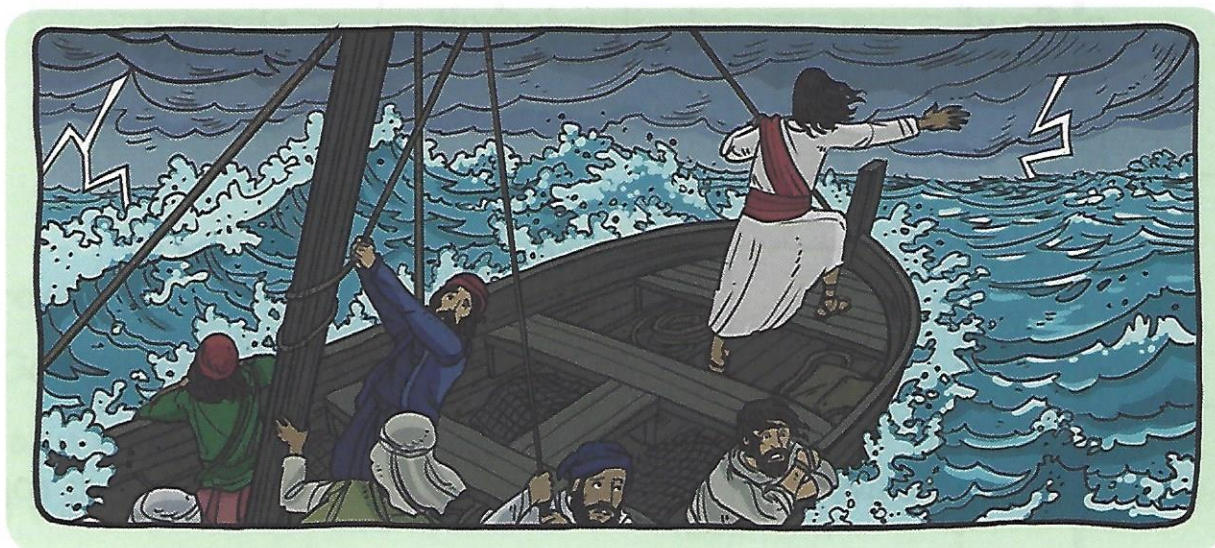



# Jesus Helps Us Always



## Prayer

Jesus, be good to me.  
The sea is so big,  
and my boat is so small.  
Amen.

*(Breton Fisherman's Prayer, Anonymous)*



Choose the correct answer. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line in front of the statement.

\_\_\_\_ 1. Jesus got into the boat. His \_\_\_\_ were with him.

- a. enemies                      b. disciples                      c. parents

\_\_\_\_ 2. Suddenly a fierce \_\_\_\_ hit the lake.

- a. flood                              b. thunderbolt                      c. storm

\_\_\_\_ 3. Jesus was \_\_\_\_.

- a. awake                              b. asleep                              c. fishing

\_\_\_\_ 4. The disciples \_\_\_\_.

- a. let him sleep                      b. woke him up                      c. threw him a rope

\_\_\_\_ 5. The disciples said, " \_\_\_\_!"

- a. Don't worry, Lord                      b. We'll be okay, Lord                      c. Save us, Lord

\_\_\_\_ 6. Jesus said, "What little \_\_\_\_ you have."

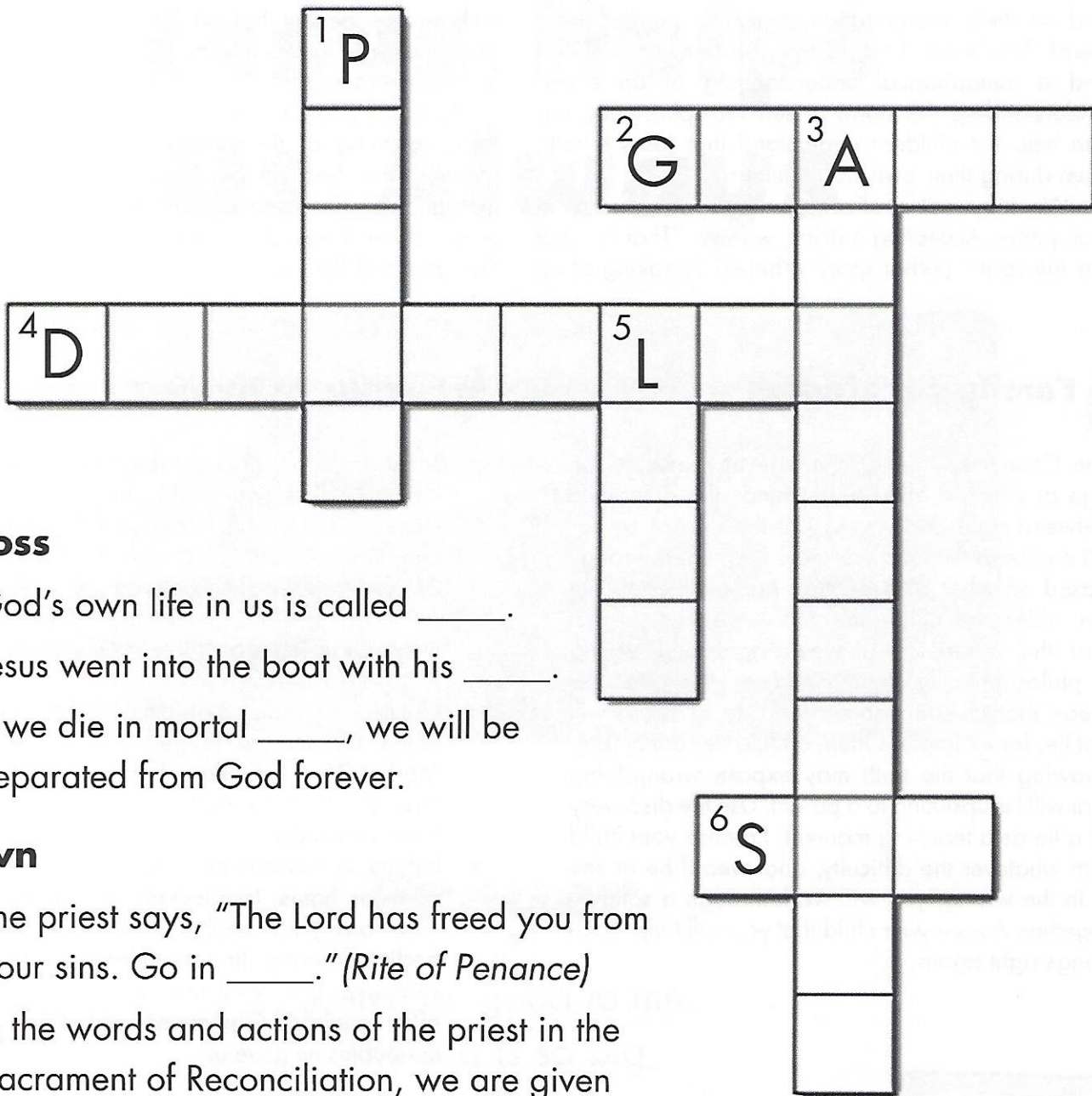
- a. love                                      b. hope                                      c. faith

\_\_\_\_ 7. They asked, "What kind of \_\_\_\_ is this?"

- a. God                                      b. teacher                                      c. man

Fill in the words to complete the puzzle:

peace    sin    disciples    life    absolution    grace



**Across**

- 2. God's own life in us is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Jesus went into the boat with his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. If we die in mortal \_\_\_\_\_, we will be separated from God forever.

**Down**

- 1. The priest says, "The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in \_\_\_\_\_." (*Rite of Penance*)
- 3. In the words and actions of the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are given forgiveness of sins, or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Jesus is with us all of our \_\_\_\_\_.

[The quotation on page 3 of this activity booklet is from *Rite of Penance* © 1974, International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL], number 47, found in *The Rites of Penance*, volume one, prepared by the ICEL, a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences [Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1990]. Copyright © 1990 by the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN. Used with permission of the ICEL. Texts contained in this work derived whole or in part from liturgical texts copyrighted by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL] have been published here with the confirmation of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. No other texts in this work have been formally reviewed or approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.]

# Family Page



## Background Focus

The brains of second-graders are still developing, and so their interpretation of events is often very literal. This lesson bridges the gap between a literal and a metaphorical understanding of an event. Understanding the storm at sea metaphorically, we can help the children understand that Jesus is with them during their own stormy times.

We may not realize how often we speak in metaphors. Accepting a drink, we say: "Thanks. That hits the spot." (What spot? Where?) Speaking of an

obstacle we have encountered, perhaps a difficulty with another person that was resolved, we say, "She gave me a run for my money." (This metaphor comes from horse racing.)

In today's lesson, with its scriptural account of Jesus' calming of the sea, we see Jesus actually quieting the Sea of Galilee—but this is also a metaphor for his presence and help with us always, especially in times of trouble, and especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



## Family Strategies

The Church has fixed "the age of reason"—the age at which a child understands the difference between right and wrong—at the age of seven. Of course, even toddlers know "right and wrong" based on what pleases their parents or not. But the older the child, the more we can expect that the difference between right and wrong is philosophically clear. However, this does not mean that children above the age of seven will not lie, for example. Often, a child lies out of fear, knowing that the truth may expose wrongdoing that will be upsetting to a parent. Use the discovery of a lie as a teaching moment. Promise your child that whatever the difficulty, and even if he or she is in the wrong, you will work through a solution together. Assure your child that you will help make things right again.



## Family Activities

- Make time to visit a nearby lake, marina, or wharf so that your child can see boats up close. Some city or state parks have boats available for rent, like canoes or rowboats.
- Review together the Featured Story on page 1468 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*, "Jesus Helps Us in Times of Trouble" (Matthew 8:23–27). Together watch the YouTube video "Jesus Calms the Storm," by KidsHubTV (2:09). This video follows the longer version found in Mark 4:35–41. Explain that Jesus will help us through all of life, both in good times and in times of trouble.
- Initiate a conversation about family safety rules at home (particularly in the kitchen), near backyard pools, in the car, or near bodies of water. (In recreational boating, for example, life vests are recommended and often required.) God expects us to take care of the bodies he gave us.

## Pray It!

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

**Jesus, be good to me.**

**The sea is so big, and my boat is so small.**

**Amen. (Breton Fisherman's Prayer, Anonymous)**

