

# Lesson 28



3-14-2021  
LEADER GUIDE

## JESUS WALKS ON WATER

MATTHEW 14:22-33, MARK 6:45-52, & JOHN 6:16-21

### GOAL

▶ To help children realize God's great power and our need to have faith in Him.

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### CHARACTERS

▶ **Jesus:** Jesus spent time in prayer and then walked on the water to His disciples who were in a boat on the lake.

**Peter:** He wanted to walk on the water, too. He was able to take a step, but when he shifted his focus from Jesus to the waves, he sank.

**Disciples:** They watched in awe and fear as Jesus walked toward them on the water.

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### MEMORY VERSE

▶ **Matthew 14:31:** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

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### OVERVIEW

▶ **Read over Matthew 14:22-33:** The disciples began to sail across the Sea of Galilee when a storm struck. They became frightened. Jesus, who had stayed on shore to pray for a while, walked out to meet the terrified disciples in their boat. Peter saw Jesus walking toward them and asked Jesus to command him to come out on the water. He took one successful step before shifting his focus from Jesus to the crashing waves surrounding him. With his focus on the water instead of Jesus, Peter sank. Jesus helped Peter into the boat. As soon as Jesus climbed aboard, the storm stopped and the wind and waves became calm.



## SUGGESTIONS

▶ **This story is about faith as much as it is about Jesus' amazing miracle. Take some time in class to discuss the meaning of faith and the importance of the object of that faith.**

**1. Great faith:** After seeing Jesus walk on water, Peter recognized Jesus' power. Peter believed so much in Jesus' power that he climbed out of the boat to walk on the very waves that only moments before he feared would cause him to drown. With his eyes on Jesus, he lost sight of the things in this world that would cause him to fear.

**2. Little faith:** Peter was doing something we think of as impossible, but, as Paul says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." As soon as Peter took his focus off of Jesus, Peter began to sink into the crashing waves. With his eyes on the waves, Peter lost sight of Jesus' power to help him do amazing things and overcome his fear.

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## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Sink or Float | Supplies:** water, a clear container, such as a small aquarium if available; and a collection of items to place in the aquarium, such as a piece of foam, rocks, a leaf, full and empty soda cans, apples, bananas, cooked beans, dry beans, socks, a fish, etc.

Fill the clear container with water. Hold up the item that you are going to put into the water. Have students call out "Sink!" or "Float!" to predict what will happen when the item is placed in the water.

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## MEMORY VERSE MEANING

▶ **This verse is so full of meaning for Christians. Let's break it down.**

- 1.** Just as Jesus lifted Peter out of the water, Jesus saves us when we are in trouble.
  - 2.** Jesus rebuked Peter for not believing in the power being displayed right in front of him. It serves as a rebuke for not believing in the power that we know Jesus possesses.
  - 3.** It is a message of encouragement. Jesus asks Peter, "Why did you doubt?" Peter was doing something amazing through his faith in Jesus. It's like Jesus was asking Peter why he gave up when he had almost finished and succeeded. Even when what God has called us to do is scary, we should continue on, confident of God's power.
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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What was the name of the lake Jesus told His disciples to cross?

**A1:** The Sea of Galilee

**Q1b:** Have you ever been on a boat?

**TN:** Many of the disciples were fishermen before they began to follow Jesus, so they knew how to sail.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did Jesus go to do as the disciples sailed away?

**A2:** He went to pray.

**Q2b:** When do you most often find yourself praying?

**TN:** Some people pray after a hard day. Some people like to pray after good days to thank God for all of His help. Neither is better than the other, but the best answer is all the time and for no particular reason! Jesus had just experienced a mixed day. He received the truly terrible news that His friend John the Baptist had been killed. He also experienced a day in which He saw evidence that word of His power was spreading as thousands of people sought Him out for healing and teaching. People were beginning to believe. He also performed a huge miracle in which He fed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. A lot happened, and Jesus needed some quiet time to pray. No matter what is going on in our lives, we should always take some time to pray and get direction from God.

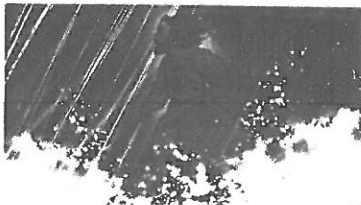


## QUESTION & ANSWER



**Q3a:** What happened as Jesus was praying?

**A3:** A violent storm began.



**Q4a:** How did Jesus get out to where the disciples were in their boat?

**A4:** Jesus walked on water to reach them.

**Q4b:** Have you ever participated in an obstacle course?

**TN:** Obstacle courses usually are a series of physical challenges meant to test agility. Sometimes they are really tough, and people get tripped up trying to complete them. There is no obstacle to Christ's power. He created this world, and nothing in it will stop Him from accomplishing His goals. In this story, not even a deep lake, wind, and wild waves would stop Him from reaching His disciples who were afraid and in trouble.



**Q5a:** At first, what did the disciples think the figure moving toward them was?

**A5:** They thought it was a ghost.

**Q5b:** How would you react if you saw someone suddenly appear in front of you?

**TN:** Often, when we see something that goes against the laws of nature as we understand them, our first reaction is one of fear. Appearing out of nowhere or walking on water is not possible for us humans to do, so the disciples rationalized what they saw with something they thought possible: a ghost. It's funny how they thought that the existence of a ghost was more likely than Jesus being able to walk on water!



## QUESTION & ANSWER

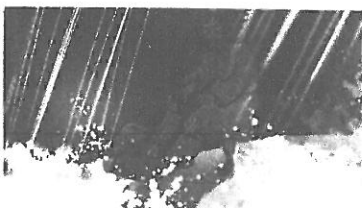
### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What did Peter do when he realized that it was Jesus walking toward them?

**A6:** Peter jumped out of the boat to meet Jesus.

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What happened when Peter's attention focused on the storm instead of Jesus?

**A7:** Peter began to sink into the water.

### SLIDE 8



**Q8a:** What happened when Jesus stepped into the boat?

**A8:** The storm stopped and the wind and waves became calm.

**Q8b:** When you are afraid, what do you do?

**TN:** The disciples were afraid of the storm, but as soon as Jesus reached their boat, the storm stopped. Jesus is love. As 1 John 4:18 states, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." When we focus on Jesus, we think of His perfect love for us, and we are reminded of His power to overcome whatever it is that has caused us to fear. When we are afraid, we should turn to Jesus for help.





**MEMORY  
VERSE**

- ▷ **Matthew 14:31:** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

**BIG IDEA**

- ▷ Through Jesus' power, we are capable of great things.

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

- ▷ Dear God, we don't know how You walked on the water, but we're glad that You did. You showed us that You are so powerful and amazing that You can do anything. And through You, we can do anything, too! Please give us faith. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

# JESUS WALKS ON WATER

## CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY

### Across

2. Jesus asked his disciples, "Why do you have so little **(Faith)**?"
3. When Peter stepped out of the boat he too **(Walked)** on the water.
4. Jesus went away to spend some time in **(Prayer)** with God.
5. After feeding the 5000, the disciples got in a boat and headed across the Sea of **(Galilee)**.
6. Jesus told Peter to "**(Come)**."
7. While the disciples were on the lake, a violent **(Storm)** arose.

### Down

1. The wind and the **(Waves)** drew Peter's attention away from Jesus.
3. Peter knew that Jesus had control of the **(Weather)**.
5. The disciples thought that Jesus was a **(Ghost)** at first, and were very afraid

# JESUS WALKS ON WATER

**Matthew 14:31**

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

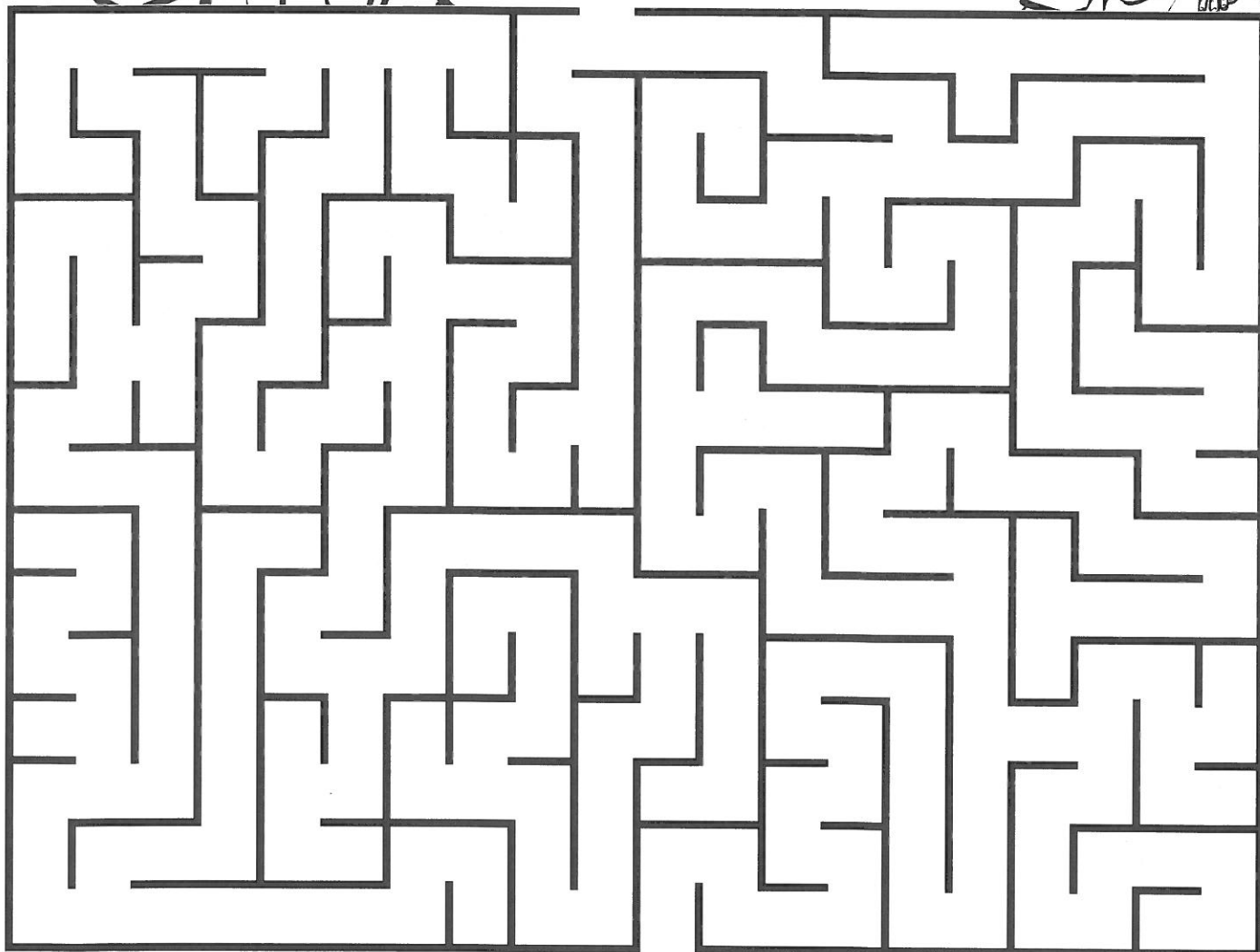


# JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Lead Peter across the water to Jesus.



START



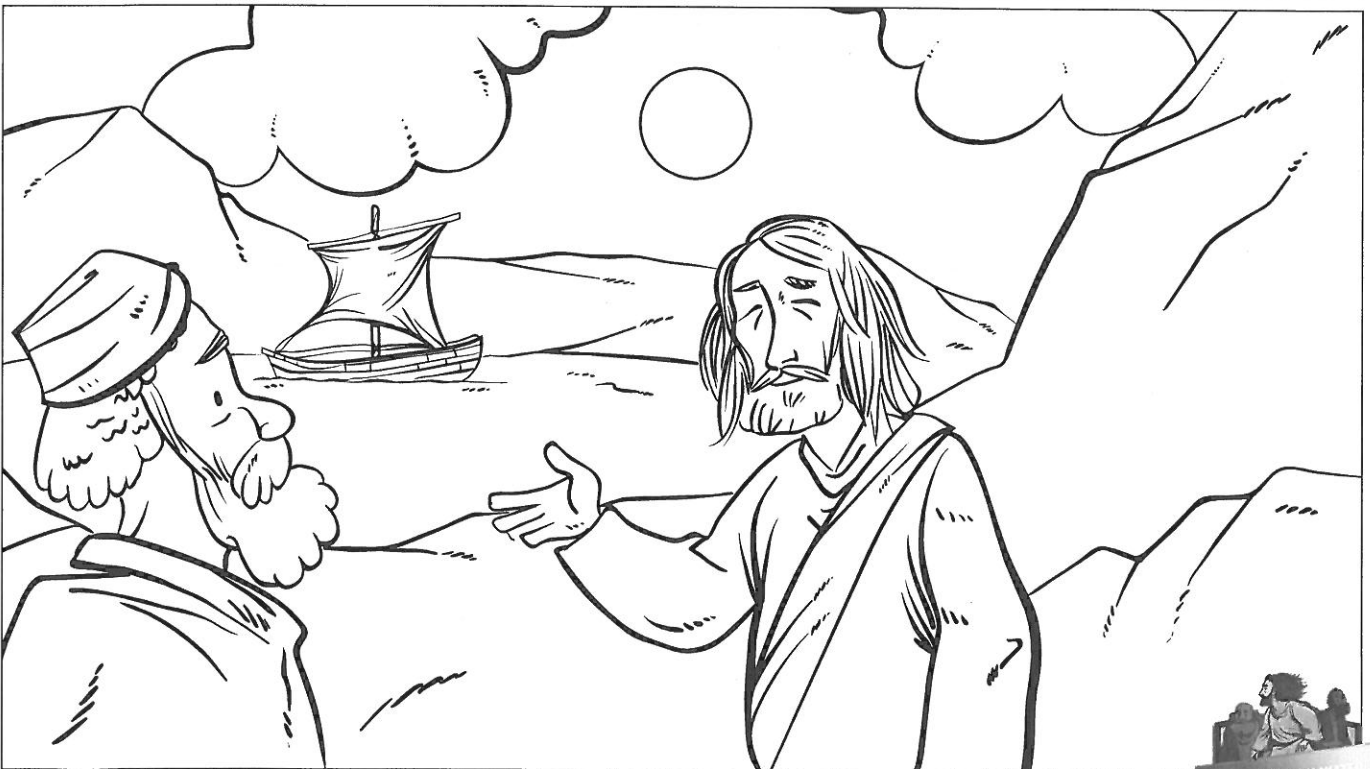
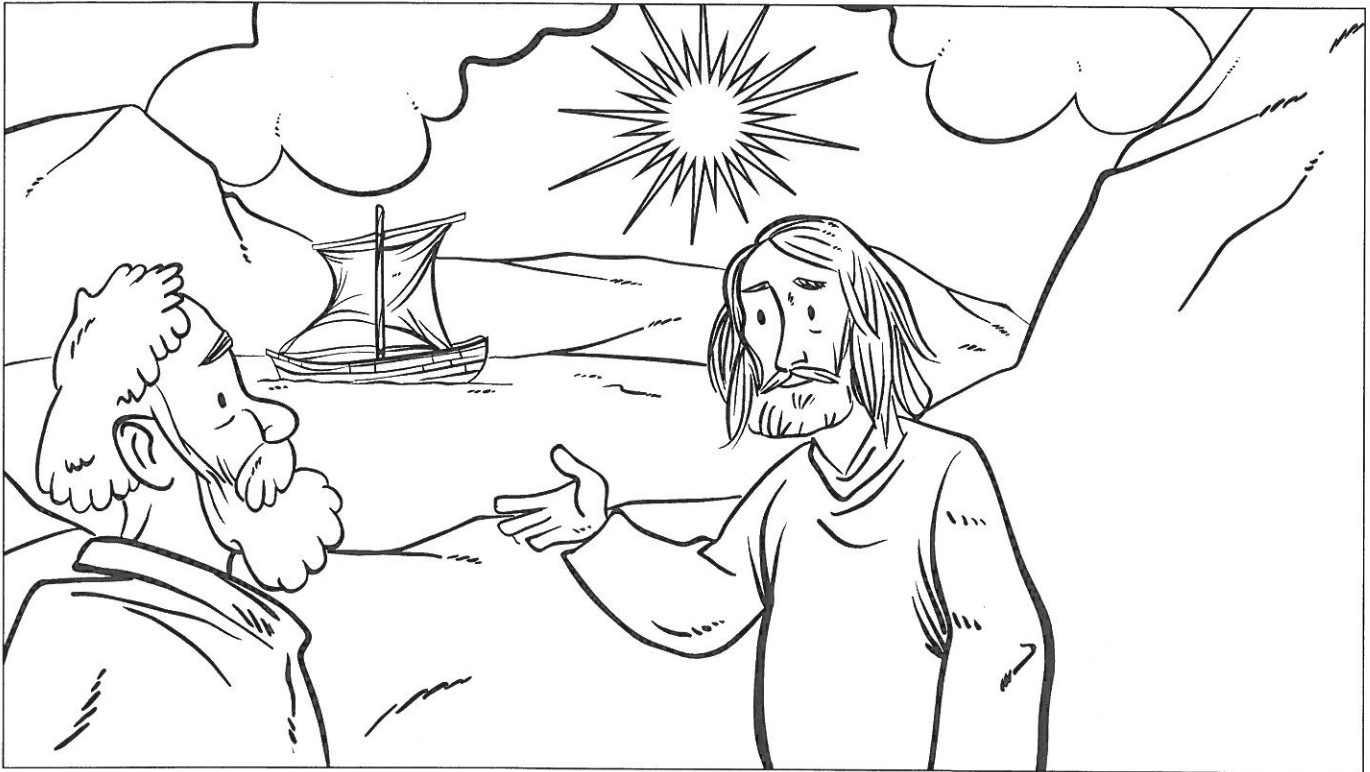
FINISH





# JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



# JESUS WALKS ON WATER



Discover the hidden words.

R	I	O	X	P	K	D	I	O	N	G	U	X	K	A
S	X	U	C	R	L	I	Y	Y	K	F	V	G	Q	N
K	B	D	W	A	A	S	E	H	R	S	H	S	X	O
C	M	V	I	Y	W	C	J	P	V	O	T	C	X	F
R	E	E	F	E	Q	I	E	Z	S	D	I	K	G	U
M	B	H	D	R	I	P	S	T	C	S	K	C	J	I
G	Q	Z	H	J	P	L	U	J	K	I	B	Z	V	S
G	S	Z	I	M	D	E	S	W	R	V	O	L	L	P
D	C	H	U	R	M	S	E	M	P	H	S	S	Y	B
D	P	G	P	L	D	A	M	T	R	R	N	R	X	E
G	U	S	E	A	T	B	F	Q	K	X	R	R	P	H
R	O	Z	A	H	P	S	A	V	O	Z	E	E	X	O
U	K	D	E	N	J	V	I	B	K	T	T	R	H	W
X	M	R	Z	P	C	V	T	P	A	E	C	Y	S	X
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	H	W	R	M	D	E	P	F

## Word Bank

FAITH  
WALK  
WATER  
PRAYER

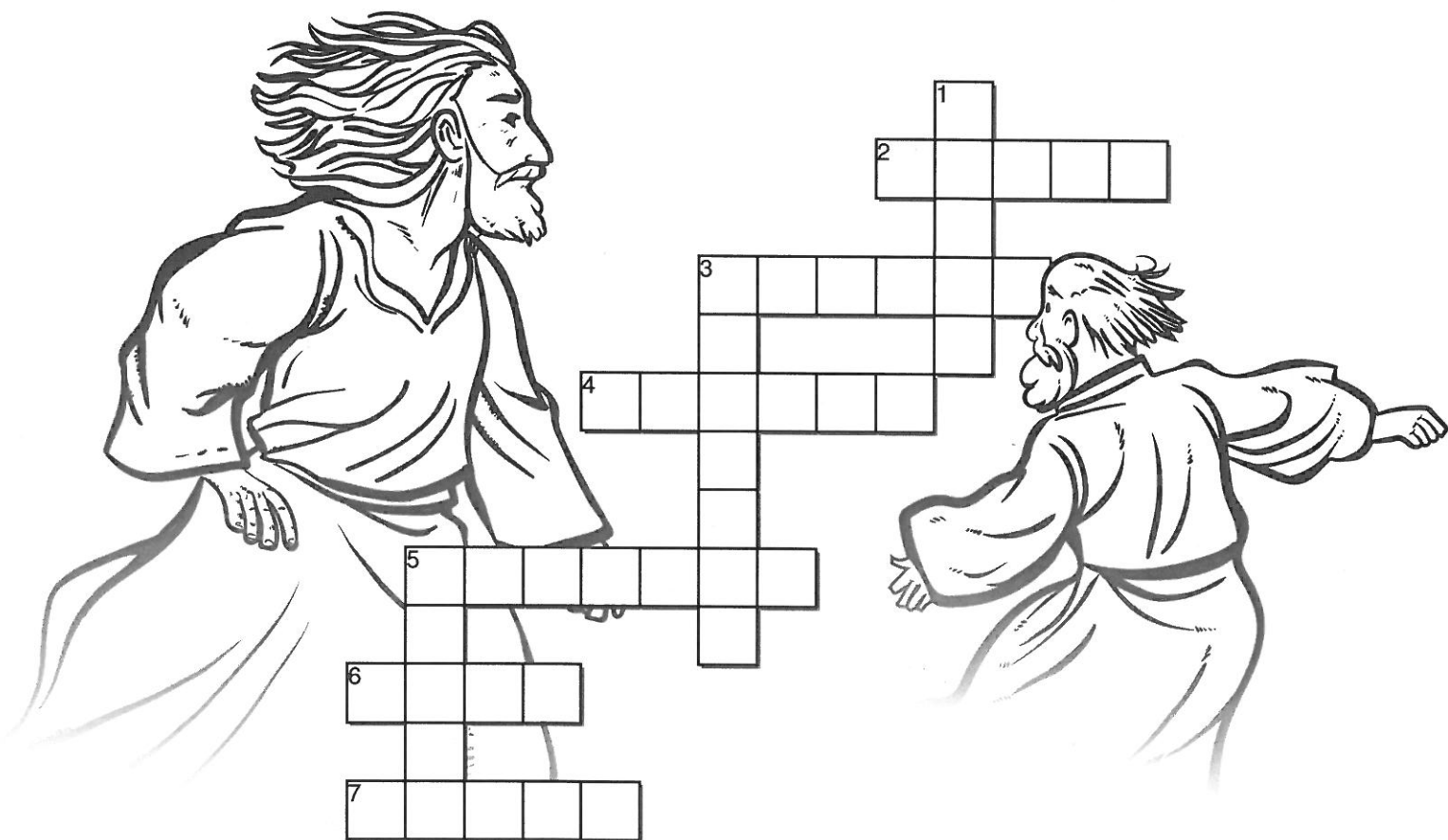
GOD  
JESUS  
GALILEE  
PETER

DISCIPLES  
SEA  
WEATHER  
GHOST



# JESUS WALKS ON WATER

**Matthew 14:22-33,  
Mark 6:45-52, and John 6:16-21**



## **Across**

2. Jesus asked his disciples, "Why do you have so little \_\_\_\_\_?"
3. When Peter stepped out of the boat he too \_\_\_\_\_ on the water.
4. Jesus went away to spend some time in \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
5. After feeding the 5000, the disciples got in a boat and headed across the Sea of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Jesus told Peter to "\_\_\_\_\_."
7. While the disciples were on the lake, a violent \_\_\_\_\_ arose.

## **Down**

1. The wind and the \_\_\_\_\_ drew Peter's attention away from Jesus.
3. Peter knew that Jesus had control of the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The disciples thought that Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_ at first, and were very afraid

