

The Story of the First Disciples



Read the Bible story

Simon, who was also known as Simon Peter, was a fisherman who was one of Jesus' best friends and closest followers. This story tells of the first time he ever met Jesus.

As you read the Bible story, draw smiley, sad, tired, worried or surprised faces in the boxes to show how you think Simon felt at different places in the story.

Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around him to hear God's message. ²Near the shore he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets.

³ Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd.

⁴When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, "Row the boat out into the deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish."

⁵"Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down."

⁶They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart. ⁷Then they signalled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink.

⁸When Simon Peter saw this happen, he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, “Lord, don’t come near me! I am a sinner.” ⁹Peter and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught. ¹⁰His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too.



Jesus told Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish.” ¹¹The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and went with Jesus.



Luke chapter 5 verses 1–11 (CEV)

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Questions to answer

1. Whose boat did Jesus get into?

2. Why did Jesus get into the boat?

3. Fill in the gaps to complete what Jesus and Simon say to each other in verses 4 and 5.

“Row the _____ out into the _____ water and let your
_____ down to catch some _____.”

“Master, we have worked hard all _____ long and have not
_____ a thing. But if _____ tell me to, I will let the
_____ down.”

4. What happened when Simon put his fishing nets into the water?

5. When Jesus said to Simon that, "From now on you will bring in people rather than fish", he invited Simon to come and follow him as he told people his Good News.
Jesus' special friends who followed him are often called disciples.
Use a dictionary to look up a definition of 'disciple' and write it here.

6. Use a thesaurus to look up some synonyms (words that mean the same thing) for the word "disciple" and write them here.

7. Lake Gennesaret is also known as the Sea of Galilee. It is a very large lake, about 13 miles across from one side to the other. Jesus spent a lot of time near to the lake.

Can you find this body of water on a map?

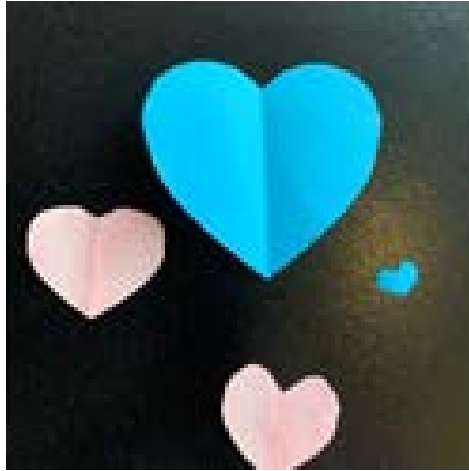
What name does it have on the map you are looking at?

Make your own fish

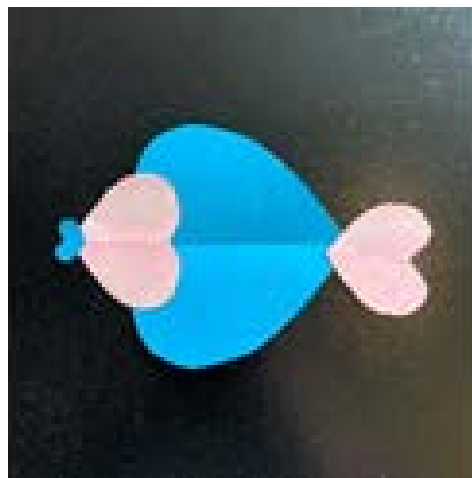
Peter and his friends were fishermen. Did you know you can make a fish out of heart shapes?

You'll need: paper, glue, scissors and sparkles, ribbons or googly eyes to add if you want to. Please ask a grown up to do any cutting out.

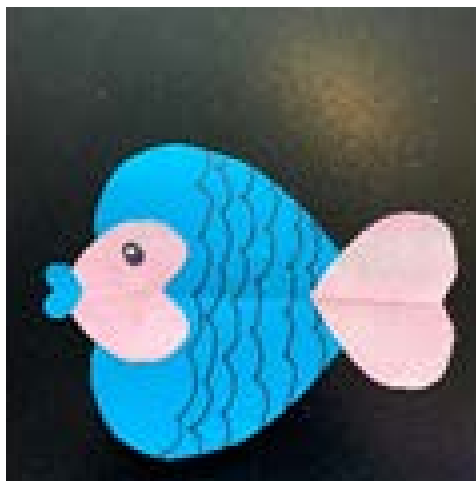
Step 1



Step 2



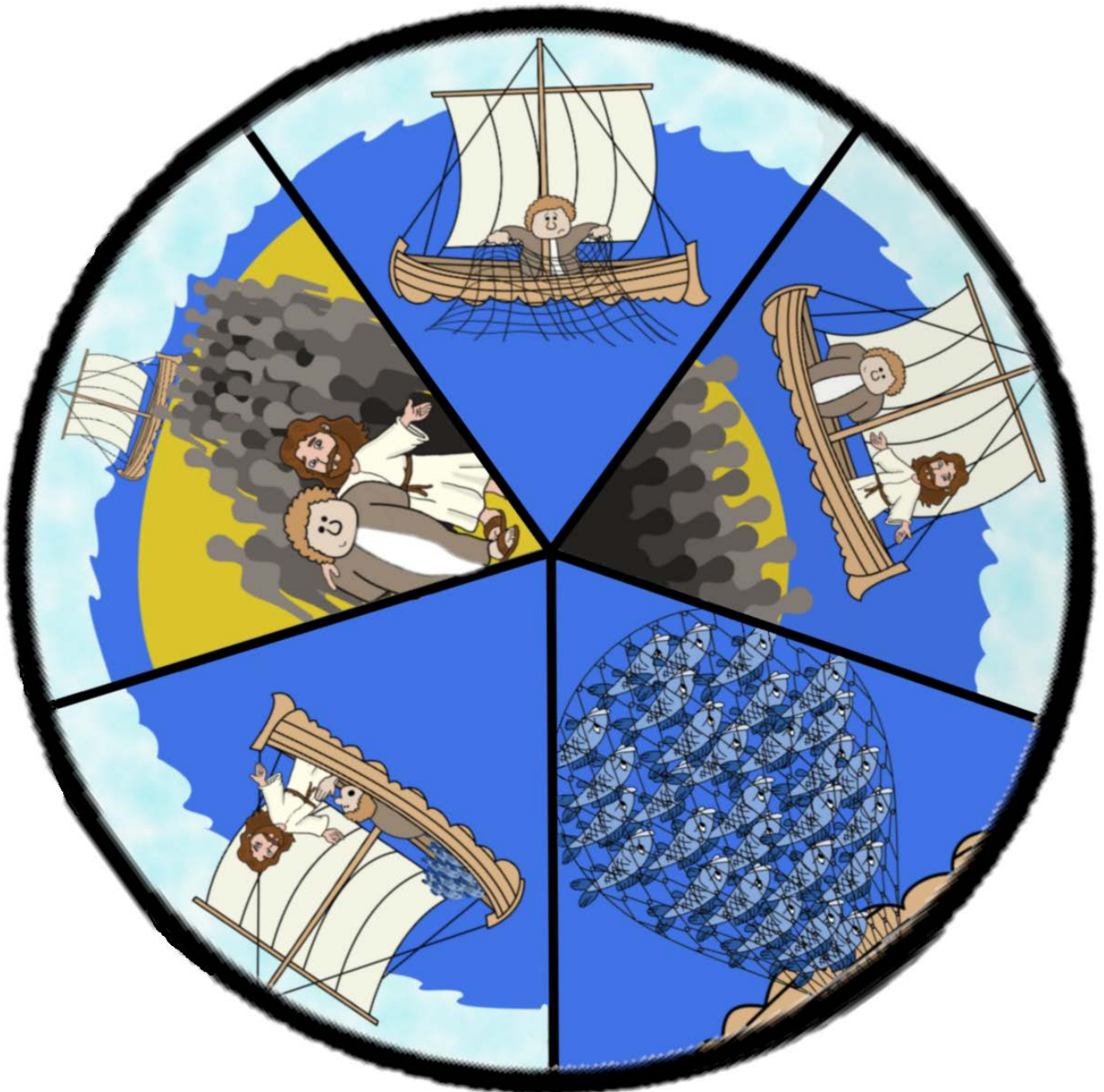
Step 3



Story wheel

Here are a few ideas for how you can use the story wheel.

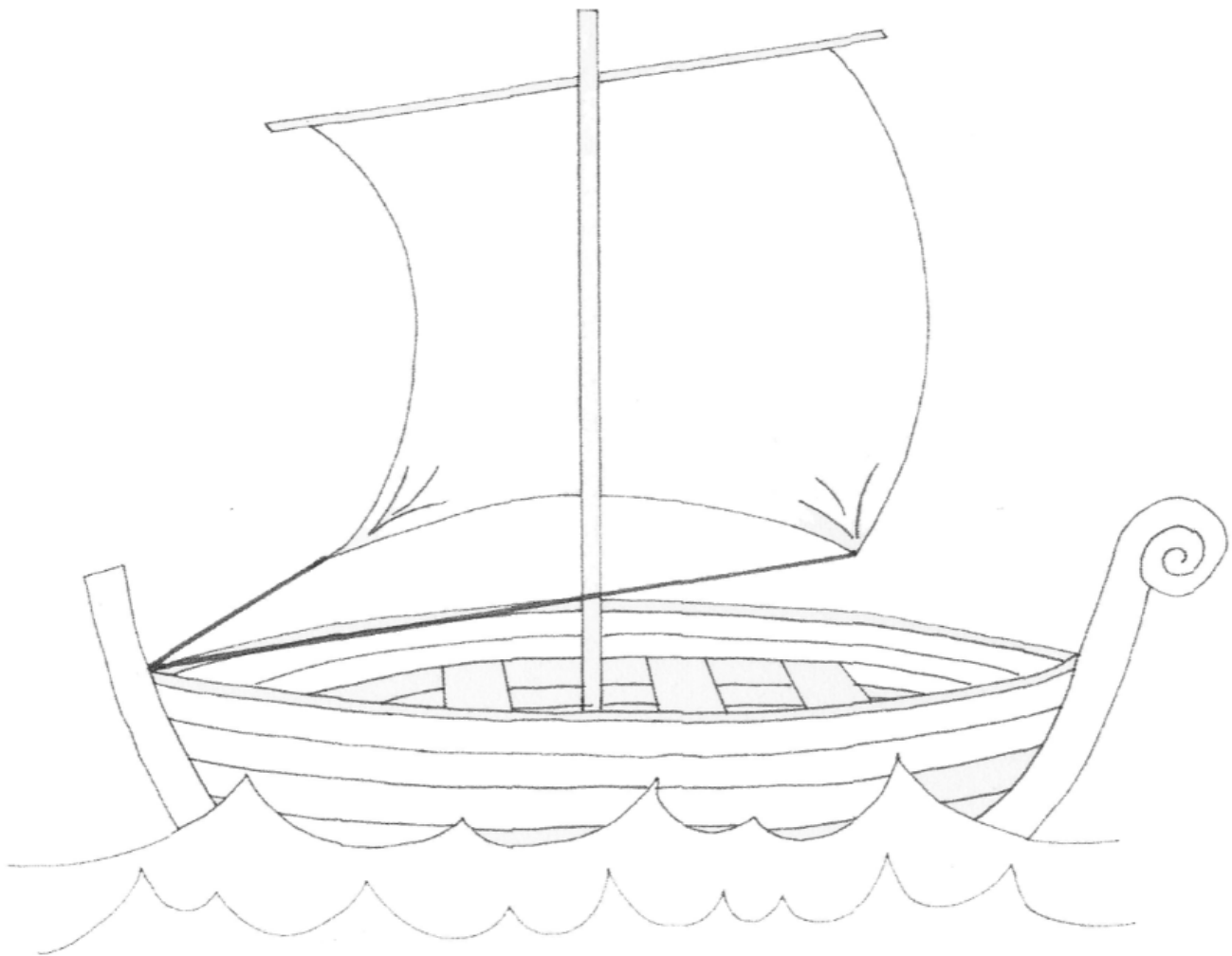
1. Listen to and or read the story and then describe what is going on in each picture on the wheel.
2. Number the events in order on the outside ring of the wheel in the order they happen in the story.
3. Retell the story using the wheel images to help you.



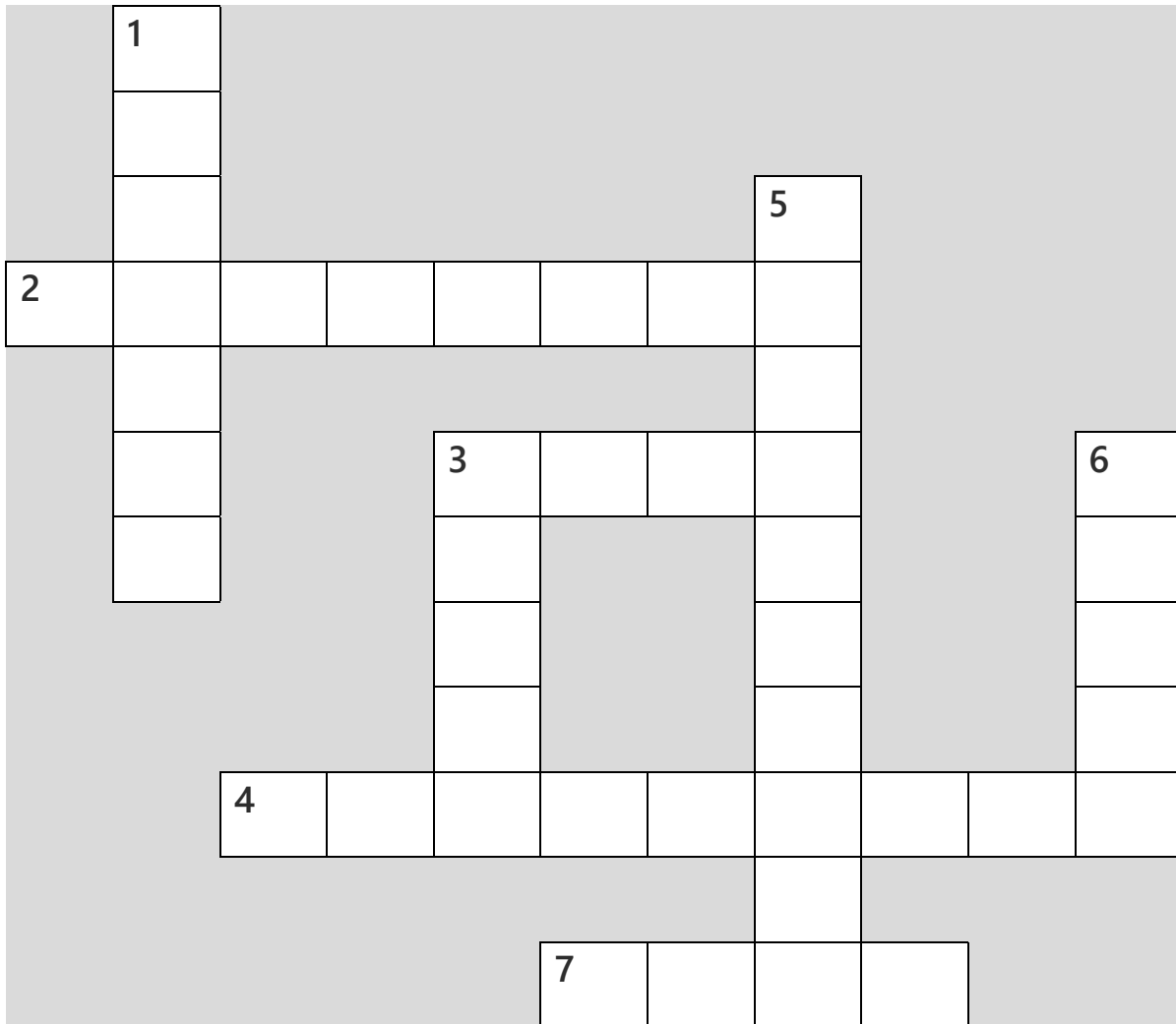
Simon's fishing boat

In 1986, the remains of an ancient boat were found half-buried in mud on the shores of Lake Galilee. Scientific tests have showed that the boat came from around the time when Jesus lived in the first century AD. It is probably very similar to Simon's fishing boat. The boat is 8 metres long (about the same as a bus) and 2.5 metres wide and was powered by a sail. Fishermen like Simon would have dragged a big net behind the boat and then pulled it in over the side when it was full of fish.

Draw Simon and Jesus and the nets full of fish onto this picture of Simon's fishing boat and colour it in.



Crossword



- 1 down One of the names for the lake Jesus and Simon caught the fish on.
- 2 across What Simon became because he had met Jesus, a d_____.
- 3 down One of Simon's friends, who helped him with the huge catch of fish.
- 3 across The other of Simon's friends who helped him.
- 4 across Simon's job.
- 5 down The other name of the lake in the Bible story.
- 6 down The name of the man whose boat Jesus got into.
- 7 across What Simon used to catch the fish in.

Some questions to think about or discuss as a family

How do you think Peter felt after fishing all night long and not catching any fish?
Why do you think that he agreed to go and try again when Jesus asked him to?

At the end of this story, Simon leaves everything behind him and has a new beginning following Jesus. What are the good and bad things about starting something new?

Are you better at starting something new or at finishing something which you have started?

What do you think that Peter might have learned by being a disciple of Jesus?