

TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS

Ideas by Laurie Knight, Richardson Texas Stake 09/2007

If you will look at the following details about this song, you will see ways of teaching it. The children need to understand all the words. You should tell them the scripture stories that go with each verse. After all, that's what this song is about. You can have them listen for different rhythms and pitches.

Words to explain: Scenes, wayside, tales, deeds, grace, lovelight, accents of wonder, tempest, Galilee, chided, billows.

Reference scriptures: For older children, you could read each scripture and discuss. For younger children, tell the stories in these scriptures.

Try to get the children to identify with the characters in the scriptures:

Verse 1: Matt. 4:23-24—Do you have someone in your family who is crippled or blind or really sick with something like cancer? Or known a friend who was deaf? Discuss what kinds of difficulties these people experience. Then tell them about how Jesus healed people like that when he was on the earth. Maybe have them close eyes or blindfold someone so they can feel for a minute what it's like to not be able to see. Talk about how that would feel to never have seen a pretty flower, green grass, your mother's face and then to be able to see because Jesus laid his hands on your eyes and blessed you.

Verse 2: Mark 10:13-16—Tell about the children who sat on Jesus' knee or stood by him and were blessed. Go through more details. (also the Book of Mormon account) Ask them to imagine how it would feel if Jesus were here right now and you could come up to sit on His knee. He might stroke your hair or give you a big hug.

Verse 3: Luke 8:22-25---Would you be terrified if you were in a boat during a terrible storm when the waves of the sea were higher than your boat? Water was coming in and the waves kept getting higher and higher; and you thought you were going to dieetc. Then tell the rest of the story about how Jesus made the waves stop and everything was calm.

There are **Church produced films** that have examples of these stories. In *Finding Faith in Christ* the very first thing in the film is Jesus calming the sea. There are other parts where he heals the sick, heals a child with cerebral palsy, and is loving the children all around him. You could show a short clip each week to introduce each story. Have the CD cued to the right place to start before you begin singing time so you don't waste time trying to find it then. Or watch other films to find parts you can use. You can use the counter on the CD player to know where to start. (I think)

Rhyming words: Hear—here; knee—me; knee—me; grace—face; sea—Galilee; kind—wind (these technically don't rhyme).

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Rhythms: The first two phrases have the same rhythms. (Tell me the stories hear; and things I would ask himhere.

Have the kids listen for the following rhythms:

strawberry pie—I love to hear; if he were here; tales of the sea; tell them to me.
strawberry jel-ly.—Scenes by the way-side; stories of Je-sus.

When you get to vs. 3, help them feel the two beats of each measure. This feels like a boat rocking from side to side. Have them make their arms sway from side to side, like the boat rocks.

Melody maps: Show the shapes of pitch changes for each phrase. Have them listen and put them in order. Point out the similarities and differences for the first two lines of music.

Pictures: Find pictures that will help them remember each phrase.