



STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Series 2: Jesus Begins His Ministry

Bible Stories for All Ages



A Gateway to World Missions
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National Bible Reading Campaign

Have Fun Teaching Bible Histories for All Ages

Teaching the Bible should be a fun experience for both the teacher and students. The most effective teaching takes place when all those involved enjoy themselves. That is when the students learn best and when the teacher looks forward to teaching. The Bible Stories for All Ages have been prepared to help the teacher enjoy him or herself while teaching stories from Bible history and for the students to enjoy themselves while learning from them. These materials can be used with children of all ages as well as with youth and adults.

We recommend the following eleven steps for preparing and teaching these lessons:

Prepare to Teach

1. Carefully read the printed story, the questions and the memory verse.
2. Then, read the story in the Bible itself. Use a modern version that enables you to understand most clearly the details of the story.
3. Think carefully about the story and try to imagine that you were there in that situation and write all the unmentioned details that you imagine might have filled out the story.
4. On a sheet of paper, write the principle spiritual truths that you find in the story.

Teach

5. Give each student a copy of the lesson. (Please do not photocopy the lessons. In any case, they are less expensive in their published form)
6. Tell the group the name of the story and in a few words explain why the lesson is important to them.
7. (For groups with readers) Ask the members of the group to read aloud the printed story, each person, in turn, reading only one sentence. Ask that only those who wish to read do so.
8. Tell the story in the most dramatic manner possible. Use different voices for each person in the story and use gestures to dramatize the story.
9. Read aloud the questions and encourage the class to answer carefully and sincerely.
10. Help the class to memorize the memory verse, memorizing it at first by parts. Be patient in this activity and have students recite the verse individually as soon as they have learned it. Then, have the entire class give the verse together.
11. Lead the class to color the picture illustrating the story. The teacher should set the example in this. Chat with the class during this time talking about the important truths found in the lesson. Encourage young people and adults to color the pictures carefully and to save the stories so they can teach them to others as opportunities present themselves.

NATIONAL BIBLE READING CAMPAIGN

Church Starts International
P. O. Box 177
Henrietta, Texas 76365
E-mail: billdavis@churchstarts.com
www.churchstarts.com
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①

Water to Wine



Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus blesses every home that receives him.
2. God proved Jesus' glory through miraculous signs

John 2:1-11

Jesus was just beginning to preach in different towns when Mary asked him to go to the wedding of a relative who lived in the town of Cana, which is about 15 kilometers from Mary's town of Nazareth. So Jesus took his new disciples with him and they walked to Cana. ("Disciples" means those who follow a great teacher to learn from him.)

Shortly after they got to the wedding party which could last for several days. Mary told Jesus that the groom was so poor that all the wine was gone. Jesus said, "Dear woman, what do you want me to do?" Mary didn't answer him, but told friends there to do whatever Jesus asked them to do.

Nearby were six large stone jars and each one could hold twenty or more gallons of water. "Fill them up with water," he told the friend. When they were full, he said, "Now, take some out and take it to the wedding party." When they took what had been water to the table, they found that it had been changed into wine! The man who was serving the table spoke to the groom and said, "This is delicious wine! Much better than the wine you served us before." The groom and his bride were so happy because their wedding party was so successful and they did not have to feel ashamed because they were not able to serve their guests.

This was Jesus' first miracle. When the new disciples saw it, they knew that Jesus was a great man of God and their faith in him began to grow.

Talk About the Story

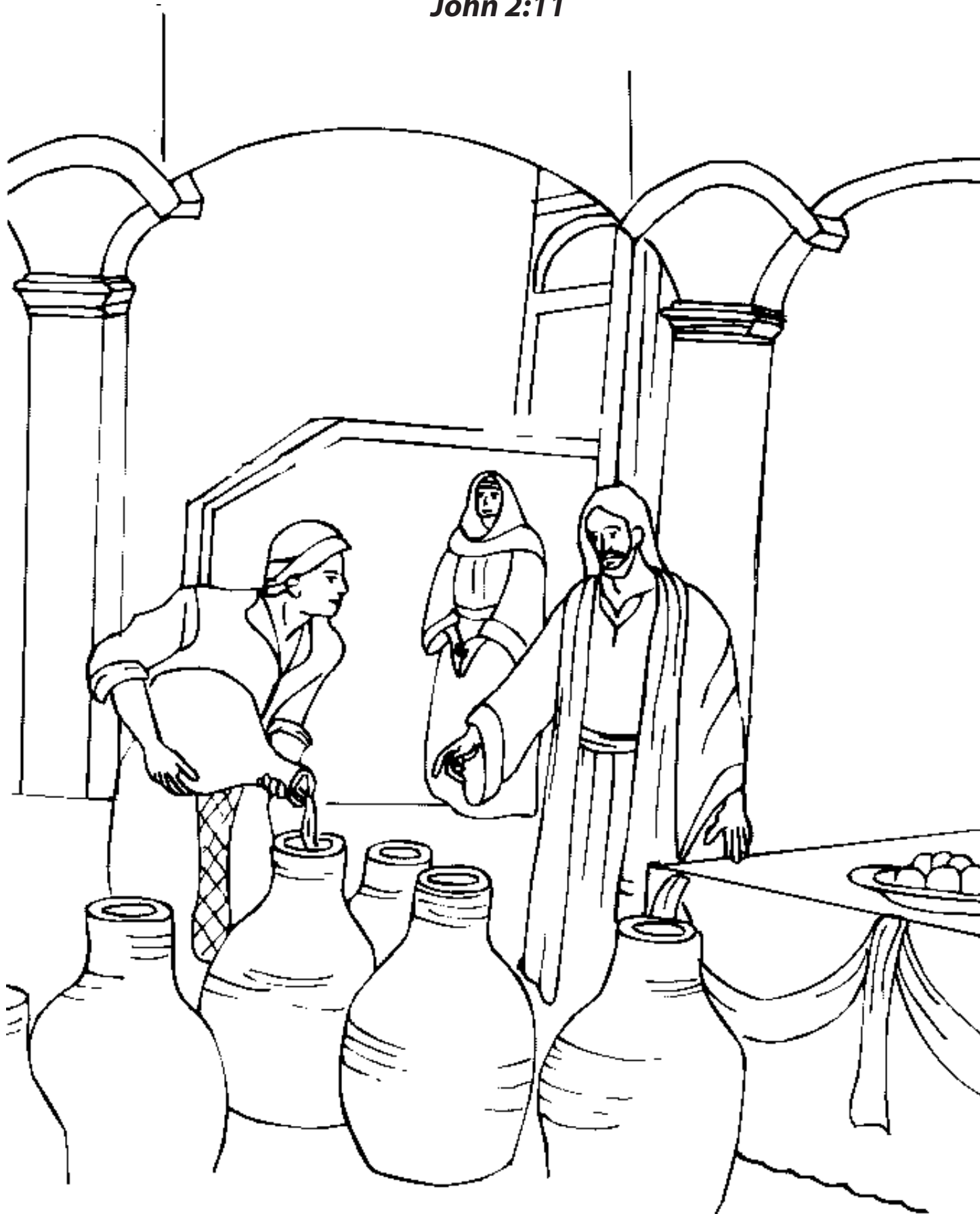
1. How did Jesus show his respect for his mother?
2. What did Mary say that people should do?
3. Why do you think Jesus did this miracle? Explain your answer.
 - He wanted to help the poor groom
 - He loved to see a new family getting started.
 - He wanted to show off his power
 - He was obedient to his mother
4. Tell how Jesus did this miracle and how it affected his new followers.

What do you say?

What do you usually do when your mother or father ask for your help? What are some special ways that you enjoy helping other people?

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***Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee;
there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.
John 2:11***



②

Jesus Begins to Heal the Sick



Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus speaks as no other man ever has
2. Jesus has power over every evil spirit

Luke 4:31-40

Jesus took his disciples to the town of Capernaum, on the shore of a large lake that was called "the Sea of Galilee, and began to teach the people. On the sabbath day, they invited Jesus to preach in the Jewish synagogue. Everyone was amazed saying, they had never heard any one speak like he did.

Suddenly, a man who had an evil spirit in him jumped up and the spirit made him shout, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!" Jesus became angry and told the evil spirit, "Be quiet! Come out of the man right now." The man fell down and the evil spirit left him at once. Everyone was amazed, and talked to one another about the powerful new speaker from God who even had power over the evil spirits.

When the service was over, Jesus went with Peter to his home for lunch. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever. Jesus told the fever to leave her body, and she immediately felt well, and got up and helped to serve the lunch. That evening, many people brought others who were sick or had evil spirits, and Jesus made all of them well. Peter and the other disciples were all amazed at what they had seen their great teacher do.

Talk About the Story:

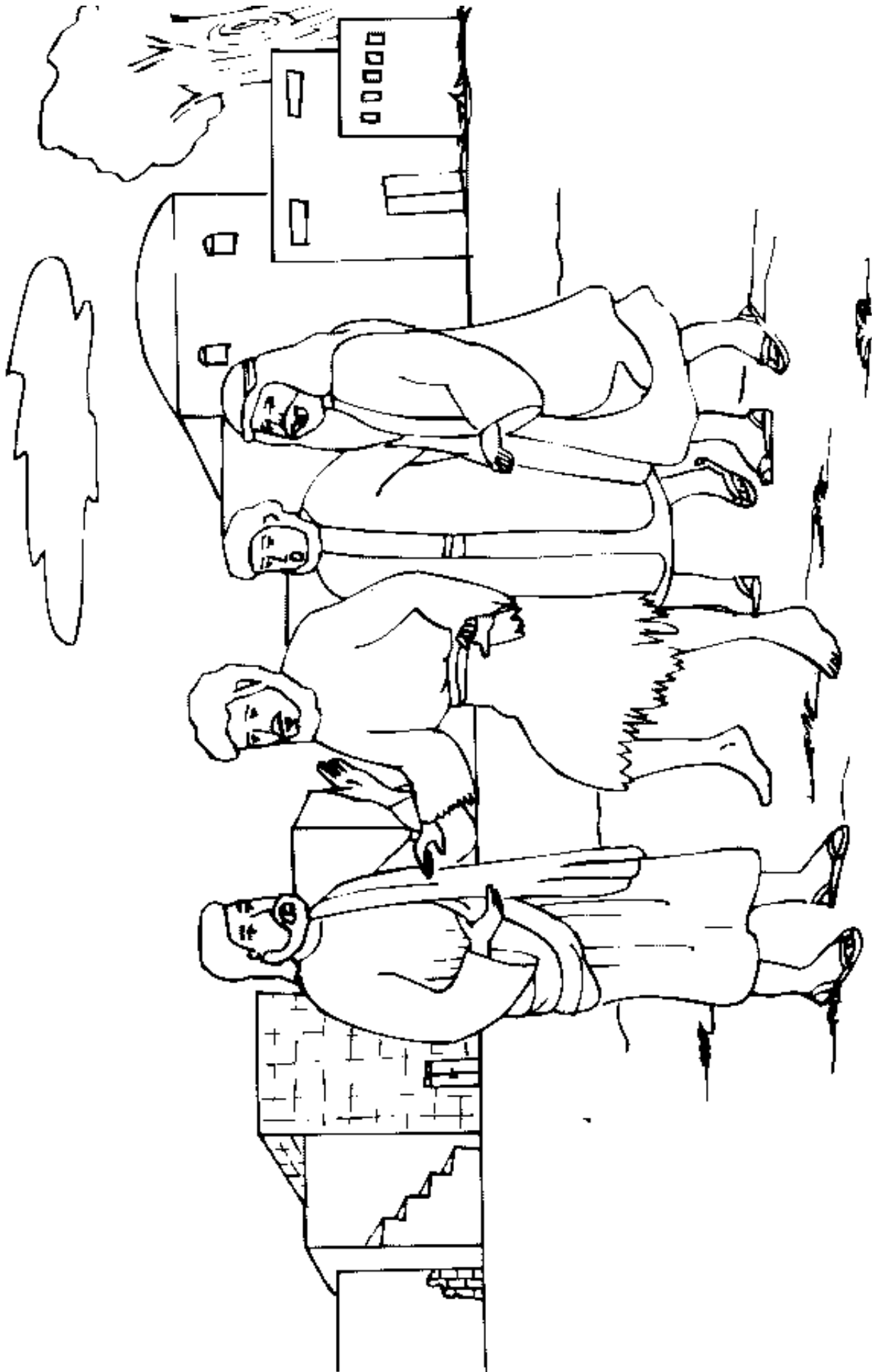
1. What surprised the people about Jesus as a teacher?
2. What would you have thought if you were there when the evil spirit shouted at Jesus?
3. Your ideas: Why do you think Jesus told the evil spirit to be quiet?
 - He didn't like for an evil spirit to speak in a place dedicated to God
 - He didn't like for evil spirits to be the one to tell other who he is
 - He wanted the evil spirit out of the man immediately, not taking time to talk.
4. What was the second surprise that Peter had that day. Tell about it.
5. What do you think the new followers of Jesus began to think he might be?

What do you say?

If you were Peter, what would you be wondering about Jesus? Do you believe that Jesus is interested in you when you are sick or have problems?

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***And the report about Jesus spread everywhere in that region.
Luke 4:37***



③

Jesus Helps a Sinful Woman



Great Bible Truths:

1. Only Jesus gives living water, eternal life
2. The most important place to worship God is in our hearts

John 4:1-26

Jesus and his disciples were on a long trip, walking on a hot dusty road. They came to a famous well which was beside the road, about a kilometer from a Samaritan town. "Go on into town and buy us some lunch," said Jesus to his followers. "I will wait here at the well."

As Jesus sat alone by the well, a woman came alone from the town to fill her pitcher with water. Jesus said, "Please give me a drink of water." The woman answered, "How is it that you who are a Jew would ask me for water?" She said this because the Jews and the Samaritans did not like each other. Jesus said, "If you really knew who I am, you would have asked me for living water." She answered, "Sir, how can you give me living water? You do not have anything to bring up the water and the well is very deep." Jesus answered, "Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. What I have will give a person eternal life."

The woman asked for Jesus to give her the living water and Jesus said, "Go bring your husband, and I will give you the living water." She said, "Sir, I do not have a husband." Jesus said, "You are an honest woman, because you had five husbands and the man you live with now is not your husband." She answered, "Sir, now I know you are a prophet." She began to ask Jesus about which Temple people should worship at. Jesus answered her that the time had come when the most important place to worship God was in one's own heart. She said, "When the promised Messiah comes to us from God, he will explain everything to us." Jesus then told her, "I am he." She was so surprised that she almost dropped her jug, and started running to town. (Continued in the next story.)

Talk about the story:

1. Why do you think the woman was surprised that Jesus would talk to her?
2. What did Jesus say he could give the woman? Do you think he was talking about plain water or talking about eternal life? Why?
3. Did Jesus condemn the woman because she had lived a sinful life?
4. Your ideas: What does it mean to worship God in your heart?
5. What surprising thing did Jesus finally tell the woman?

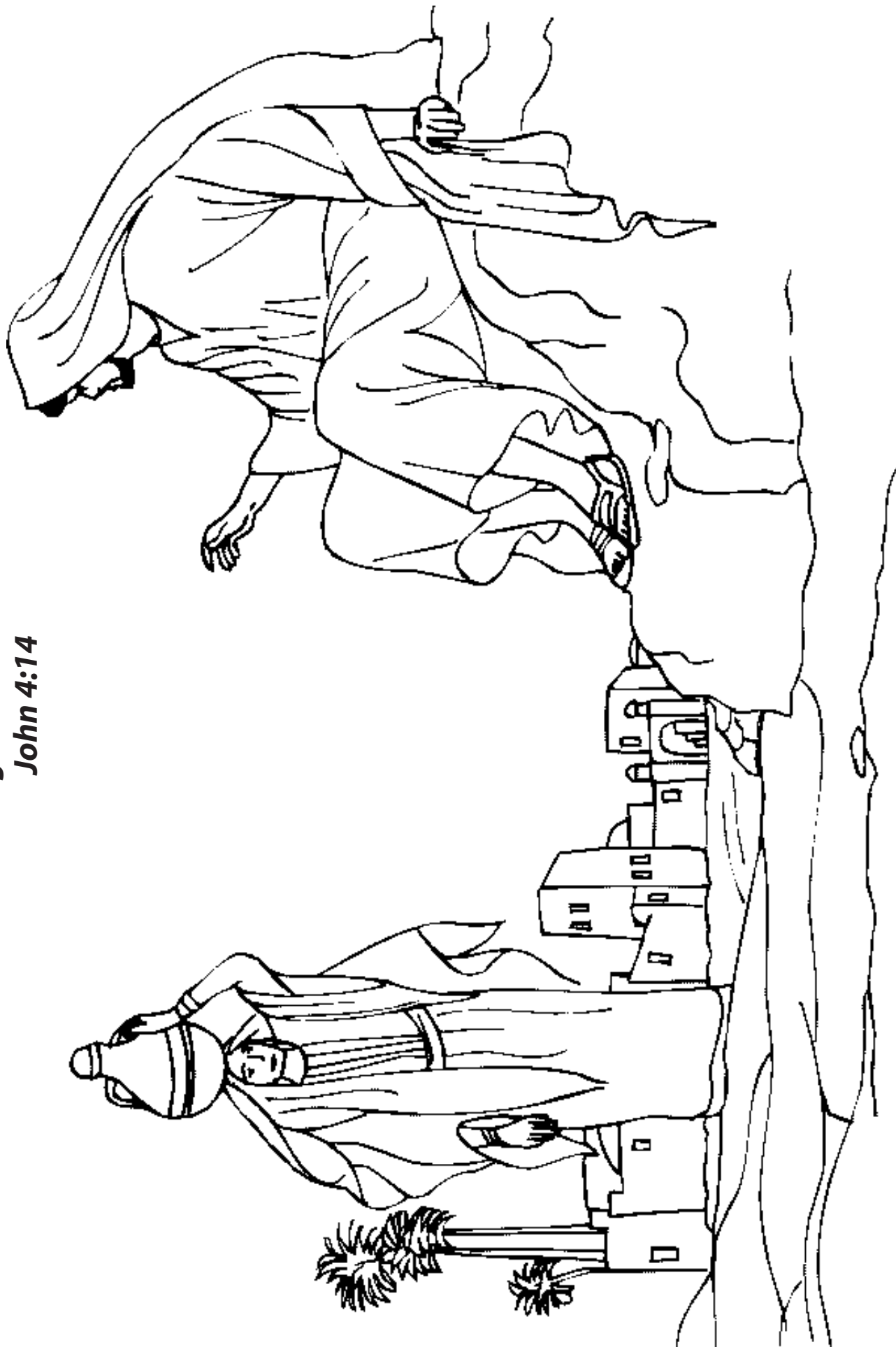
What do you say?

Do you believe that the Samaritan woman received eternal life and that her life was changed? Does he want you to have eternal life? How can you have eternal life?

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***“The water that I will give him will become in him
a spring which will provide him with lifegiving
water and give him eternal life.”***

John 4:14



④

A Town Rejoices



Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus speaks lovingly to those who have failed in life
2. We are greatest when we tell others about Christ

John 4:27-42

When Jesus told the samaritanan woman by the well that he was the Messiah, she jumped up and began running to town. As she left Jesus, the disciples were coming back to him, bringing his lunch. They were afraid to ask Jesus why he was talking with the woman or what he had said to her.

The woman came running into the town, shouting, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Soon, the whole town was running out towards where Jesus stood with the disciples. Meanwhile, the disciples said to Jesus, "Teacher, eat something." But Jesus said, "I am full! I have food that none of you know about. My food is to do the will of my Father. Do not tell me, 'The harvest will not be ready for another four months.' Look, and you will see that the fields are already ripe for the harvest."

Just then, the crowd from the town came running toward Jesus and the disciples. They invited Jesus and his disciples to come into the town and stay and teach them. He stayed for two days, and many people believed in him. Some people told the woman, "Now we believe and not just because of what you have told us. We have heard for ourselves and know that this man is the Savior of the world!"

Talk about the story

1. What do you think the disciples thought when they saw the woman running away from Jesus toward the town?
2. Why do you think that Jesus felt "full" even though he had eaten no lunch?
3. What do you think Jesus was talking about when he said the harvest fields were already ripe?
4. Why did some people say they now believed in Jesus?

What do you say?

Who are you most like, right now:

- The woman who had good news to tell others about Jesus.
- The crowd that wondered about Jesus.
- Those who had just started to believe in Jesus.

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***“And we know that he really is the
Savior of the world.”
John 4:42***



⑤

A Roman Officer Believes in Jesus



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Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus truly has great power and authority
2. Our humble faith brings joy to the Lord

Luke 7:1-10

One day, after Jesus had taught many people out in the country, he and his disciples walked into the town of Capernaum. A group of men from the town met Jesus and asked a favor of him. They said, "There is a Roman officer in town who has been a good friend to the Jewish people. He even helped us to build our synagogue. (A Jewish church building) One of the officer's best servants is dying. Would you come and heal him?"

Jesus went with them, but before they got to the officer's house, a man came running to Jesus with a message from the soldier. This was the message: "Lord, I am not worthy for you to come into my house. I know you have great power and authority. If you will just give the order, I know that my servant will be healed."

When Jesus heard this, he stopped and turned and told the crowd that followed him, "Did you hear that? I have never found anyone in all of Israel that has as much faith as this foreign soldier." Jesus did not go to the soldier's house, but when the messenger got back to the house, he found that the servant was completely well and the soldier was rejoicing with him.

Talk about the story

1. Why would Jewish men ask Jesus a favor for a Roman soldier?
2. Was the Roman officer used to giving orders to his soldiers? Why did he think Jesus could just give the order and his servant would be healed?
3. Why do you think the officer thought that he was not worthy to receive Jesus in his house? Did he really believe this or was it an excuse?
4. What did Jesus have to say about the faith of the soldier?
5. What happened as a result of the soldier's faith in Jesus?

What impresses you most?

- A foreigner had more faith in Jesus than God's special people, the Jews
- Jesus can heal without actually coming to the sick person.
- Jesus is ready to help anyone who trusts in him

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***“I tell you, I have never found faith like this,
not even in Israel”.***

Luke 7:9

⑥

Jesus Calms the Storm



Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus as a man knew what it is to be weary
2. Jesus is all-powerful

Luke 8:22-25

One day, after Jesus had taught many people, he was tired and said to his disciples, "Come, let us get on one of your boats and go across the lake to where we can rest for awhile." Soon, they were sailing across the lake when Jesus fell sound asleep in the front of the boat. Right away, a strong wind came down across the lake and the waves grew much higher than the boat itself. Even the disciples who were fishermen became very frightened, because they saw that the boat would soon sink.

Peter got over to where Jesus was sleeping and shook him saying, "Master, Master, we are about to drown!" Other disciples said, "Don't you care about what is about to happen to us?" Jesus stood up in the rocking boat and raised his arms. He said with a strong voice, "Quiet! Be still!" Immediately, the wind stopped blowing and the waves fell and flattened out in the water. Suddenly, the lake was as smooth as a sheet of glass!

Jesus then spoke to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid. Do you not have any faith?" The disciples were all terribly afraid and they whispered to one another, "What kind of man is this that even the wind and the waves obey him?"

Talk about the Story:

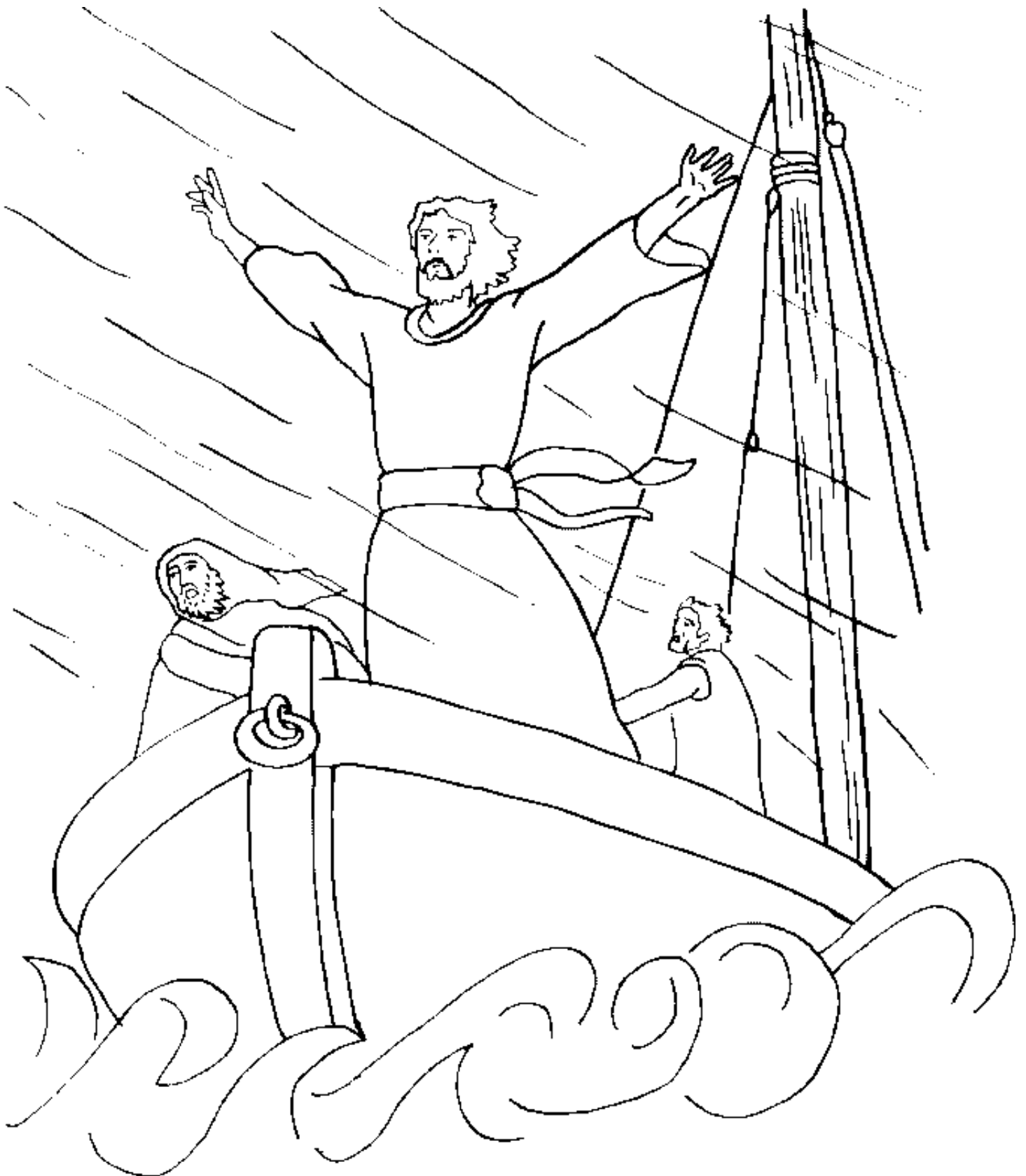
1. How was Jesus feeling, after teaching many people? Was Jesus really a man who got tired?
2. What did Jesus want to do to get some rest?
3. What happened shortly after Jesus went to sleep in the boat?
4. How did the disciples feel when the waves got so big?
5. Did the disciples seem angry at Jesus? Why? What did they tell him?
6. What did Jesus do that surprised them so much?
7. What did Jesus ask them after calming the storm? Do you think he was disappointed in his followers?
8. What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus by this experience?

What do you say?

What would you have thought about Jesus if you saw him speak to the wind and stop it? Who do you think Jesus is?

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**They asked each other: "Who is this?
Even the wind and the waves obey him."
Mark 4:41**



7

A Wild Man Saved By Jesus



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Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus can completely change the worst persons
2. Jesus asks us to give God the credit for changing our lives

Luke 8:26-37

After the storm, the disciples rowed the boat across to the other side of the lake. Jesus stepped out of the boat at a quiet place on the shore where there was a cemetery. Suddenly, a wild man came running down to him. The man was undressed and his hair was long and matted. With a terrible sounding voice, an evil spirit made the man shout, "What have you come to do to me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, don't torture me!" Jesus commanded, "Come out of the man right now!"

The evil spirit had turned the poor man into a wild man. The men of the nearby town had put the man in chains, but the evil spirit gave him power to break the chains. There was nothing the people could do to control him. Jesus asked the evil spirit, "What is your name?" The Spirit said, "My name is 'Crowd'" because many demons had gone into the man. The demons begged Jesus to let them to go into a herd of pigs that were near by, and he gave them permission. As quickly as they entered the animals, the pigs all rushed into the lake and drowned.

The man watching the pigs ran into the town to tell everyone what had happened. Soon, a great crowd came out to where Jesus was. They saw that the wild man was now dressed and quietly sitting at Jesus' feet. The people were very afraid, and they asked Jesus to please leave the place. Jesus and his disciples got ready to leave. The man said to Jesus, "Please let me go with you." Jesus said, "No, instead I want you to go home and tell everyone how much the Lord has done for you." So the man went and started telling people how Jesus had saved him. Months later, when Jesus returned to that town, he was welcomed by great crowds of people who had heard the story of the wild man whom Jesus had made well.

Talk about the story:

1. Why didn't Jesus get to rest when he reached the shore?
2. Why was the evil spirit called "Crowd"? How had the demons hurt the man?
3. Jews were not permitted by the Law not to eat pork. What do you think they thought when they heard that all the pigs had drowned?
4. Why do you think the man wanted to stay with Jesus?
5. Why do you think that Jesus asked him, instead, to go tell his story to others?

What do you say?

Have you known anybody whose life was greatly changed by Jesus? Do you have any reason to believe that Jesus is changing your life? Explain.

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**Go home and tell them how much
the Lord has done for you and how
he has had mercy on you.**

Mark 5:19



⑧ Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind



Great Bible Truths:

1. To be spiritually blind is worse than being physically blind
2. Real believers in Christ stand firm against opposition

John 9:1-17, 24-38

Saving faith in Christ does not usually happen at the very beginning of knowing about Jesus. But the more we know about Jesus, his power, and his love for us, the more ready we become to receive him as our Lord and Savior. Sometimes, people will oppose our trust in Christ, but people of courage will insist in trusting Jesus. This is the story of the man who was born blind.

Jesus miraculously healed a man born blind by making mud with dust and his own saliva and applying to the man's eyes. Religious leaders, however, were not happy about his healing, saying that healing should not happen on the Sabbath. The man healed of blindness told them, however, that the man who healed him was a prophet of God. This angered the religious leaders, who said that they knew that Jesus was a sinner. The man told them that he couldn't say if Jesus was a sinner or not; All he could tell them that before he was blind and now he could see. He continued to argue with them about Jesus, and they told him he could never come to the synagogue (the Jewish church) again. Jesus heard about this and looked for the man. Jesus revealed to the man who he was, and the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Jesus.

Talk about the Story:

1. V. 11 At first, the man born blind only called the Lord "the man called Jesus."
 True False
2. V. 17 Now, the man calls Jesus
 only a man a prophet the Son of God
3. V. 25 The one thing the man knew for sure was that
 Jesus was probably a sinner
 Jesus had changed his life because before he could not see and now he could
4. V. 28 The religious leaders tried to insult the man saying that
 he was a thief
 he was a disciple of Jesus
5. V. 35-36 What did Jesus ask the man? How did the man answer?
6. V. 38 Finally what did the man do?
 He said that Jesus must be a sinner
 He said that he now believed in Jesus as his Lord
 He worshiped Jesus, recognizing that Jesus is divine.

Think about yourself:

Is your faith growing? Who do you believe Jesus is? Would you say that Jesus is your Lord?

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***"... I am the light of the world."
John 9:5b***



9 A Sick Woman and a Dead Girl



Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus has and uses the power to heal.
2. Jesus delights to surprise his friends with his blessings.

Luke 8:40-56

A religious leader named Jairus rushed up to Jesus one day and said, "Come quickly! My little girl is dying!" Jesus left with him immediately, and a large crowd of people hurried with them, pressing against Jesus. Suddenly, a woman who had been sick with bleeding for twelve years reached over to Jesus and touched his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. Jesus stopped walking and asked, "Who touched me?" Peter told the Lord that, of course, it was the crowd that was touching him. But Jesus answered, "Someone special touched me because I felt that power had left me." The woman came up to Jesus and fell at his feet. "I touched you, Lord, and I was healed." Jesus smiled at her and said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go home in peace."

Just then, a man rushed up and said to Jairus, "Your daughter has died. You do not need to bother Jesus any more." But Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Trust me, your daughter will wake up." When they got to the house, a lot of people were crying. "Stop crying," said Jesus. "The girl is asleep and will wake up." When they heard that, they began to make fun of Jesus.

Jesus and the girl's parents went alone to her bed. Jesus took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned to her body and, right away, she got out of bed. Jesus told her parents to give her something to eat, but not to tell anyone what had happened.

Talk About the Story:

1. If you were rushing with Jesus, going to the house of the sick girl, what would you be thinking?
2. Why did Peter seem surprised when Jesus said that someone had touched him?
3. Why did Jesus know that someone especially touched him?
4. How would you have felt if you were the woman who had touched Jesus and was healed?
5. How do you think Jairus felt when he heard that his daughter had already died?
6. Why did the people start making fun of Jesus?
7. Your ideas: How did Jairus feel when Jesus awoke his daughter? How did the crowd feel?

What Do You Say?

Was Jesus happy to heal people? Does he like to heal people today? Have you prayed and asked him to heal you or someone else?

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Daughter, your faith has healed you.

Go in peace.

Luke 8:48



10

Two Fish for 5000 People



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Great Bible Truths:

1. Small gifts for Jesus can bring blessings for many others
2. Jesus is always interested in the needs of others

John 6:1-15

Great crowds of people tried to follow Jesus everywhere he went. Even when he was tired, Jesus did not want to send the people away. He always spoke to them and told them about God and God's way for people to believe and to live. Also, he healed many sick people who were being brought to him.

One day, 5000 people followed Jesus to a mountainside. That afternoon, everyone was becoming very hungry. There was no place nearby where the people could go for food. Jesus stopped teaching, and told his disciples to give the people something to eat. "What can we do?" his disciples asked him. "There is no bakery near here, and even if there were, we don't have enough money." Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, brought a boy to Jesus. He told Jesus that the boy had brought a little basket with two fish and five little loaves of bread. "But what good are they, when there are so many people?"

Jesus said, "Have everyone sit down in groups of 50 and 100 and count them carefully." Then he took the bread and the fish and broke them in pieces. He told the disciples to give the bread and the fish to all the people. The disciples started giving out the food, but were amazed because that the more food they gave out, the more they still had. The people ate and ate until they could hold no more. Then Jesus told the disciples to collect all the leftover food. What a surprise when the Apostles collected twelve full baskets of food. Everyone started talking about this great miracle, saying that Jesus must be the great Prophet that was to come to the world. Jesus saw that the people wanted to make him to be their king, so he quickly left the crowd and went alone farther up the mountain.

Speak About the Story

1. Why do you think the people loved to follow Jesus?
2. What would you have liked to ask him, if you were there with the crowd?
3. What would you have told Jesus if he asked you to give food to 5000 people?
4. How do you think the boy felt when Jesus took his lunch and gave it to everyone?
5. Do you think the people wanted Jesus to be their king to save them from their sins and lead them to God, or to always give them plenty of food?
6. Why do you think Jesus got away from the crowd, not letting them make him king?

What Do You Say?

Would you like for Jesus to be your king? Why or why not?

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**Here is a boy with five small barley
loaves and two small fish, but how
far will they go among so many?
John 6:9**



Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus always surprises his people with great and special acts.
2. Faith in Christ must be strong and unchanging.

Matthew 14:22-33

After feeding the 5000, Jesus went up the mountain to pray alone and his disciples tried to sail back to the town they came from. But the wind came up and blew against the boat so the disciples could not go any farther. When it was very dark, Jesus came down the mountain and walked on top of the water, going out to where the disciples were in their boat. When the disciples saw Jesus walking toward them on the water, they became very scared. "It is a ghost!" they shouted to one another. But Jesus called to them above the wind and said, "Be brave! Don't be afraid. It is I."

Peter then said, "Lord, if it is really you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus told him, "Come on." So Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk right across the water! But then Peter saw the big waves and took his eyes off of Jesus. As soon as he did this, he fell straight into the water! "Lord, save me," he shouted. Jesus came to him and lifted him out of the water. "You of little faith," he said. "Why did you doubt?"

When the two climbed into the boat, the wind died down and the lake became still and smooth. The disciples on the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God!"

Talk About the Story:

1. Why do you think Jesus decided to walk out to the boat where the disciples were?
2. What would you have thought if you saw someone walking on the water toward you?
3. What did Jesus shout to the disciples on the boat?
4. Why do you think Peter asked to walk to Jesus? What caused Peter to fall into the water?
5. Do you think Jesus was disappointed in Peter when he fell into the water? Why or why not?
6. What did the disciples learn about Jesus from this experience?

What do you say?

What things scare you the most? What do you think Jesus wants to tell you when you are most frightened?

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***Then those who were in the boat
worshiped him, saying
"Truly you are the Son of God!"
Matthew 14:33***



Great Bible Truths:

1. We can use our simple possessions for the service of Christ
2. Jesus always gives us more than we can give him

Luke 5:1-11

When Jesus was on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, great crowds of people came to hear the teachings and the parables that he taught. On the shore, there were two empty fishing boats and fishermen were washing their nets.

Because the people crowded so close to him as he taught, Jesus climbed into one of the boats and asked Simon Peter, its owner, to pull out a little way from the shore and Jesus taught the crowd from the boat. When Jesus finished speaking to the people, he told Simon, "Take the boat out to the deepest part of the lake and drop your nets there." Peter answered him, "Teacher, we have been fishing all night and have not caught anything. But if you say so, we will do what you ask."

When Simon put his net into the water, it was suddenly filled with so many fish that it almost broke. He called his companions, including his cousins James and John, asking them to help him pull in the net. They came quickly and filled both boats with so many fish that they almost sank! When they saw what had happened, realizing that it was a great miracle, all the fishermen became afraid. Peter said to him, "Lord, go away from me because I am a sinful man!" Then Jesus told them, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishers of men." The fishermen left their boats on shore and after leaving everything, followed Jesus.

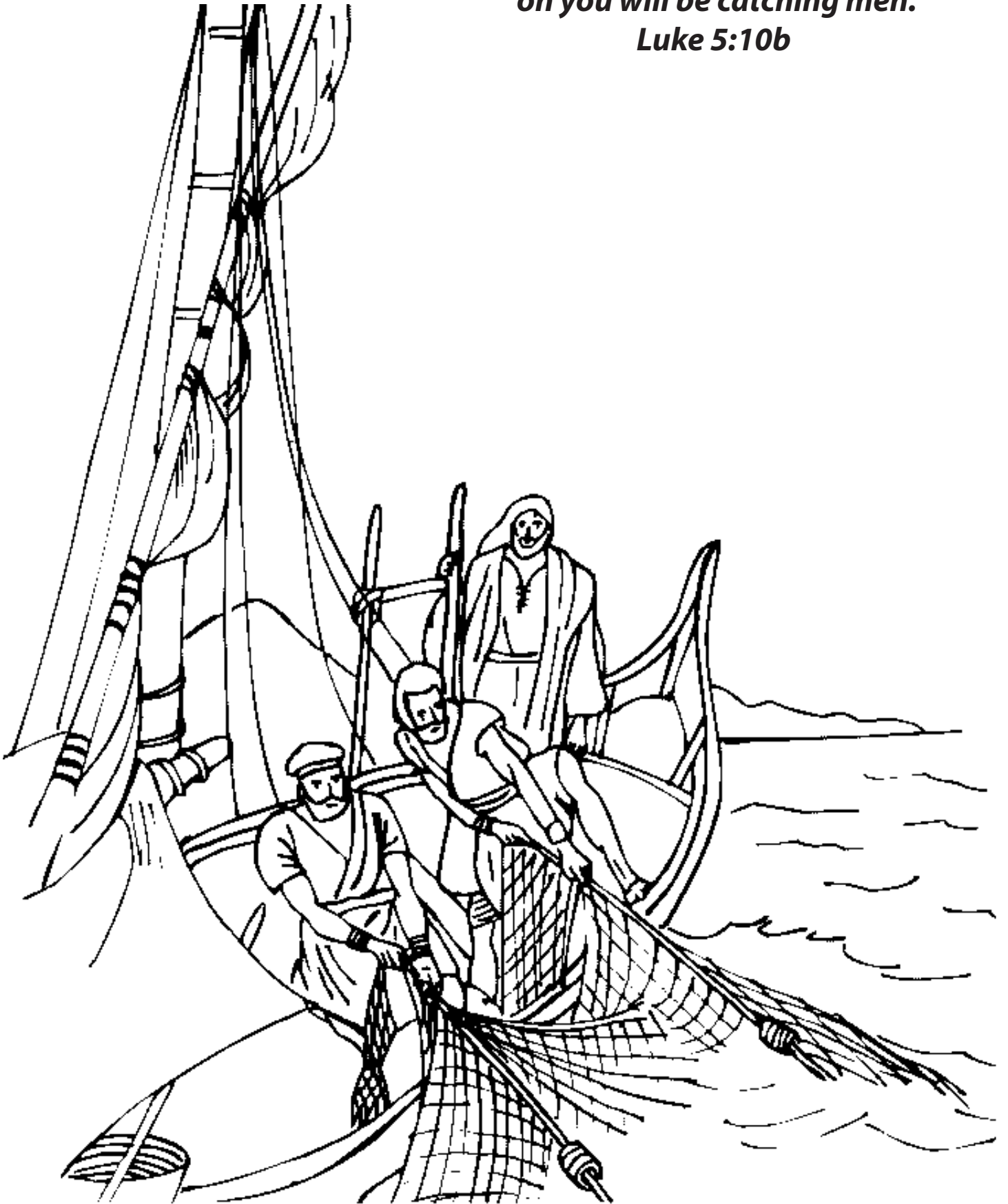
Talk about the story:

1. What objection did Simon give to the idea of going out fishing again?
2. Did Simon do what Jesus asked?
3. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach when he told Peter to drop his net into the water again?
4. Why did Simon tell Jesus to get away from him?
5. Who were the two cousins of Simon and Andrew who were fellow fishermen?
6. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "From now on you will be fishers of men?"
7. How did the fishermen respond to Jesus' invitation?

What do you say?

Do you believe Jesus can do wonderful things in your life? If Jesus were to call you to be a fisher of men, would you obey him? What can you do to "fish" for people for the Lord? Would you be willing to leave everything or much of your normal life to follow Jesus?

***“Don’t be afraid; from now
on you will be catching men.
Luke 5:10b***





Great Bible Truths:

1. Real friends take their friends to Jesus
2. Faith in Jesus sometimes requires courageous actions

Luke 5:17-26

One day, Jesus was in a large house, where teachers of the law and important men had come from all around. Many brought sick people to Jesus, and he healed every one. Four young men heard that Jesus was healing people, so they decided to carry a friend of theirs who could not move his arms or his legs. But the house was so crowded that they could not even get close to the front door. So they decided to climb up on the roof, remove some of the tiles, and let their friend down into the room right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw the faith and courage of the friends and the sick man, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." This made the leaders and teachers very angry, because they asked, "Who is this who forgives sins? Only God can forgive sins."

So Jesus asked them, "Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up and walk? So you can know that I have authority on earth to forgive sins, watch." Then he told the paralyzed man, "Get up and walk!" Right then, the young man stood straight up and went home, praising God. Everyone was amazed and praised God saying, "We have truly seen wonderful things today."

Talk About the Story

1. How did the 4 friends and the paralyzed man show how much they believed in Jesus? What did they do that surprised everyone, even Jesus?
2. What did Jesus seem to think was most important: for the man to be forgiven of his sins or for him to be healed?
3. Why were many people angry with Jesus when he forgave the paralyzed young man?
4. How did Jesus prove that he has the right to forgive sins?

Talk About Yourself

Would you be happy if Jesus would forgive you for everything bad you have done? Do you think Jesus would forgive you if you asked? Why not ask him now, knowing that he even died for your sins?



***And when he saw their faith, he said unto him,
Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.***

Luke 5:20