

Let's go!

*Jesus is tempted in the desert and chooses his helpers, from Matthew 4,
Mark 1, Luke 4–6*

AFTER JESUS WAS BAPTIZED, he went straight out into the desert. That might seem like an odd place to go because, as you know, deserts are very hot, and there isn't any food or water or places to stay. But Jesus needed to get away by himself and be somewhere quiet and lonely. He needed to be with his heavenly Father to get ready for his new life.

In the desert, Jesus thought about the Secret Rescue Plan he had made with God. Before the foundation of the world, they both knew what would have to happen. To rescue God's children, Jesus would have to die. There was no other way. It was the reason he had come.

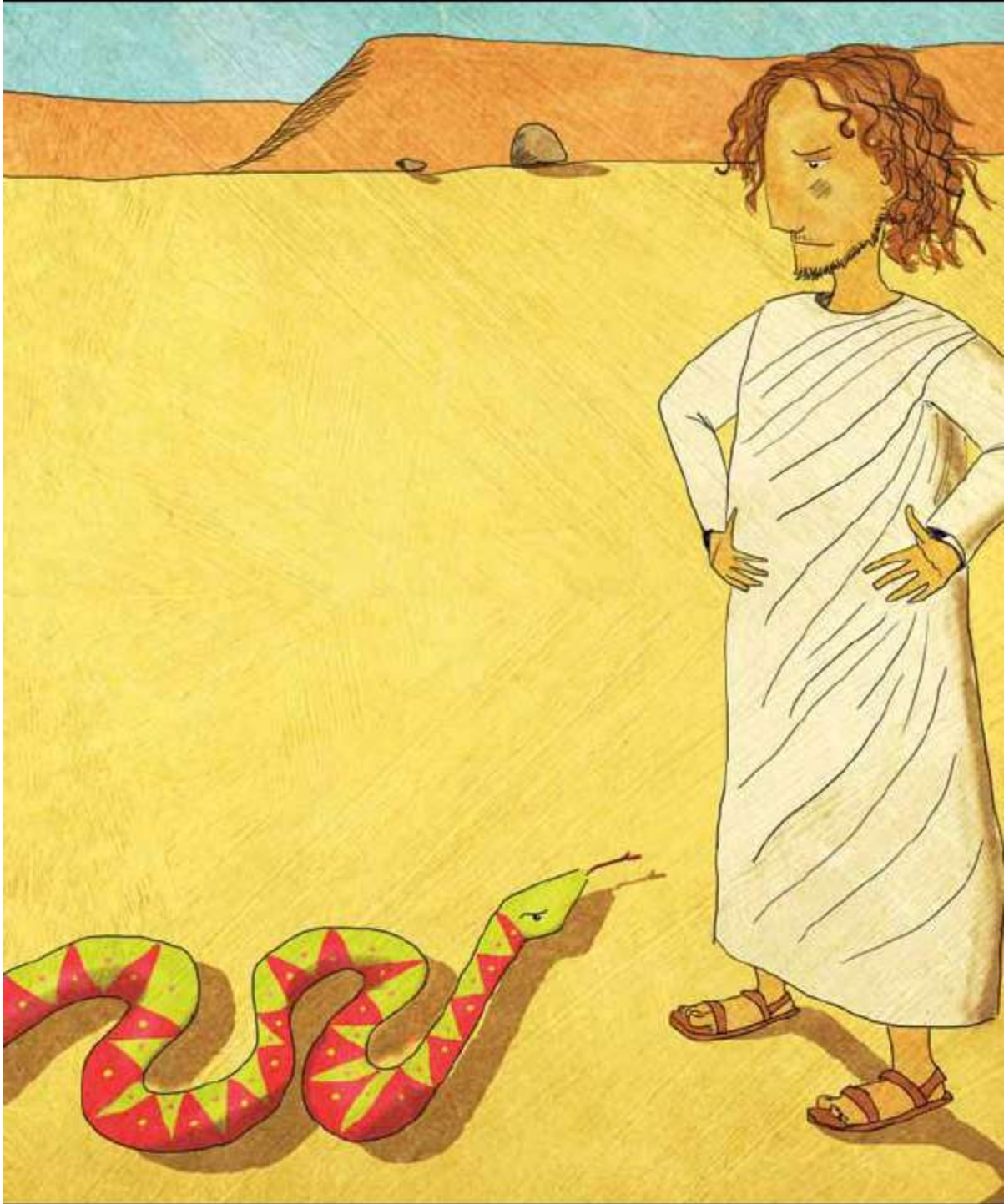
Now, that old enemy—the one who had spoken through the snake to Adam and Eve, back in the garden, remember him?—he didn't want Jesus to rescue God's people. So he lied to Jesus. “Are you really God's own Son?” he whispered. “Poor you. God must not love you. You don't need to die. Do it my way Yes and—”

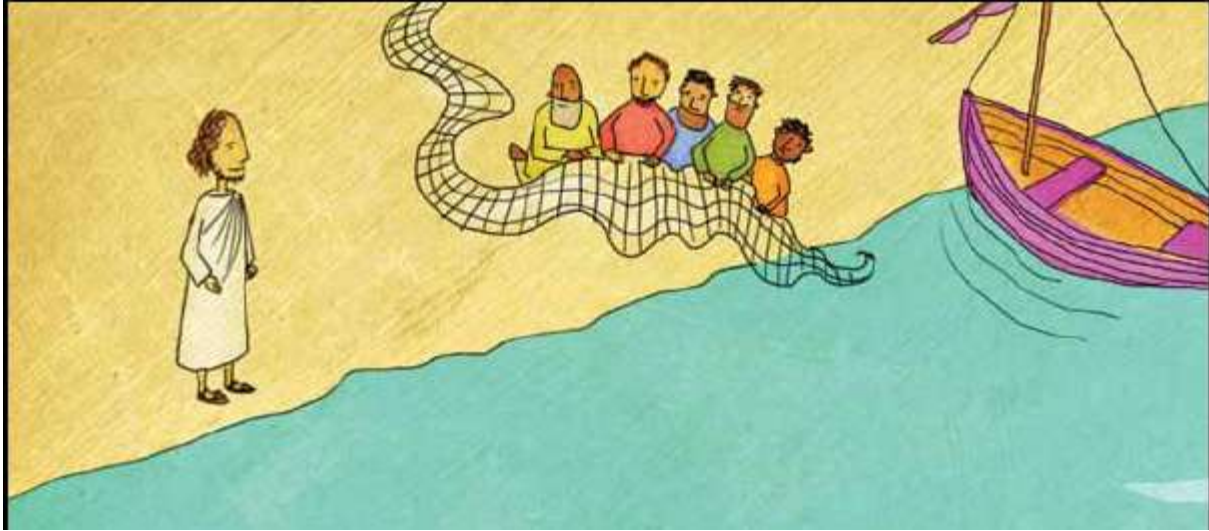
“No!” Jesus said to the liar. “I will do what God says.”

And from that moment on, nothing would ever be the same.

Jesus wasn't like Adam. Jesus was a new kind of man. He would not believe the terrible lie that the enemy spoke. Jesus knew God loved him. And he would trust God. No matter what.

It was just as God had promised to Adam and Eve all those years before. Jesus had come to do battle against the snake's work. He would get rid of the sin and the darkness and the tears. And he would suffer—but he would win.





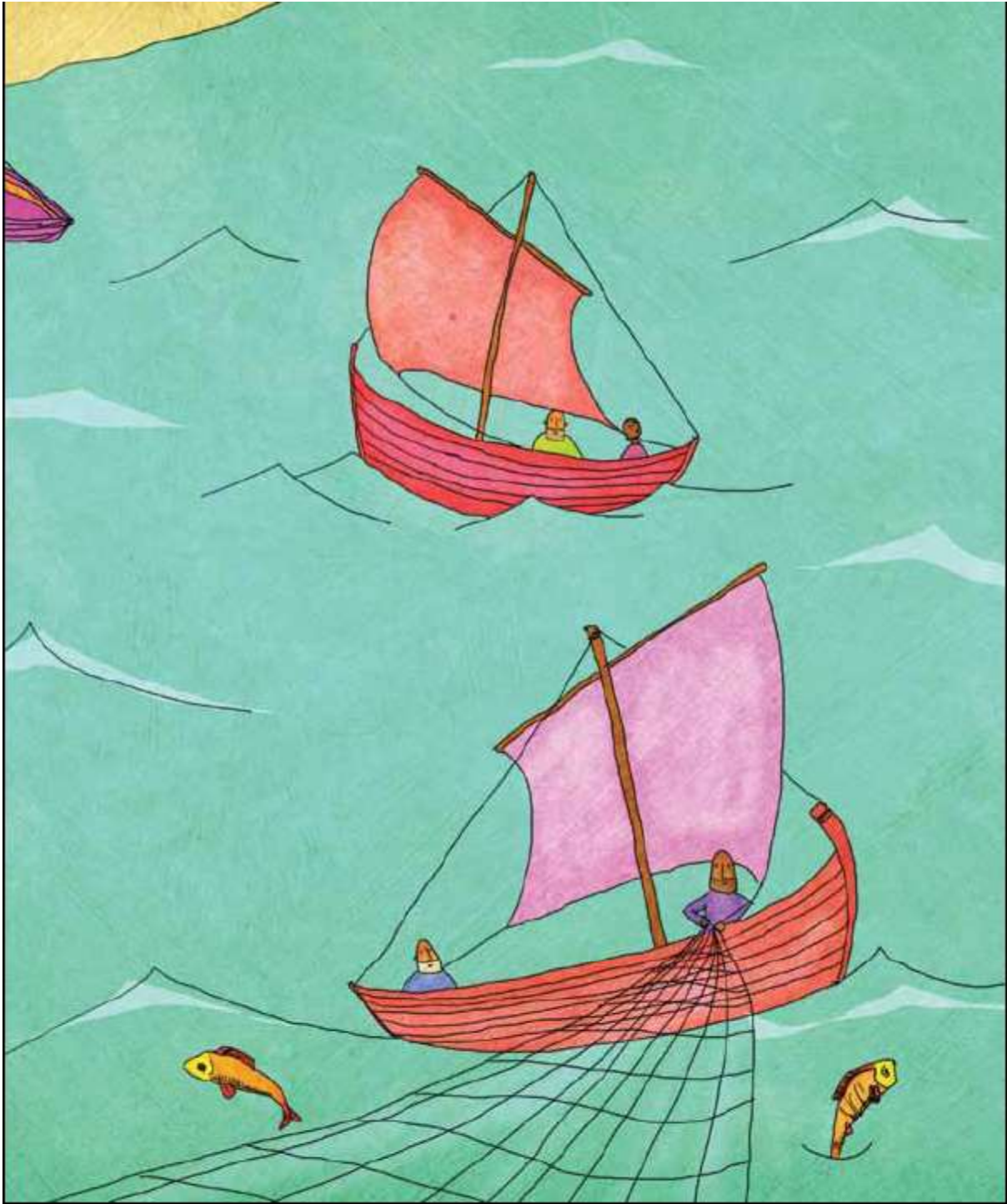
Jesus left the desert and set about the Great Rescue. He was going to get God's people back.

But first he needed to find some helpers and friends. He had a lot to do. He would need some people to help him.

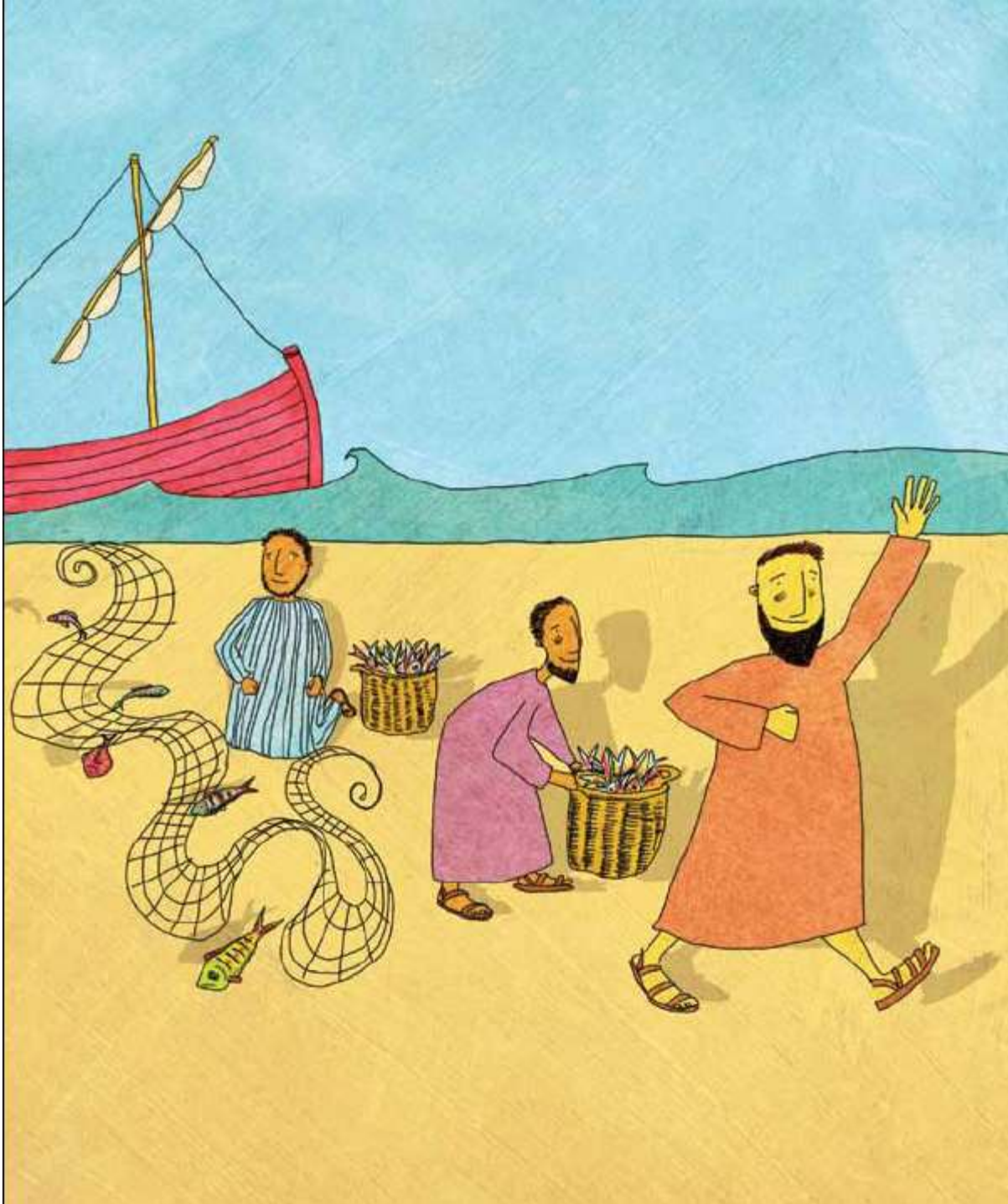
Who would make good helpers, do you think? Clever ones? Rich ones? Strong, important ones? Some people might think so, but I'm sure by now you don't need me to tell you they'd be wrong. Because the people God uses don't have to know a lot of things, or have a lot of things—they just have to need him a lot.

One day, Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when he saw some brothers and friends mending their nets. They were poor fishermen.

Jesus called out to them, "Let's go!"



Peter, Andrew, James, and John looked up at this man on the shore. And they couldn't explain it: their boats needed to be put away, their nets needed mending, fish were still wriggling on the shore. But something about this stranger made them just drop their nets and their fish, leave their boats—and everything—and follow him.



This God-Man was like no one they had ever met. When they looked at Jesus, their hearts filled up with a wonderful, forever sort of happiness and inside it was as if they were running free in an open field.

Jesus asked 12 men to be his helpers: Peter, Andrew, James, and John, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, another James, Simon, Thaddaeus,

and Judas.

Meeting Jesus would change all of them forever.

