs.*

Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our verse reminds us that eternal life comes only through knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ who was sent to earth by God.



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.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. As Creator, Jesus has power over nature. And He showed that power when He came to earth as a man. Jesus could walk on water and calm a terrible storm. He could also cause Simon to catch more fish—so many fish that the net began to break and the boat began to sink! Jesus is our awesome God. He is worthy of all of our worship and praise.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Jesus did 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—fully God and fully man. 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 lived a perfect life without any sin, died on the Cross for sinners, and then rose from the dead. He alone 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 children 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 Jesus 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 the flesh, who revealed His power through His miracles and showed that He is the Creator God.

