

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Wind and Waves

Based on Mark 4:35–41 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
Two blue umbrellas; optional blue fabric, googly eyes, spray bottle, and sea-drape

MAIN THEME

God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent — and we can trust Him in every storm.

Carrie Elderberry's Gospel Puppets · gospelpuppets.org

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5-11.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

Three children share new vocabulary words – omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent – and discover that all three apply perfectly to Jesus and the storm in Mark 4. Two enthusiastic waves keep barging onto the stage to act out the story.

Spiritual Concept

Jesus' authority over wind and waves is a window into His divine nature. The three "omni" words give children real theological vocabulary to describe what they see: a God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere present.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5-12. The vocabulary focus makes it especially useful for Sunday School or Christian education settings.

Performance Time

10-12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD 1 – Learned the word "omniscient." Family is moving soon – this word gave them comfort.

CHILD 2 – Learned the word "omnipotent." Grandmother told her the story of Jesus calming the storm.

CHILD 3 – Learned the word "omnipresent." Scared of the dark – Mom taught this word to comfort her.

WAVE 1 – One of the storm waves. Energetic, proud, keeps wanting to perform. Uses an umbrella if available.

WAVE 2 – The other storm wave. Equally enthusiastic. Works in sync with WAVE 1 for the chant.

Prop Options

- Two blue umbrellas (retractable) – opened and closed to suggest waves expanding and retreating.
 - Blue fabric pinned to the umbrellas, and/or giant googly eyes, for character (optional but fun).
 - A spray bottle of water for audience humor (optional – don't overdo it).
 - A blue drape over the front bar of the theater to suggest the sea (optional).
 - The puppeteers operating WAVE 1 and WAVE 2 can coordinate the umbrellas opening and closing for a dramatic effect.
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PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

CHILD 3 is the one afraid of the dark – play this as genuine vulnerability, not just a setup for the vocabulary lesson.

CHILD 1 is moving away soon – this is a real emotional moment; don't rush past it.

CHILD 2 is the storyteller – she drives the second half of the play.

Staging

The WAVES interrupt the children three times – each interruption should be funnier than the last.

When the WAVES perform the chant a second and third time, the children's resigned "sure, go ahead" makes the repetition feel earned.

Rehearse the WAVE chant until it's tight – the umbrella mechanics and the words need to sync perfectly.

The WAVES should be visually dramatic – shaking and crashing, then suddenly going very still on "Peace, be quiet."

The chant has two volumes: SHOUTING for the first half, then calm and quiet after "Peace, be quiet." The contrast is the whole effect.

The children reacting to getting wet is a running gag – lean into it.

For the syllable practice (om-ni-po-tent, and so on), pause and genuinely wait for the audience to repeat after the puppets.

During the storm scenes, bring up the stormy-sea sound effect and cut it sharply to silence on "Peace, be quiet."

Reading the Script

CAPS = volume / emphasis.

The wave chant is performed three times total – each time complete, not abbreviated.

Sound Effects

- Stormy sea – wind and crashing waves (the WAVE scenes): Rattle a large cookie sheet for thunder, rustle a stiff sheet of cardboard or wave fabric for wind, and use a rainstick for the swell. Recorded options: pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/storm
- Wind / gale: Whoosh into a microphone, or wave a thin dowel with ribbons tied to it. Recorded options: pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/wind
- Calm after "Peace, be quiet": Cut all sound sharply to silence – the sudden quiet is the point; gentle lapping water underneath is optional. Recorded options: pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/waves

More options and noise-maker tips at gospelpuppets.org/sound-effects.

WIND AND WAVES

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(Enter three CHILDREN. They greet the audience.)

CHILD 1: I just learned a new word! A big one!

CHILD 2: Really? Me too!

CHILD 3: And me! I bet my word is the BESTEST!

CHILD 1: Well, let's see. What are your words?

CHILD 2: Mine is "omnipotent". Try saying it!

(CHILD 1 and CHILD 3 echo.)

CHILD 2: Om, (om) ni (ni), po (po), tent (tent). Om-ni-po-tent! (omnipotent)

CHILD 1: Hey, can you all say that word?

CHILD 2: Try it! Om (om)... ni (ni)... po (po)... tent (tent)...! Now the whole word: omnipotent!

CHILD 3: But what does it mean?

CHILD 2: It means All Powerful.

CHILD 1: Ooo...

CHILD 3: Like Superman?

CHILD 2: Even more powerful than Superman!

CHILD 1: Ooo...

CHILD 3: Ooo...

CHILD 1: Ok! Want to hear my word? It starts with "omni" just like yours!

CHILD 3: Oh, that is weird! My word also starts with "omni"!

CHILD 2: Really? Other words start with "omni"?

CHILD 1: I guess so! My dad says that omni means "always" or "everything".

CHILD 2: And that fits with omnipotent. Because "potent" means strong, so omni-potent would mean "always strong"!

CHILD 1: Well, my new word is "omniscient". Say it: Om (om)... ni (ni)... shent (shent). Om-ni-scient. Ok everybody say it! Omniscient!

(Have audience say it.)

CHILD 3: But... what does omniscient mean?

CHILD 1: My Grandpa says it means "always knows" or "knowing everything".

CHILD 2: So omniscient is kind of like omnipotent!

CHILD 1: Yes, one is all knowing, and the other is all powerful.

CHILD 2: Can you imagine if you have two superheroes, and one is omnipotent, and the other is omniscient!

CHILD 3: Ok, ok, now for my word, which is the BESTEST word. It is "omnipresent". Say it: Om (om)... ni (ni)... present (present). Now everybody!

(Have audience say it.)

CHILD 1: Why do you think yours is the best?

CHILD 3: Because my word means everywhere, all at once!

CHILD 2: Wow, that is amazing!

CHILD 3: Everywhere in time, and everywhere in space, and everywhere all at once.

CHILD 1: Wow, only God could be omniPRESENT.

CHILD 2: Actually, nobody but God could be ANY of them.

CHILD 3: That is true. Superheroes are just pretend.

CHILD 1: *(to CHILD 3)* So how did you learn YOUR new word?

CHILD 3: Well, you know, I am scared of the dark.

CHILD 1: You sure are.

CHILD 2: You sure are.

CHILD 3: Last night I could not get to sleep, so my mom came to my room. She told me that God is always with us, because He is omnipresent! Light or dark doesn't matter to Him!

CHILD 2: *(looking at CHILD 1)* And how about you? How did you learn about omni... I forget what yours was?

CHILD 1: Omniscient!

CHILD 2: Oh, right. Omniscient.

CHILD 1: Well, I just found out my family is moving soon—

CHILD 2: Oh, too bad!

CHILD 3: We will miss you!

CHILD 1: That's how I was feeling too. And I was feeling so scared, of moving to a strange place, and not knowing anybody.

CHILD 2: Yeah...

CHILD 3: Yeah...

CHILD 1: And then my dad reminded me that God always KNOWS, so God knows just how I feel, and He is going to help me to cope.

CHILD 3: Right! And because God is omnipresent, He is already there, and will be right with you all the time.

CHILD 2: Don't forget my word, omnipotent. God is all powerful. God will make sure all things work together for good.

CHILD 1: You never told us how you learned your word.

CHILD 2: My Grammy told me a story from the Bible. A true story! It shows the power of God in a huge storm!

(WAVES enter, closed.)

WAVE 1: Did you say storm? Is that our cue to start?

CHILD 1: Wait! Wait! We need to get off the stage first!

WAVE 2: Sorry kids! Off you go!

(Exit CHILDREN.)

WAVE 1: We are the storm that Jesus stopped!

WAVE 2: Ready?

WAVE 1: Ready!

WAVE 2: Begin!

(WAVES extend.)

WAVES: *(shouting)* We love to get big
And we love to get wide
And we love to crash rocks
And go over the side
But when our Lord says
"Peace, be quiet"

(WAVES retract.)

WAVES: *(quietly)* We stop right away
And no more riot
God is always Now
God is always Here
With power like that
There is no more fear!

(WAVES bow.)

WAVES: Thank you – thank you! Can we do it again?

(Wait for audience response. Beg if necessary. Other puppets can peek out and respond.)

WAVE 1: We are the storm that Jesus stopped!

WAVE 2: Ready?

WAVE 1: Ready!

WAVE 2: Begin!

(WAVES extend.)

WAVES: *(shouting)* We love to get big
And we love to get wide
And we love to crash rocks
And go over the side
But when our Lord says
"Peace, be quiet"

(WAVES retract.)

WAVES: *(quietly)* We stop right away
And no more riot
God is always Now
God is always Here
With power like that
There is no more fear!

(They bow.)

WAVES: Thank you! Thank you!

WAVE 2: I think the children are coming back. Let's go!

(Exit WAVES.)

CHILD 1: Did you get wet? I did!

CHILD 2: Just a little!

CHILD 3: That's ok, we are washable!
CHILD 1: So your Grammy told you that story?
CHILD 2: Yep.
CHILD 3: Tell me, I never heard it before.
CHILD 2: OK! So, Jesus was sleeping in a boat—
CHILD 1: All His friends were there, too—
CHILD 2: And a huge storm hit them!

(Enter WAVE 1.)

WAVE 1: Did you call?
CHILD 2: No, no! Stay back stage!

(Exit WAVE 1.)

CHILD 1: There was ferocious wind, and waves crashing into the boat—

(Enter WAVE 2.)

WAVE 2: Are you sure you don't want us? You keep talking about us!
CHILD 1: We are sure! Now stay back! Please!

(Exit WAVE 2.)

CHILD 3: I bet the friends of Jesus all thought they were going to DROWN.
CHILD 2: Yes, they sure did. But then they woke Jesus up—
CHILD 1: And Jesus stood right up in the boat—
CHILD 2: He stood right up and told the storm to be QUIET!
CHILD 3: He talked to a storm?

(Enter WAVES.)

WAVES: He did! It was so awesome!
CHILD 2: Will you get out of here? You are getting us all wet!
WAVES: Sorry!

(Exit WAVES.)

CHILD 3: Goodness, how come Jesus was able to sleep in that storm? Why wasn't He scared?

CHILD 1: Hey! I just thought of something!

CHILD 2: What?

CHILD 3: What?

CHILD 1: ALL of our new words fit this story!

CHILD 2: Oh right! Jesus is omnipotent, so He could just TALK to the storm and it had to stop.

CHILD 1: And Jesus is omniscient, so He wasn't scared at all, because He already knew everything about it!

CHILD 3: And He could even take a nap, because He is omnipresent, and He knew exactly what was going to happen.

CHILD 2: Hey. Since we are already wet, can we have the waves crash one more time?

CHILD 1: Sure, why not? Come on out, waves!

CHILD 3: Sure, why not?

(WAVES enter.)

WAVE 2: Are you sure you don't mind?

CHILD 2: No, go right ahead!

WAVE 1: We are the storm that Jesus stopped!

WAVE 2: Ready?

WAVE 1: Ready!

WAVE 2: Begin!

(WAVES extend.)

WAVES: *(shouting)* We love to get big
And we love to get wide
And we love to crash rocks
And go over the side
But when our Lord says
"Peace, be quiet"

(WAVES retract.)

WAVES: *(quietly)* We stop right away

And no more riot
God is always Now
God is always Here
With power like that
There is no more fear!

(ALL – CHILD 1, CHILD 2, CHILD 3 – speak together.)

ALL: You can read more about the storm that stopped, in the Bible, in the book of Mark, Chapter 4. Goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. What are the three “omni” words in this play? What does each one mean?
2. How does the story of Jesus calming the storm show that Jesus is omnipotent?
3. CHILD 1 is moving away and is scared. How does “omnipresent” help with that kind of fear?
4. CHILD 3 is afraid of the dark. How does knowing God is omnipresent help?
5. Can you think of something scary that you’ve faced? Which “omni” word would help you the most?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Mark 4:35-41 – Jesus calms the storm.

Additional Scripture:

- Psalm 139:7-10 – God’s omnipresence: there is no place we can go from His Spirit. (NLT)
- Isaiah 40:28 – God’s power never weakens; He never grows tired or weary. (NLT)
- Romans 8:28 – “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.” (NLT)
- Matthew 10:30 – God’s omniscience: He even knows the number of hairs on your head. (NLT)

Song Suggestions

- “My God Is So Big” – Listener Kids –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/1fCSen4IN1MXSWYWI7eKw5>
- “Peace Like a River” – The Wonder Kids –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/3EEgV9N87zMUkYz4GCQmrU>
- “Step by Step” – Rich Mullins –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/1rQi8B1ImtyXwbyb2ClsPH>

Ministry Context

This play is an excellent teaching tool for introducing theological vocabulary to children. The three “omni” words – omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent – are presented through personal stories and then illustrated dramatically by the storm. Works well in Sunday School, midweek programs, or as part of a series on the nature of God.

Carolyn's Recommended Picture Books

The Storm That Stopped by Alison Mitchell