



Volume 12, Issue 4

August & September 2023

## School Time!

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## You Can Do It!

*[Paul and Barnabas] returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.*

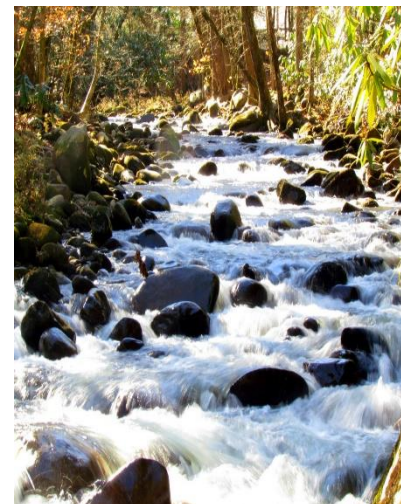
Acts 14:21-22

Encouragement is like oxygen – we can't live without it. This was true for nine-year-old James Savage. The boy swam more than two miles from the San Francisco shoreline to Alcatraz Island and back, breaking the record for the youngest person to accomplish the feat. But thirty minutes into the swim, the choppy, frigid waters made James want to quit. However, a fleet of paddlers called out, "You can do it!" The words gave him the boost he needed to finish his goal.

When the choppy, frigid waters of tribulation made believers in Jesus want to give up, Paul and Barnabas encouraged them to continue their journey. After the apostles preached the gospel in the city of Derbe, they "returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith." (Acts 14:21-22) They helped the believers to remain firm in their faith in Jesus. Troubles had weakened them, but words of encouragement strengthened their resolve to live for Christ. In God's strength, they realized they could keep pressing on. Finally, Paul and Barnabas helped them understand that they would "go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." (v. 22)

Living for Jesus can be difficult, and we're sometimes tempted to give up. Fortunately, Jesus and fellow believers in Him can provide the encouragement we need to press on. With Him, we can do it!

By: Marvin Williams



## What About a False Conversion...?



Over the years, I have had the wonderful experience of leading individuals to Jesus Christ. It's the most rewarding and exhilarating experience we can have as Christians. As wonderful as that experience is, too often I have seen some unfortunate long-term responses of those apparent conversion experiences. What I mean is, I have seen people led to the Lord through the sharing of the Gospel message with ready acceptance to have Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, only to find that it didn't "stick." They showed an initial acceptance of their new found faith, then often several weeks later, or even a few days later, you discover that nothing really has changed in their life - this troubles me. I spoke about this with my wife, Shelly about this disturbing occurrence, and decided to investigate this strange phenomenon of what marks a genuine conversion from a false profession, and why, when one comes to Christ in acceptance, that it really does not appear to be real.

I remember such great verses like, "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*" Acts 16:31. Or "*If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved*" Romans 10: 9-10. So, what happens when this supposed acceptance occurs and yet the person has not changed? Doesn't God promise that salvation comes to those who ask? And yet many go right back to their old life, don't read their Bibles, don't go to church, and continue to practice sin?

With this nagging question over the years, I put myself into the task of looking at those verses with a little more care and study to find out that the problem wasn't with God's Word, but my lack of knowledge with what that word really says. First, let's look at this passage again: "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*" Acts 16:31. The answer here is given underneath the surface of the text and involves that little word "believe." The Scripture is saying that when one believes on the Lord, that belief is so much more than our English word can describe. The word for believe in the Bible is the Greek word "*pistos*" or "*pisteuo*." It is not the idea of belief that you and I have come to know. *Pistos* involves several elements that when taken together, explain what is really happening to an individual. We owe a great debt to the Reformers who have taken this word and explained its significance.

The Reformers looked at faith by using three Latin words to fully understand what saving faith is. The first is *notitia*. This is the idea of knowledge of propositions. This is the content of the gospel. *Notitia* has to do with the intellect. The next word is *assensus*. This also has to do with the intellect. It is the acknowledgement of the *notitia*. That is to say, it is to acknowledge the truth of the gospel, the propositions of the gospel. These are both intellectual activities. Believe it or not, these two words are where many professing Christians are. They have the understanding and the acceptance of the gospel, but don't have the critical third element that the word believe holds. The third Latin word is what equals a true regeneration (salvation). It is the word *fiducia*, which literally means "trust," but it is the idea of comprehending the *notitia*, the truth of the gospel. It is an act of the will that appropriates personally the truth of the gospel. Sometimes it's described as whole-person trust in the gospel. It's where a complete change occurs within the soul of the professor of faith. It marks a changed life that thinks and acts differently. It is the "fruit" that Jesus mentioned about one who is a genuine believer in Matthew 7:15-20. *Fiducia* is where the Holy Spirit has taken up residence within the person and shows itself in what we call the three signs of a regenerated life.

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These three signs are –

1. **A love (a passion) to take in God’s Word.** The desire to read the Bible and take in its truth just like you would with physical food for your body

*“I have not failed the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” Job 23:12*

That means that I cannot go without the daily reading of the Bible any more than I can skip food for a day.

2. **A passion for meeting weekly in church to hear God’s Word taught and fellowship.** A regenerated individual *cannot stay away* from the opportunity to grow in their faith through the preaching and teaching of the Bible. They cannot miss the sweet fellowship of meeting with other believers who care for them, encourage them, hold them accountable, and become members of their spiritual family.

*“Let us not neglect our meeting together, as other people do, and is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25*

Sunday mornings are the most targeted time in a person’s life. Church attendance is the simplest way to test a genuine conversion, because they cannot stay away. It is an inner determination that cannot be driven away.

3. **An inward conviction of sin in my own life.** A true believer will never tolerate the acceptance of sin in their lives. They will hate it when it is committed. They will strive to keep it out of their lives. They don’t and won’t make excuses for their sin, but will see it for what it really is. When confronted, they will respond in humility.

*“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity.” Psalm 32: 3-5*

These three signs help us to determine when there is a true conversion in a life. The other passage we saw - *“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”* - deals with the same wording principle, *“believe in your heart.”* This pistos is rooted in the heart and shows itself in the natural outflow of confession. Confession that Jesus is now the sole authority of my life...He lords over my life in all that I do.

So, at the end of the day, only God Himself knows when a conversion is real. Sharing and leading one to Christ is still our responsibility regardless of the immediate results. We pray that God will change those souls that we encounter through the faithfulness of His chosen instruments. We are reminded of the words of Scripture in regard to salvation,

*“We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.” 1 Corinthians 3: 5-9.*



# GOD IS LIKE TELEVISION COMMERCIALS

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asks her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God.

Here are some results:

**God is like.**

BAYER ASPIRIN  
He works miracles

**God is like.**

A FORD  
He's got a better idea

**God is like.**

COKE  
He's the real thing

**God is like.**

HALLMARK CARDS  
He cares enough to  
send His very best

**God is like.**

TIDE  
He gets the stains out that  
others leave behind

**God is like.**

GENERAL ELECTRIC  
He brings good things to life

**God is like.**

ALKA-SELTZER  
Try Him, you'll like Him

**God is like.**

SCOTCH TAPE  
You can't see Him, but you know  
He's there

**God is like.**

DELTA  
He's ready when you are

**God is like.**

ALSTATE  
You're in good hands with Him

**God is like.**

DIAL SOAP  
Aren't you glad you have Him?  
Don't you wish everybody did?

**God is like.**

the U.S. POST OFFICE  
Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet  
nor ice will keep Him from His  
appointed destination

**God is like.**

CHEVEOLET...  
The heartbeat of America

**God is like.**

MAXWELL HOUSE  
Good to the very last drop

**God is like.**

BOUNTY  
He is the quicker picker upper,  
can handle the tough jobs and  
He won't fall apart on you.



TrueStream wireless internet is now available at The Little White Church on the Hill!  
Network: *Woodville Church Guest*  
Password: *christalive*



### INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

The church directory is available online via the **Instant Church Directory** App available through Google Play Store or Apple App Store. To access the app, you must first provide the office with an email address. Then, create an account in the app with the same email provided to the office and create a password. You will then need to verify the account through your email.

To make any changes to your information, such as a new phone number or picture, please submit the change on the app or contact Shelly Werner at the church office.

# In this issue:

## FAITH What is Faith?

Webster's New World College Dictionary defines faith as "unquestioning belief that does not require proof or evidence; unquestioning belief in GOD, religious tenets."



### Thoughts from **BOB,** the **Blacksmith**

#### HOLY BIBLE

Faith is the means by which believers come to God, putting their trust in Him for salvation. God provides believers with the faith needed to believe in Him. *"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God and not by works, so that no one can boast."* Ephesians 2: 8-9

The entire Christian life is lived out on the foundation of faith. Romans 1: 17, Galatians 2: 20.

The Bible gives a short definition of faith in Hebrews 11: 1. In our day to day lives, Christians are assailed on every side by doubt. The Apostle Thomas, when it came to Christ's resurrection, demanded proof. Jesus said in John 20: 27-29 stop doubting and believe.

Speaking only of myself I have witnessed in my short 80 years of life God's awesome truth. If ever a question of doubt arises, find a quiet space and take it to the Lord in prayer!

### WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### August

- 6 Adriana Beckwith & LeeAnna Yates
- 13 Amy Hysell & Mary Helmus
- 20 Marilyn Davis & Renee Frantz
- 27 DeeAnn Ruiter & Char Yonker

#### September

- 3 Sharon Stieg & Karen White
- 10 Kim Schaefer & Sue Walta
- 17 Lynda Kolehouse & Jenna Minor
- 24 Nancy Eveland & Amy Hysell

**Thank you, ladies, for your service in caring for these little ones.**

*If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Karen White 231-519-9488 as soon as possible.*



Answers to Activity Page Puzzle (page 10)	Down:	7 Stoning
Across:	1 Jailer	5 Earthquake
6 Storm	3 Barnabas	2 Jail
8 Island	4 Letters	7 Stoning

# August 2023



## Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICE  
10:00 a.m.

## Tuesday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
7:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
9:30 a.m.

## Wednesday

NIGHT SERVICE  
6:30 p.m.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

BOARD MEETING  
6:00 p.m.



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Greeters for August:</b> Marilyn Davis & Gene Fisher		<b>1</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	<b>2</b> WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>3</b> Praise Team practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study Men's Monthly Bible Study	<b>9</b> WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>10</b> Praise Team practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	<b>16</b> WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>17</b> Praise Team practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>21</b> <i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>22</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	<b>23</b> WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>24</b> Praise Team practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	<b>30</b> WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>31</b> Praise Team practice		

## August Birthdays

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Linda Berkompas | 19 Kurt Ruiter    |
| 4 Ken Kacel       | 19 Ed Gray        |
| 12 Darlene Hahn   | 23 Betty Sutton   |
| 12 Tim Derks      | 23 Trever Hysell  |
| 12 Pete Alley     | 23 Isaiah Davison |
| 16 Jenna Minor    | 24 Joyce Patrick  |
| 16 Scott Carter   | 29 Brad Baar      |
| 16 Duke VanderArk | 29 Dave Maring    |



## August Anniversaries

- |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 Randy & Amanda Hahn    | 22 Gary & Jackie Teja               |
| 7 Paul & Pattie Morse    | 26 Bill & Sue Walta (51 years)      |
| 10 Chuck & Renee Hanlon  | 28 Bob & Marge Shoemaker            |
| 14 Bill & Sylvia Edwards | 28 Al & Karen White                 |
| 15 Ed & Paula Gray       | 30 Larry & Joyce Patrick (66 years) |



# September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday</b> Greeters for September: Phil & Chris Rottman WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Sunday school 11:45 a.m.					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	<b>4</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>5</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study	<b>6</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>7</b> Praise Team practice	<b>8</b> Church Camp Out	<b>9</b> Church Camp Out
<b>Monday</b> <b>(1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b> LADIES AID BIBLE STUDY 10:00 A.M.		<b>10</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>11</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study W.Y.M Men's Evening Bible study	<b>12</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>13</b> Praise Team practice	<b>14</b> Praise Team practice
<b>Tuesday</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 a.m. LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:30 a.m.	<b>17</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study W.Y.M	<b>20</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>21</b> Praise Team practice	<b>22</b> Praise Team practice
<b>Wednesday</b> AWANA 6:00 P.M. NIGHT SERVICE 6:30 p.m. <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b> BOARD MEETING 6:00 p.m.	<b>24</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study W.Y.M	<b>27</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>28</b> Praise Team practice	<b>29</b> Praise Team practice
					<b>30</b>	

## September Anniversaries

- 3 Jim & Sharon Stieg
- 8 Jim & Stacy Edewaard
- 10 Gary & Renee Frantz
- 13 Vic & Linda Berkompas (55 years)
- 22 Tim & Renee Cook
- 27 Dave & Lynda Kolehouse

## September Birthdays

- 2 Ann Workman
- 6 Barb Atkins
- 6 Kim Schaefer
- 11 Larry Patrick
- 20 Dennis Helmus
- 22 Nancy Eveland
- 22 Polly Byers
- 25 LeeAnna Yates
- 26 Dave Yonker
- 27 Sue Walta

Items on this calendar are subject to change

# Food For Thought...

## Tater Tot Casserole with Beef, Corn & Zucchini

### Active Time:

30 mins

### Total Time:

45 mins



### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 medium zucchini, shredded
- 1 ½ cups chopped tomatoes, divided
- 1 cup corn kernels
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, divided
- 2 cups frozen tater or veggie tots
- Cooking spray
- Chopped chives for garnish

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450°F.
2. Heat oil in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef and onion. Cook, breaking up the beef with a wooden spoon, until the onion is soft and the beef is no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Add zucchini, 1 cup tomatoes, corn, chili powder, Worcestershire and salt; cook, stirring, until the zucchini has begun to release its liquid, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle with flour and cook, stirring, until the liquid has thickened, about 1 minute more. Remove from heat.
3. Spread the mixture into an even layer. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup cheese and arrange tots evenly over the cheese. Coat the tots with cooking spray. Transfer the pan to the oven.
4. Bake for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/2 cup cheese and bake until the cheese is melted and the tots are golden brown, about 5 minutes more. Top with the remaining 1/2 cup tomatoes and garnish with chives, if desired.

## Double Layer Pumpkin Cheesecake

This pumpkin cheesecake is a great alternative to traditional cheesecake — especially for pumpkin pie fans! A thick, creamy cheesecake base topped with a layer of spiced pumpkin cheesecake filling sits on a graham cracker crust in this easy layered holiday dessert. Two flavors of cheesecake in every bite! Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or a dollop of whipped cream.



### Prep Time:

20 mins

### Cook Time:

35 mins

### Additional Time:

4 hrs

### Total Time:

4 hrs 55 mins

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
2. Make cheesecake layer: Beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, blending well after each addition.
3. Spread 1 cup batter in the graham cracker crust.
4. Make pumpkin layer: Add pumpkin puree, cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg to the remaining batter; stir gently until well blended.
5. Carefully spread on top of plain cheesecake batter in the crust.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until the edges are puffed and the surface is firm except for a small spot in the center that jiggled when the pan is gently shaken, 35 to 40 minutes.
7. Remove from the oven, set on a wire rack, and cool to room temperature, 1 to 2 hours.
8. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours before serving, preferably overnight.

### Ingredients

#### Cheesecake Layer:

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust

#### Pumpkin Layer:

- ½ cup pumpkin puree
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch ground cloves, or more to taste
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg, or more to taste



**“...A merry heart doeth good like a medicine...”**

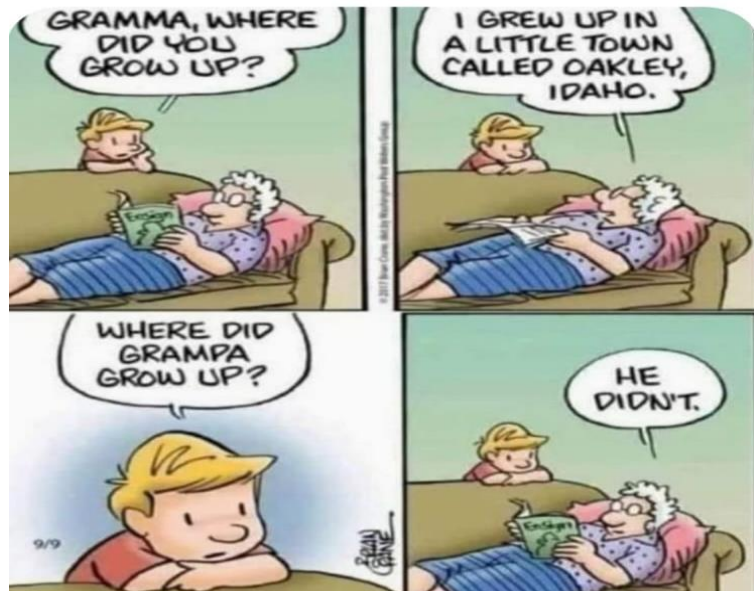
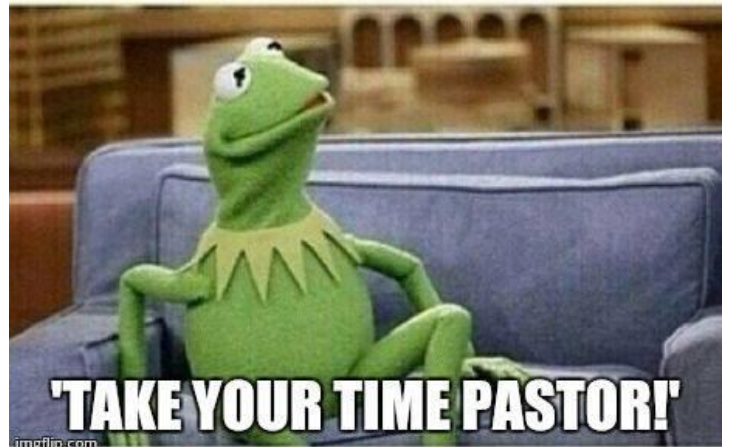
The biggest lie I tell myself is  
“I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”



I would eat healthy, but then I remember that time Eve ate an apple and doomed all of humanity, so I'd better not risk it.



**THE LOOK YOU GIVE WHEN YOUR PASTOR HAS ALREADY ENDED THE SERMON 5 TIMES & SOMEONE YELLS**

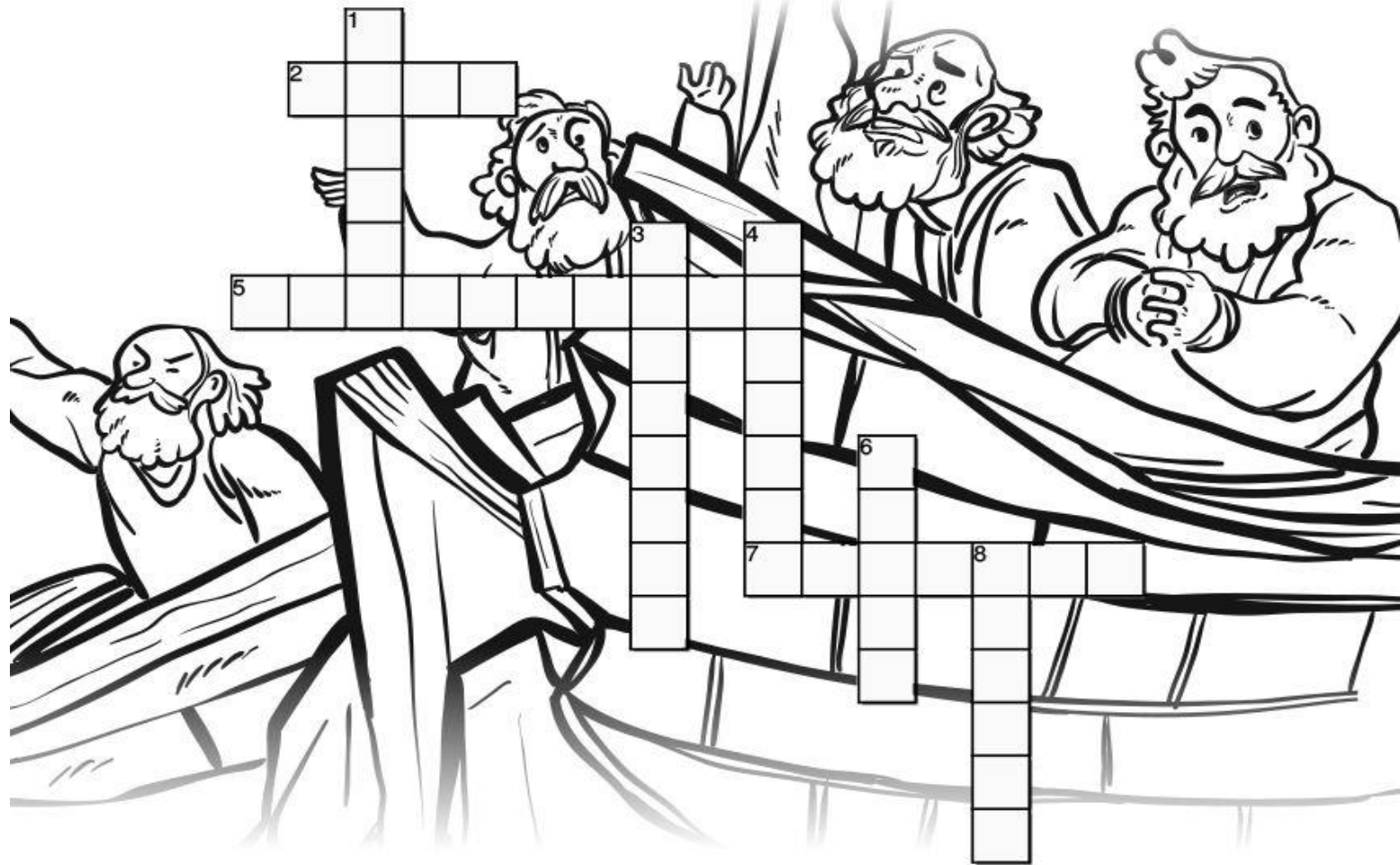


Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

# ACTIVITY PAGE

## THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF PAUL

### Book of Acts



#### Across

2. Paul and Silas were put into \_\_\_\_\_ for preaching.
5. When Paul and Silas sang and prayed, an \_\_\_\_\_ shook the prison and opened all the doors and chains.
7. The religious leaders in Lystra stirred up lies, which led to them \_\_\_\_\_ Paul, just as they did to Stephen, but God saved Paul's life.

#### Down

1. Paul saved the \_\_\_\_\_ by convincing him not to take his own life, and then by sharing Jesus with him and his whole family.
3. In the city of Lystra, Paul and his friend \_\_\_\_\_ were preaching about Jesus.
4. Paul's (**Letters**) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible, and teach us about Jesus.
6. Paul's ship crashed into rocks during a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Paul preached the gospel even while stranded on a tiny \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers on page 5

