

Ezra 2.1-70

Willing volunteers

This is a famous poster which first appeared during the first World War.



It's a clever poster because if you pin it up on the wall the man is always pointing at you, no matter where you stand!

Look how much bigger the word **YOU** is compared to the other words!

See if you can find out (or work out) what the name of the man in the poster is.



L _ **R** _ **K** _ **T** _ **H** _ **N** _ **R**

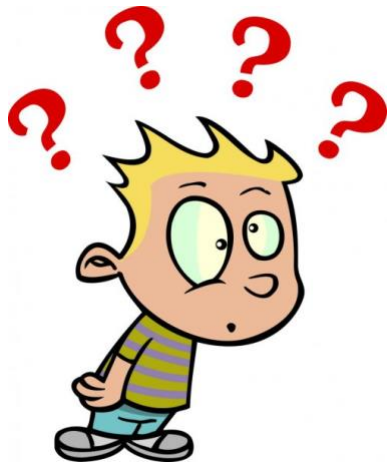
Today's passage is about **choosing**.

Ezra 2

It's a loooooong chapter with a lot of verses!

And it's a long chapter with a lot of **names** and **numbers**!

When you have a read of it you're probably left thinking 'Why is this in the Bible?'



This chapter is really a list of people who **volunteered**.

The king of Persia (Cyrus) wanted people to go back to Judah and build the temple in Jerusalem: and this is a list of the people who put their hand up and said, "Yes, I want to go and do this!"

Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town,² in company with Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah

The list of the men of the people of Israel:

.....

⁵⁹The following came up from the towns of Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer, but they could not show that their families were descended from Israel: ⁶⁰ The descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda - 652

⁶¹And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobiah, Hakkoz and Barzillai (a man who had married a daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name).

⁶²These searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. ⁶³The governor ordered them not to eat any of the most sacred food until there was a priest ministering with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴The whole company numbered 42,360, ⁶⁵besides their 7,337 male and female slaves; and they also had 200 male and female singers. ⁶⁶They had 736 horses, 245 mules, ⁶⁷435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.

⁶⁸When they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. ⁶⁹According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly

⁷⁰The priests, the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the exiles and the rest of the Israelites settled



Here's a page full of questions to get you thinking about choosing!

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Would you rather be able to turn invisible or be able to fly?



WOULD YOU RATHER
be outside all day or stay inside all day?



Would you rather... go to the zoo or the aquarium?



Would you rather have lunch with the president or a famous singer?

Would you rather have no electricity or no running water?



Would you rather get in trouble with your parents or your teacher?

TROUBLE

Would you rather... be a superhero or a prince/princess?



Would you rather sleep in a bed or a sleeping bag at a sleepover?



Would you rather never be allowed to eat your three favourite foods, or only allowed to eat your three favourite foods?

Would you rather... go on a field trip or get a day off school?

go on a field trip or get a day off school?



Would you rather... eat fruit or vegetables?



Would you rather... drink hot chocolate or chocolate milk?



Would you rather swim in a pool or the ocean?



Would you rather be really rich but with no real friends or have little money and lots of good friends?



Would you rather... listen to music or read a book?



Would you rather wear clown shoes every day or a clown nose every day?



WOULD YOU RATHER
go to the doctor or the dentist?



Would you rather be too hot or too cold?



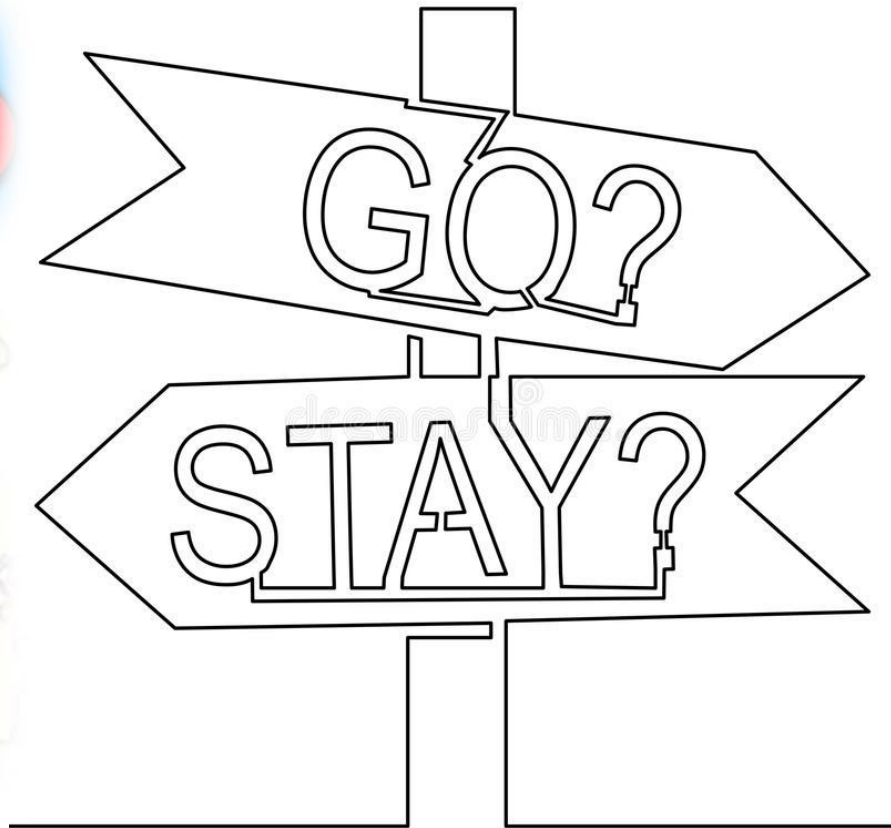
WOULD YOU RATHER?

You can maybe see what answers your family and friends give to the same questions! Sometimes it's not easy having to choose!

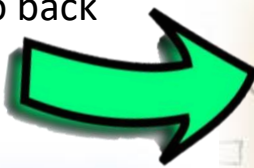
In today's Bible passage the people had to **choose**, a bit like that.

WOULD YOU RATHER?

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO NOW?



Would they rather go back to **Jerusalem**?



... or stay in **Babylon**?

What do you think you would have done?

Everyone had to **choose**.

Going to Jerusalem would have meant a long, difficult journey ..

.. and a lot of hard work when they got back to the city.

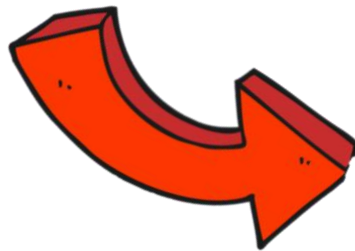
Staying in Babylon would have meant no big upheaval at all ..

.. and life as usual in a very prosperous city. HMMMMMM?



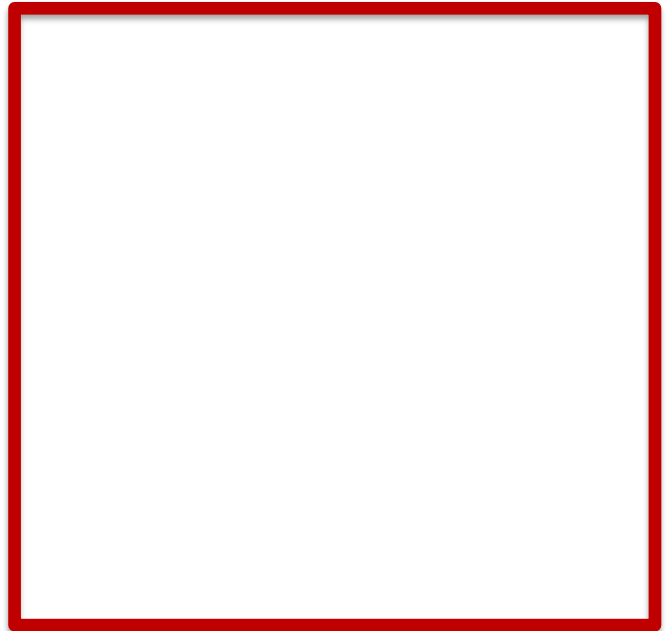
Everyone had to choose!

Remember this man?



The finger is always pointing at **YOU** !

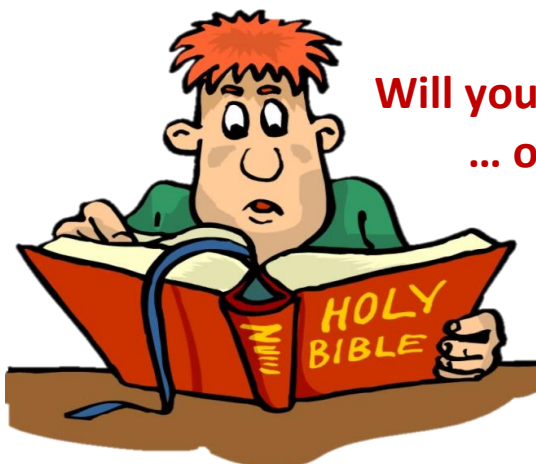
Try drawing the pointing finger, and see if you can get it so that it's always pointing at you! Use the picture in the box as your guide and copy it!



You and I also have to choose what we're going to do with the message of the King.

For us, it's the message of the King of kings (Jesus).

When the Lord Jesus calls us to follow Him, we have to choose.



Will you say 'Yes' ..
... or 'No'.



**A
verse
for you
to try
and**

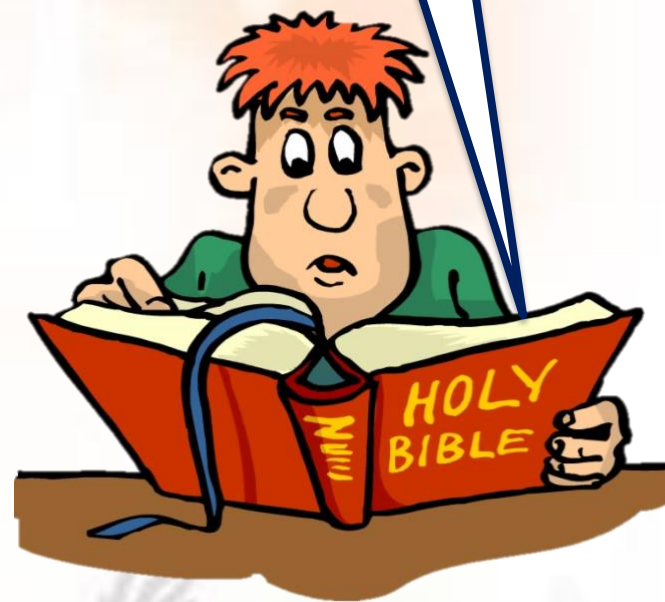


PRAISE THE LORD!!

remember!

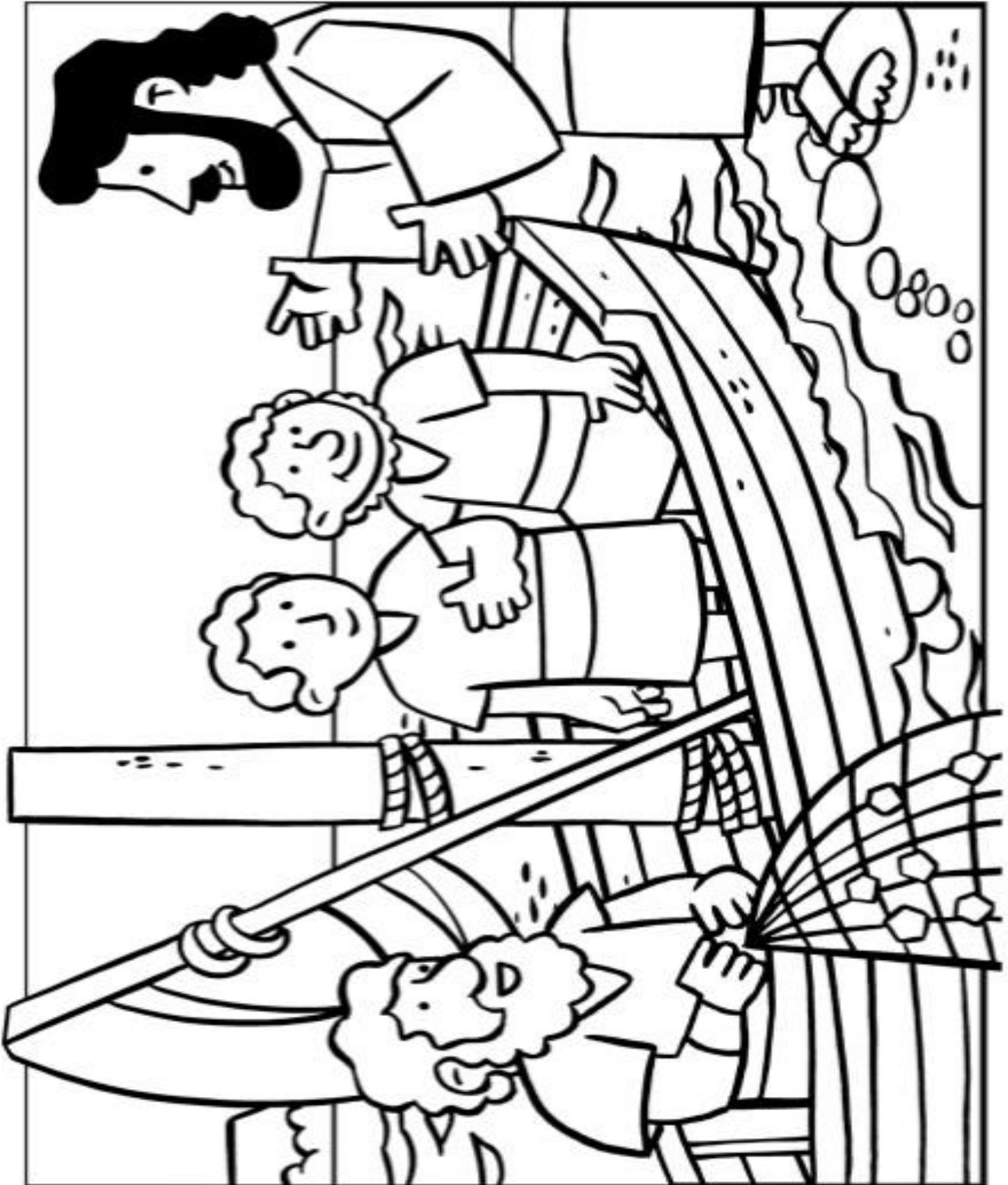
“.. when
the princes in Israel take
the lead, when the people
willingly offer themselves
- praise the Lord!”

(Judges 5.2)



Colouring in ...

Here's a picture for you to colour in: it's of Jesus calling the fishermen to follow Him.
See how He's pointing to them!



... and a puzzle

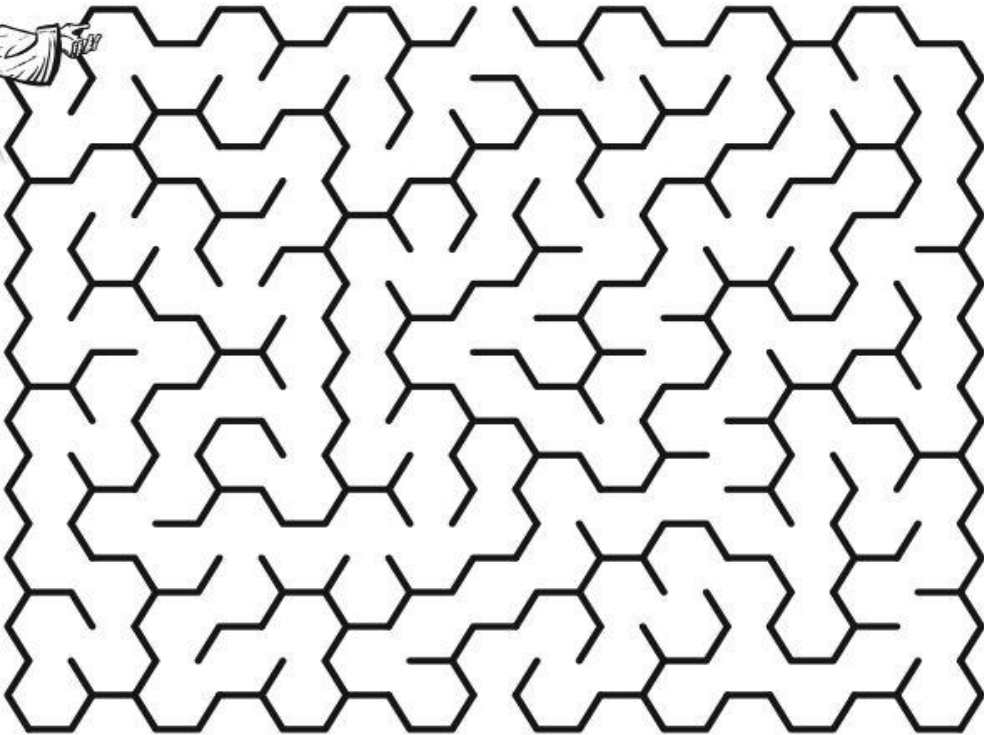
See if you can find the way for His disciples to get to Jesus

JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

Jesus is calling his disciples. Lead the men to him.



END



START

