

GRADES  
K-6

# BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

*Biblical Virtues*

**Printable Lesson Kit**



**M** **GHTY MESSAGES**

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# BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

## LESSON OVERVIEW

### BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

This Lesson on the Apostle John will show that despite his age (He was the youngest of the disciples and possibly a teen.), he was bold and courageous with a great love for Jesus. Passages included in the lesson help build a picture of John's life with Jesus and how he took courageous steps to show support for Jesus, steps none of the other disciples would take collectively.

#### How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



#### MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Courage Cards (game)
- Basket (game)
- Scissors (game)
- Prize (optional) (game)
- Paper Bags (craft)
- White Paper or Cardstock (craft)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

# BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

## SCRIPTURE & LESSON

### PASSAGE (NIV): VARIOUS FROM THE BOOK OF JOHN

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:

#### Background:



The following passages are meant to give a broad overview of John's relationship with Jesus and show why he was special. Note that Disciple John, in his Gospel of John, always refers to himself as "a disciple" or "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and not by his name or the pronoun "I". To help identify people clearly, their names have been inserted in brackets. John the Disciple is not to be confused with John the Baptist, who was Jesus' relative and had the first ministry.

#### John 1:35-39: *Jesus and John the Disciple's first meeting:*



<sup>35</sup> The next day John [the Baptist] was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples [John and Andrew] heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

<sup>39</sup> "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

#### Mark 3:17: *Jesus' feelings about John and his brother:*

James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he [Jesus] gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder")

#### Luke 9:52-55: *John acting like a "son of thunder:"*

<sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him [Jesus], because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then he and his disciples went to another village.



**John 19:25-27:** *At the foot of the cross*

<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved [John] standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**John 20:1-9:** *On Resurrection Sunday*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

## Questions for Children

**1. John the Disciple met Jesus by first being a disciple of John the Baptist. After John the Disciple witnessed Jesus' baptism, what did he then do that showed initiative and perhaps some nerve?** *He followed after Jesus along with Andrew. Did Jesus tell them he was too busy or too important to spend any time with them? No. What did Jesus say instead? Come and see where I'm staying, and they hung out all afternoon.*

**2. Jesus had a nickname for John and James, which was "sons of thunder." What do you think the two brothers were like, based on that nickname?** *They "made a lot of noise" and were passionate. They were boisterous, vibrant, and maybe a bit judgmental at first.*

**3. John's faith had actions. He was one of only two disciples who didn't run away at Jesus' arrest. What did he do instead?** *He followed and got Peter and himself into the court of the high priest to watch. He was the only disciple to be present at the crucifixion. What did Jesus ask him to do? Take care of his mother Mary. He was the first disciple to reach the empty tomb after the resurrection. Did he barge right in? No. He stopped and waited for Peter to go in.*



## TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

John was considered to be the disciple closest to the heart of Jesus. He and his brother James were among the first disciples whom Jesus told to follow him. They were the sons of Zebedee, who owned a successful fishing business in Galilee.

During Christ's ministry, John, James, and Simon Peter were the only disciples privileged to watch certain miracles. They included the raising of the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus and witnessing the Transfiguration. Upon Jesus' death, John was told to look after Jesus' mother Mary as if she were his own mother. At the Resurrection, John and Peter ran to the tomb to see if the story Mary Magdalene told them was true. She said she had seen the risen Lord. John was the first to arrive at the empty tomb.

John was younger than the other disciples, possibly a teen. If we want to be like him, we must follow Jesus, even when we feel like a situation is growing anxious. We need to show courage, just as he showed courage to show up at Jesus' trial. He could have been arrested also, but he went anyway. We may not understand what's going on, but we can run to God with the confidence that he has the perfect plan.

John lived to be older than any of the others and was the only apostle not to die a martyr's death. He wrote five books in the Bible, including one gospel, three epistles, and the Revelation.



# BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

## PRINTABLE CRAFT



### MATERIALS:

- Disciple John Puppet Printable Craft File (two pages)
- White Cardstock or White Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paper Bags



### PREPARATION:

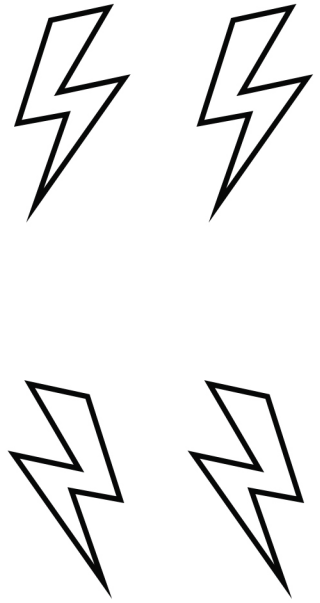
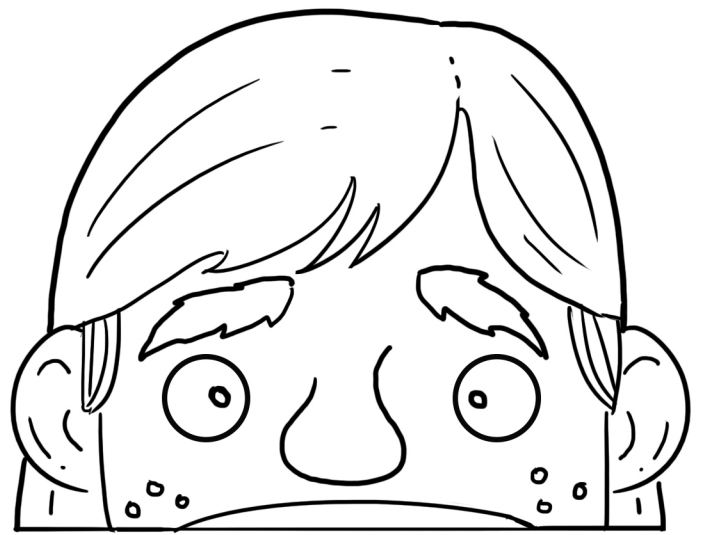
- Print one copy of Disciple John Puppet craft for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Color pages as desired
2. Carefully cut out pieces
3. With the bottom of the paper bag facing up, glue body figure to the bag, matching up the top of the mouth with the fold of the bag. Glue head to the bottom of the Bag, aligning to match body.
4. Glue lightning bolt to the inside of mouth.
5. Insert hand into bag, and open and close mouth to see Disciple John speak as one of the “Sons of Thunder”







### BE LIKE JOHN BIBLE VERSES

Have students think of situations in their lives when they need courage. Use the Bible verse cards to help them put their courage into God's hands like the disciple John - then put it into action.



#### MATERIALS:

- **Courage Cards**
- **Basket**
- **Scissors**
- **Prize (optional)**



#### PREPARATION:

1. Make one copy of the Courage Cards, then cut them individually.
2. Fold and place them in the basket.

#### Introduction:

**John was a favorite disciple of Jesus, probably because he was so courageous for his young age. He went to Jesus' trial when 10 of the disciples had fled. He was the only disciple to show up at the crucifixion. He was the first disciple to reach the empty tomb of Jesus on Easter Sunday. John's faith was action. Let's talk about some situations in your life where you might need courage. Let's use Bible verses to see how we can move forward, like John did.**

#### Instructions:

1. Have students go around and say their situation. Allow each to talk for a couple of minutes and ask questions about others' situations.
2. Have students reach into the basket one at a time and pull a courage scripture, reading it aloud.
3. Ask the student how the card relates to his situation and figure out how to move forward with courage.
4. Take a vote at the end on whose problem brought forth the best ideas. Award a prize if you want to.

# BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

## COURAGE CARDS

Put all the verses into a basket, folded. Have students take turns bringing up situations where they were really nervous or afraid and needed to feel braver. They should then pick a verse and say how it might inspire them to show courage instead. Students can chime in with encouragement or insight.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:9

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”  
Deuteronomy 31:6

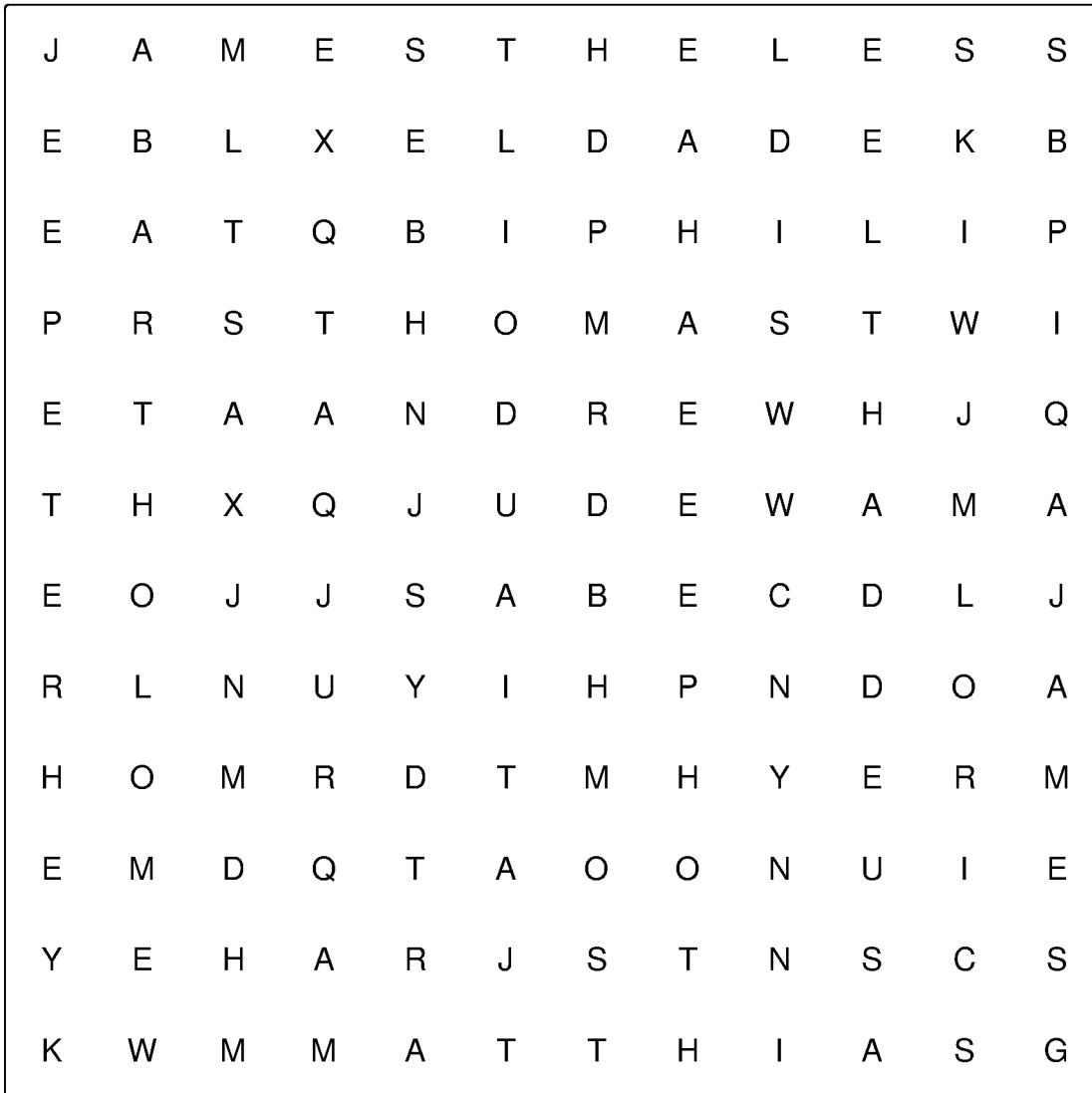
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.  
2 Timothy 1:7

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.  
Philippians 4:13

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.  
Ephesians 6:11-12

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10

**Instructions:** John introduced his older brother to Jesus, and they both became disciples. Below are some of the disciples. There are more than 12 names because some went by two names. As well, Matthias was picked to replace Judas after he betrayed Jesus. Find them in the puzzle below.



### Words to Find:

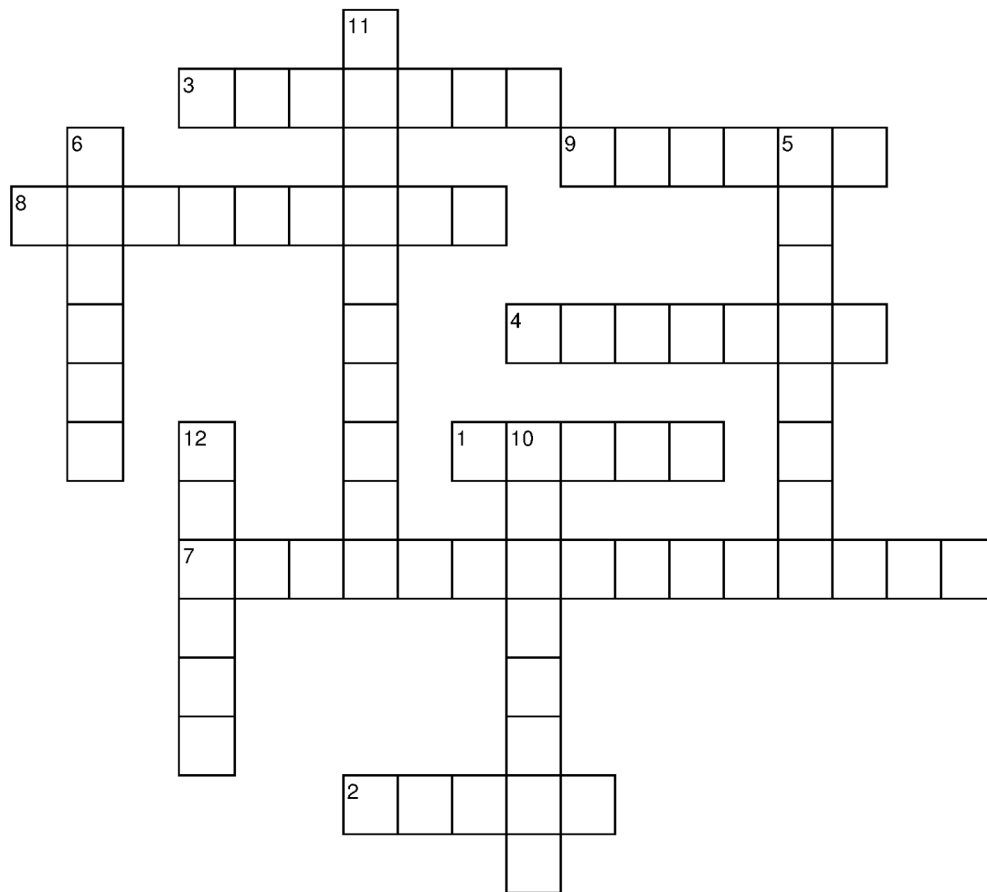
ANDREW  
PETER  
JAMES  
JOHN

PHILIP  
BARTHOLOMEW  
MATTHEW  
THOMAS

JAMESTHELESS  
SIMON  
JUDE  
JUDAS

THADDEUS  
MATTHIAS

**Instructions:** Use your At-A-Glance sheet, All the Facts about Disciple John, to fill in the answers to the crossword below.



### Across

1. John was a favorite of this person
2. Name of John's older brother
3. Name of John's father
4. John's father owned this type of business
7. Where Jesus met with Moses and Elijah
8. This Mary told John she had seen the risen Lord on Resurrection Sunday
9. John is the only apostle not to die as this type of person

### Down

5. John was not the oldest disciple; he was this
6. Man whose daughter Jesus raised from the dead
10. John wrote three of this type of Bible books
11. John was taken up into heaven before writing this Bible book
12. Where John likely wrote the Revelation

Below are some of the interesting facts about John, “the disciple Jesus loved.”  
Become courageous like him by learning about him.

### FACT #1

John was considered to be the disciple closest to the heart of Jesus.

### FACT #2

John and his older brother James were among the first disciples whom Jesus told to follow him.

### FACT #3

John and James were the sons of Zebedee, who owned a successful fishing business in Galilee.

### FACT #4

John was younger than the other disciples, possibly a teen, when he met Jesus.

### FACT #5

John was one of only three disciples allowed in the room when Jesus raised the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus from the dead. His faith was great.

### FACT #6

John was one of the same three disciples allowed to witness the Transfiguration, when Jesus went up on a mountain and spoke with the Old Testament Prophet Elijah as well as Moses.

### FACT #7

When Jesus was dying, he told John to look after Jesus’ mother Mary as if she were his own mother.

### FACT #8

At the Resurrection, John and Peter ran to the tomb to see if the story Mary Magdalene told them was true. She said she had seen the risen Lord. John was the first reach the empty tomb.

### FACT #9

John lived to be older than any of the others and was the only apostle not to die a martyr’s death.

### FACT #10

John wrote five New Testament books: The Gospel of John, the Epistles of 1 John, 2 John and 3 John, and the Revelation. He is thought to have written them all between 80 and 95 AD.

### FACT #11

John was taken up into heaven before writing the Revelation. He is the only apostle to have had this experience.

### FACT #12

John is thought to have written the Book of Revelation while imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos. It is basically a giant rock with little vegetation, great winds, and little hope. He was either released or escaped, as he died a few years later as a free man.



**Scriptures to Read:** John 1:35-39, Mark 3:17, Luke 9:52-55, John 18:15-16, John 19:25-27, John 20:1-9



### This Week We Learned About ...

Jesus' disciple John, who wrote the Gospel of John and refuses to refer to himself by name. John shows us that despite his age (he was the youngest of the disciples and possibly a teen), he was bold and courageous with a great love for Jesus. Passages included in the lesson help build a picture of John's life with Jesus and how he took courageous steps to show support for Jesus, steps none of the other disciples would take collectively.



#### ✓ Questions for Kids:

1. What was John's brother's name? **A. James**
2. What were John and his brother called by Jesus as a nickname? **A. Sons of Thunder.**
3. John also refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus \_\_\_\_\_? **A. Loved**

#### ✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

John was courageous and took brave steps to support Jesus and stay with him. Think of a time you supported a friend or felt supported by a friend. Tell the story and include your feelings about the events.

Some of Jesus' closest friends were too afraid to be seen with him in the final days of his life. Have you ever been afraid to do the right thing for fear of being laughed at or even injured? Discuss what happened and how to be like John in this situations.

#### Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



*When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved [John] standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. **John 19:26-27***



*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **2 John 15:12***



*A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for times of adversity. **Proverbs 17:17***

# BE COURAGEOUS LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN

## QUIZ

**Instructions:** Write out the scripture, then answer the journal question below. Find the answers to the mini-puzzles, and then draw the picture, answering the question.

Write out the following Bible verse: *John 18:15-16*

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John must have been scared when he saw Jesus that the same fate could befall him. Yet he forced his feet forward to go to the trial out of his love for Jesus. Think of something you could do for Jesus where you would have to force your feet forward. Say whether you'd be willing to do it.

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**Fill in the squares:** John watched Jesus meet with these two famous Old Testament heroes at the Transfiguration

\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_

**Decode the secret words:** Deborah's prophecy to Barack in Judges 4:9 hinted at the fact that Sisera would be?

**ARMY DLENEGAMA**

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Draw yourself with the Apostle John. If you could ask him any question, what would it be?

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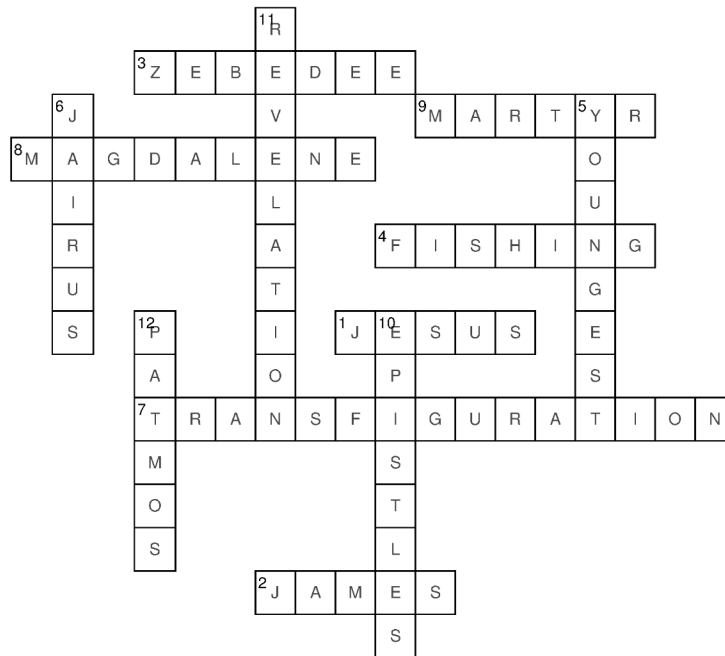
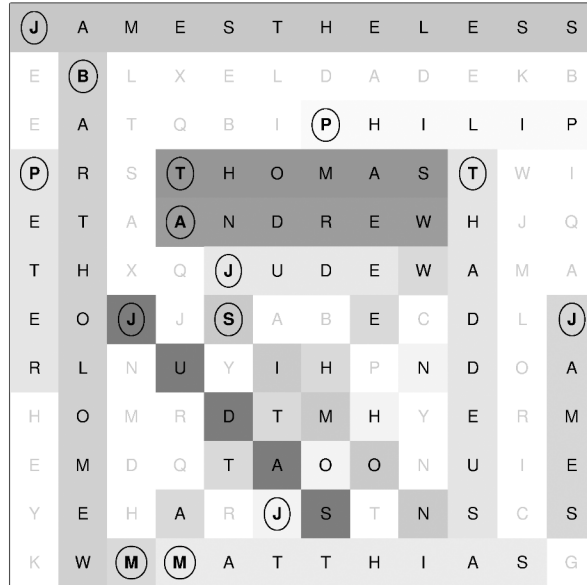
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**Teacher's QUIZ ANSWERS in order:**

- 1) MOSES AND ELIJAH
- 2) MARY MAGDALENE

**BE COURAGEOUS**  
**LIKE THE DISCIPLE JOHN**

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**



*Biblical Virtues*

**NAME:**

**DATE:**