kids Chuich Lessons

## b/1: "Chaos" (Bieakdown of the sea from the Creation story)

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." From the beginning, the sea represented *tohuw bohuw* "chaos; nothing." There is only one who has power over the chaos, and he is a lighthouse bringing us to solid ground in the midst of it.

### 6/8: "Chaos is away from God." (Jonah)

"Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. ... But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up." Jonah was given a task - "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." Jonah could have and should have followed Yahweh's call. Instead, he fled. Running away from God, however, meant running towards chaos. After the ship's crew threw Jonah overboard into the chaos, the waves calmed and Jonah was swallowed by a fish to be taken further into the depths of the chaos. Jonah found out the hard way that to run away from God is to run towards chaos.

### 6/15: "The Lighthouse brings us through chaos" (Crossing of the Red Sea)

"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left." After being told by Pharaoh to leave Egypt (This wasn't permission to leave; it was a command.), Israel came to the edge of the Red Sea. Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after his former slaves, trapping them with chaos on one side and the army of Egypt on the other. In a display of epic proportions, God controlled the chaos, parting the Red Sea so Israel was able to cross on dry land (It wasn't even muddy!). Our lighthouse can bring us to safety through chaos, too.

#### 6/22: "There is no chaos" (Psalm 139:1-12)

"If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you." When we are with our lighthouse, Yahweh, the darkness and even the depths of the sea are nothing - everything is light with him.

#### 7/20: "Who is this?" (Jesus calms the stoim twice)

"What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" "Take heart; εγο ειμι.\* Do not be afraid." "Truly you are the Son of God." The storms terrified the Disciples on multiple occasions. The first time, Jesus was sleeping on the boat and completely unbothered. The disciples didn't realize that they were on solid ground as long as they were with him. They didn't know who could possibly tame the chaos. When it happened again and Jesus walked on water, the Disciples heard his "I Am" proclamation and, upon seeing the waters calmed again, confessed him as the Son of God. Only God can calm the chaos. Only God can make the sea a solid place to stand and even walk. \*(Often translated 'It is I,' but meaning literally 'I am/was/will be' which is the same name God gave Moses at the burning bush - Yahweh.)

# 1/27: "You can be the Lighthouse" (Paul's shipwieck)

"When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned." "Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, 'Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Paul warned against the sea from the beginning, but no one listened. While in the midst of a wild, multiday storm at sea, God told Paul no one would die. Paul then stepped up and became a lighthouse for all on the ship. He gave instructions, encouraged everyone, and made sure no one left the ship. As long as the people listened to Paul, they were all safe. When we are in tune with God, we can be a lighthouse for others in the midst of chaos, ensuring everyone stays safe in the presence of the LORD.