

# Christ For Me

March 2007

*Know God's  
Compassion*



*"The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and great in mercy."  
Psalm 145:8*

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### Bible Reading

Leviticus  
Philippians

### Christ For Me, Inc.

PO Box 1694  
Tahlequah, OK 74465



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## Love in action

"Mom is going to be so angry if I don't hurry," Paul thought as he peddled his bike faster. Street lights were just coming on and it was time to be at home. He turned the corner heading for his home just two houses down on the right. At that moment, Paul put on his brakes as hard as he could, sliding his bike to a stop. On the side of the road was a whimpering, muddy mess. The brown fur was completely matted with mud and blood. Obviously, the puppy had been hit by a car. But it was still alive and Paul couldn't leave it behind. What was he going to do?

He was right in front of the Wiley's house. They were his only hope. He knocked on the door. "Mrs. Wiley, do you have a box? I found a puppy in the ditch and it's been hit by a car. I'm afraid it will die if we don't do something."

She answered, "Let's look in the shed in the back yard."

"Thanks," Paul said as he followed her to the shed. He noticed that she hadn't picked up any



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of the branches from the January ice storm.

"Watch out for the branches," she warned. "Mr. Wiley hasn't been able to clean them up yet. Ever since he was in the car accident, he hasn't been able to do as much."

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18

Inside the shed, Paul located a box. Mrs. Wiley found an old rag that had once been a towel. "Here, this might help warm the little thing. Let's go put it in the box and take it inside."

Soon, the little ball of fur was in the Wiley kitchen. Mrs. Wiley had bandaged the cuts and placed the puppy in the box.

"Looks like he is going to be okay," she announced when she finished. "I think it would be best if he stays right here, at least overnight."

"Okay. Thanks, Mrs. Wiley, for taking care of the little guy," Paul said.



"No thanks needed. He is one

of God's creatures. I wasn't the only one who had compassion on the puppy," Mrs. Wiley answered. "Some people would have left the puppy in the ditch and done nothing."

"How could anyone not care about a puppy?" Paul wondered as he went home.

At the dinner table, Paul recounted the entire story. "She took care of the puppy like it was her own. She said that I had compassion on the puppy. What does compassion mean?"

"Compassion is caring enough to help. You felt sorry for the puppy and you took action by asking Mrs. Wiley for help," Mom explained.

"Just as you showed compassion to the puppy because he was hurt, God shows us compassion because of our sin," Dad interjected. "The punishment for sin is death or separation from God forever. But God, in His love, made a way for you to have eternal life. He sent His own Son to die for your sins – to pay the price on the cross. But He didn't stay dead, He arose again three days later."



"When you know Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to be compassionate. Every time that you show compassion, you share His love," Mom said.

"Can you think of ways to show compassion to others?" Dad asked.

"Well, Mr. Wiley came into the kitchen to see the puppy. But he was having a very hard time walking. He isn't doing very well. I don't think he has been well enough to pick up after the ice storm we had in January," Paul answered.

"Why don't you help by picking up the branches in their yard," Dad answered.

On Saturday, Paul went to work picking up the branches. As he was working, Mr. Wiley came outside. He was still having trouble walking.

"What are you doing, Paul?" Mr. Wiley asked.

"I wanted to help," Paul answered. "So, I'm picking up these branches."

"Thank you," Mr. Wiley said. "I just haven't been able to do much these days. This is very kind of you. Can I pay you for your work?"

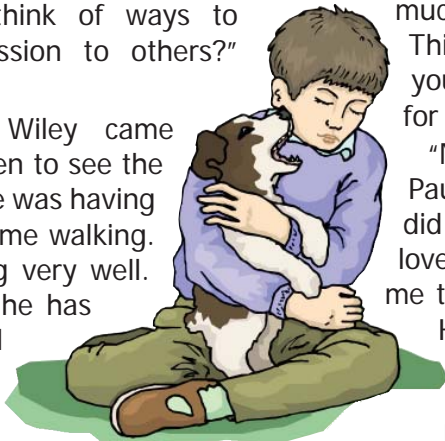
"No, Mr. Wiley," Paul answered. "I did this because God loves you. He wanted me to do this for you."

He didn't say anything more. In his heart, Paul knew that

he was obeying God. He was showing compassion to the Wileys by doing something for them that they needed.

Later, he went inside to see the puppy. No longer contained in the box, the puppy played in the kitchen. The Wileys decided to keep the puppy. Paul visited them many times, helping them with different things around the house.

CFM



# the reluctant missionary

The Book of Jonah

"Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."  
Lamentations 3:22-23



**W**hat if God called you into missionary work? What if He called you to go to a place where people were very different? What if people who visited were tortured and then killed? Would you want to go? Would you be a willing vessel to show God's compassion?

Living near Nazareth, Jonah was a prophet of God. He had served the Lord for many years. But this request was too much. He hadn't asked to go to a foreign land. But the Word of the Lord came to him, "Jonah, I want you to go to the people of Nineveh. Their evil ways have come before Me. Tell them to turn from their evil ways."

Nineveh was located about 500 miles away. It was a large city located by the Tigris River. A gigantic wall surrounded the city to protect the people from invaders. They were not afraid of anyone or anything. They were Assyrians – warriors invading and raiding the countries around them. Everyone in the world had heard of the brutality of these people. Since they worshipped idols, Jonah didn't understand why God would care about them. He didn't understand God's compassion.

"I know what you are up to, God, and I am not going!" Jonah said under his breath. He threw a few clothes in a bag. "Nope,

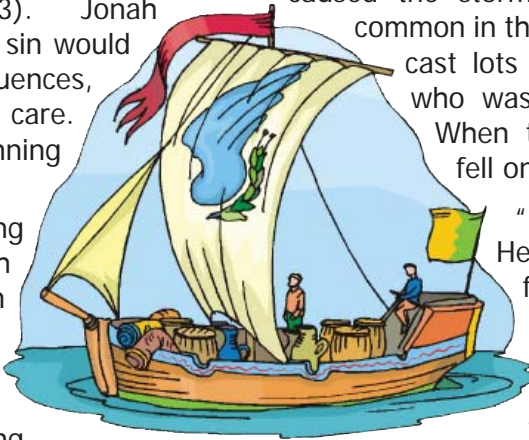


**Hey Kids!**  
Get permission from your parents,  
and then go to [www.christforme.org](http://www.christforme.org)  
to find more stories and adventures!  
Have fun!

these people are not worth it. Besides, they might skin me alive."

So, instead of traveling to Nineveh, Jonah went the opposite direction. In complete disobedience, he boarded a ship bound for Tarshish. Although he knew it was wrong, Jonah was running away from the task God assigned him. When Jonah chose not to obey, he was sinning against God. Sin is anything that you think, say, or do which displeases God. The Bible teaches that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Jonah knew that his sin would have consequences, but he did not care. He was running away.

Upon boarding the ship, Jonah went down to his room. He was tired and ready to rest. Lying down on his bunk, he let the gentle rocking ship lull him to sleep. But the gentle rocking soon turned into a rolling. Up on the deck of the ship, the sailors were struggling to keep the boat upright. Not long after they left the shore, a great storm began to rage on the sea. The little ship was tossed against the



waves. The sailors, who didn't know the One True God, were praying and doing their best to save the ship.

Someone noticed that Jonah was not present. So, the captain went down into the hull to wake Jonah. "Why are you sleeping? Don't you hear the bad storm? Get up and pray to your God. Perhaps your God will consider us and we won't die out here," he said.

Jonah followed the captain to the deck. The crew knew that someone's actions must have caused the storm. As was common in that day, they cast lots to find out who was to blame. When they did, it fell on Jonah.

"I am a Hebrew who fears the Lord God of Heaven. He created the land and the seas," Jonah told them. "God wanted me to go to a wicked people and preach to them. I didn't want to go, so I ran away."

"What are we to do?" they asked realizing that Jonah worshipped the most powerful God. He was able to control the winds and the seas.

"You must throw me into the sea," Jonah answered. "When you do that, both you and the ship will be saved from the storm."

At first, the sailors didn't want to cast Jonah into the sea. They tried to row the boat back to shore, but the storm grew stronger. Fierce waves toppled over the deck threatening to take everyone overboard.

"Oh, Lord," the sailors cried out. "Please do not let us die because of this man. Do not charge us for his death." Then they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. Immediately the sea calmed down. The sailors feared the Lord and worshipped Him.

Meanwhile, Jonah sank into the sea. Seaweed wrapped around his legs pulling him down. He couldn't breathe. Everything was dark and murky. A great big fish came right for him. Opening its mouth wide, the fish swallowed Jonah whole. When he awoke, he was inside the fish. He was alive. Then he realized, there



was nowhere that he could run that God could not reach him. Jonah could not run anymore. God had compassion for Jonah. Compassion is love in action. Just as God loved Jonah, He loves you. There is not any place on earth where God is not right there with you.

For three days, Jonah was in the belly of the fish. As Jonah sat in that fish's belly, he was forced to think. "Lord, I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will worship You. I will not regard worthless idols, but will sacrifice to You."

On the third day, the fish vomited Jonah out onto dry land. Jonah stood up, thankful to be







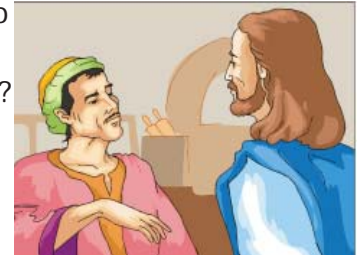
# Seekers in Sneakers

## IN SEARCH OF COMPASSION

**Mission:** Unscramble the words, then use the words to answer the questions. Finally, find the words in the seek and find puzzle. There is a secret message in the letters that are left over. A clue to the secret message is 112:4.

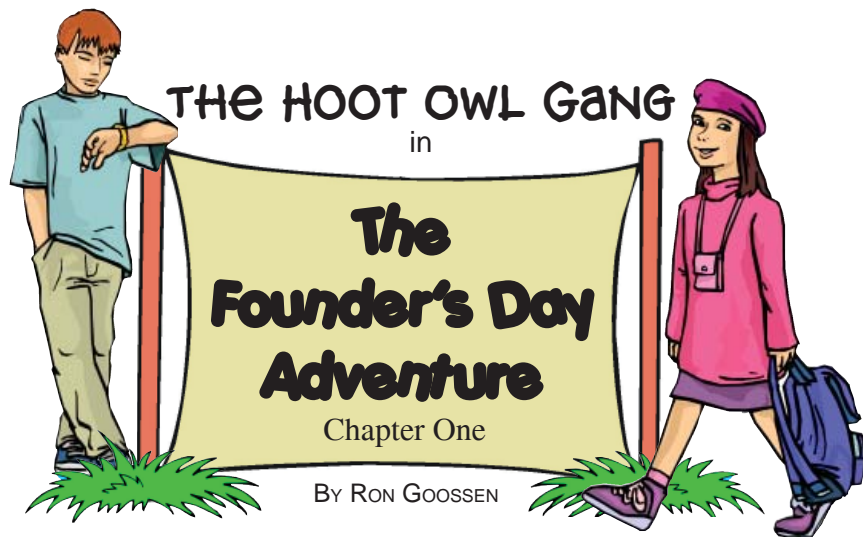
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 (NKJV)

- A. SUTJIYF \_\_\_\_\_
- B. IAASMRINA \_\_\_\_\_
- C. WALREY \_\_\_\_\_
- D. EHT LWA \_\_\_\_\_
- E. OSLU \_\_\_\_\_
- F. NMID \_\_\_\_\_
- G. RGENIHBO \_\_\_\_\_
- H. EJIHRCO \_\_\_\_\_
- I. SEHTIVE \_\_\_\_\_
- J. TRAEH \_\_\_\_\_
- K. OTW IAEDNRI \_\_\_\_\_
- L. ERPSTI \_\_\_\_\_
- M. OOEKLD \_\_\_\_\_
- N. GRTSNETH \_\_\_\_\_
- O. NOISASMPOC \_\_\_\_\_
- P. DNEBDAGA \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. NIN \_\_\_\_\_
- R. TERNEAL EFIL \_\_\_\_\_

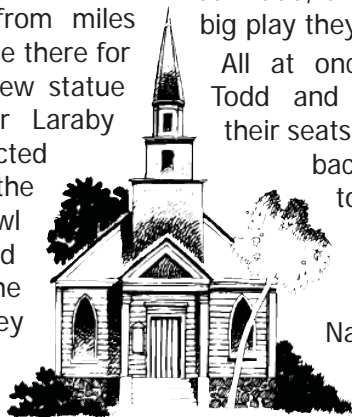


- \_\_\_\_\_ What was the job of the man who tried to test Jesus?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did the man want to inherit?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Where did Jesus tell the man to look for the answer?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What four ways are you to love God?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Who are you to love as yourself?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Why did he ask Jesus another question? To \_\_\_\_\_ himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In the parable, where was the man traveling to?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Who took all his money and left him for dead by the road?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Who was the first person to pass by?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did the Levite do when he passed by?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Who was the third person to see the man?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did he have for the beaten man?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did he do for the wounds?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Where did he take the man?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did he pay for the man to stay?

N N I U T R A E H N T P O T  
 H E U P N E I G H B O R R I  
 G H L A W Y E R C T D I T H  
 E D R E A R T I O S E E E T  
 S L E I G H E T M I G S N W  
 T H E K D A R R P K A T N O  
 E J S S O N N H A E D I S D  
 T E U G R O A A S C N I L E  
 H R O S U S L T S A A N U N  
 E I D F T U L L I L B O O A  
 L C F C O I I M O R P A S R  
 A H D S S I F O N N A A N R  
 W O N D R I E Y G H T M E I  
 O U I S T H I E V E S P A S  
 A L M M H T G N E R T S S S



It was a beautiful sun-shiney day in Hoot Owl Holler. It was warm, and best of all, in 10 minutes when the bell rang, school would be out for spring break. Ray and Todd sat in the last class of the day thinking of all the things they were going to do during their time away from school. This was a big time in the small town. It was this very week 100 years ago that settlers moved into this valley and built the town they now lived in. There was going to be a re-enactment for Settler's Day, and everyone from miles around was going to be there for the big parade. A new statue honoring Otis Walker Laraby was going to be erected in the park. He was the founder of Hoot Owl Holler and a celebrated hero. He had been the first settler in the valley and had opened the first store – Laraby's



Emporium. That was the first building built. The second one built was the building that was now the Hoot Owl Community Church. The emporium building had been torn down a long time ago, so that made the church building the oldest building in town.

Everyone – even the kids – would be involved in doing something to get ready for the activities that would follow. There were decorations to be hung, floats to be made, and practices for the big play they were going to do.

All at once, the bell rang. Todd and Ray bolted from their seats and pulled on their backpacks and headed to the front door where they met the rest of the gang – E.J., Collette, and Natalie. As usual, they had to wait on Michelle. She

was always talking to someone about something, even if it was nothing.

"Here she comes!" Natalie said.

"Com'on, Michelle," Todd urged. "We have lots of work to do. We have to get the church fellowship hall decorated for tomorrow night!"

"I'm coming," she called. Michelle ran to meet up with the others. They got on their bikes and headed towards the church. They decided to take a shortcut through the park. They saw the men working to put up the platform for the big day. But then something caught Natalie's eye. She slowed down.

"Hey, wait, guys!" Natalie called.

Everyone stopped and turned. "What's up, Nat?" her brother, Todd, asked. "We don't have time to stop and play. We have lots of work to do, and Mom said to come right home..."

"I know what Mom said," Natalie replied. Usually she was the one who was reminding Todd of what they were supposed to do. "But look at that man over there. I think he's hungry."

"What makes you think he's hungry?" E.J. asked.

"He's going through the garbage cans," Natalie said turning her head. "And he's not going to find anything 'cause the garbage was emptied

this morning. We should go talk to him."

"Maybe he lost something," Ray said. "Come on, Nat, we've got a ton of stuff to do."

"I think we should go help him," Natalie said matter-of-factly.

"Why should we go?" Todd asked. "If he really is hungry, he could just ask."

"Maybe he's too embarrassed to ask," Michelle chimed in.

"Yeah, and if he's too embarrassed to ask, we don't want to embarrass him any more by asking him if he's hungry," Ray answered. "Let's go to the church!"

But Natalie was not going to listen. "Hey, we're the Hoot Owl Gang. We're supposed to help others. Besides, what would Jesus want us to do?" She started to ride her bike over toward the man. She turned and looked at the others. "Well, are you coming?"

The other kids looked at each other and then shrugged their shoulders and began to follow. They all reached the picnic area at the same time.

"Sir," Natalie began, "have you, ah, have you lost something?"

The man turned and looked at



Natalie. "What's it to ya?" he asked in a gruff voice.

"Maybe we could help you find whatever it is you're looking for," Ray replied.

Stooping over, the man pulled a blade of grass and put it between his teeth. "I was just passing through this little town and I saw your park here and wanted to....ah.... wanted to make sure that the garbage cans were empty." He walked over, opened a garbage can and then closed the lid. "Yep! It's been done right. Everything is empty. I better be on my way."

"My name is Natalie Donovan!"

"Nat," Todd said as he raised his eyebrows at his sister. "Didn't you hear the man? He is just passing through town." Then he motioned with his head that they needed to go.

Ignoring her brother, she continued. "My dad is the pastor of the Hoot Owl Community Church. We might have some food in the food pantry if you need anything. I could take you and introduce you to him."

"Well," the man said chewing on the blade of grass, "that would be mighty nice of you, but I really don't want to be any bother. It looks like you kids are in a hurry to get somewhere. I don't want to be any trouble."

"It wouldn't be any trouble at

all, would it gang?" Natalie asked looking at the others. They all agreed.

"As a matter of fact," E.J. said, "we insist. The founder of Hoot Owl Holler was generous and helped strangers passing by. And I think we should be, too." E.J. got off his bike. "My name is E.J. Evans," he said stretching out his hand toward the man to shake it.

The man looked at E.J.'s hand and then at his own. He wiped his hand on the side of his dusty pants and then shook E.J.'s hand. "My name is William Walker. My friends just call me Will." All the kids took turns shaking Will's hand. Then they all walked their bikes to the church. Natalie introduced Will to her dad who took him into

his office to talk to him for a while. The kids all went to work doing what they needed to do, decorating the fellowship hall. The next night there was going to be a big celebration for Pastor Donovan. He had been the pastor at Hoot Owl Holler for five years.

After a while, Pastor Donovan came in to see how the kids were doing.

"Where's Will?" Natalie asked.

"Well, I tried to give him a place to stay for the night, but he said



he had to be on his way. I gave him a few things to eat. He seemed very nice. He was very thankful for what I gave him. But then he left."

The kids got the fellowship hall all decorated. Then there was choir practice.

The next day was very busy – practice for the play, and then the celebration at the church in the evening. The kids got to the church and put all the finishing touches on the tables – fresh cut flowers from Miss Penny's garden, and little sparkling stars all over the table.

Before long, there were a lot of people there. They ate a lot of food. The kids found their favorite desserts and listened as some of the adults told funny stories about Pastor Donovan. Then, Mrs. Watson, the leader of the Women's Group, got up.

"Pastor Donovan," she began, "we all enjoy your preaching very much. And we are so thankful for you. We've been noticing lately that your Bible is a bit tattered and torn. Some of the pages are starting to fall out. We know that you have a lot of notes and such in it, but we thought you needed a new Bible. So we bought this for you." She opened a box and pulled out a brand new Bible. Pastor Donovan took it and admired it.

"Thank you so very much,"

he said. He opened the front. Inside was an inscription which read, "To our beloved Pastor on his fifth anniversary at Hoot Owl Community Church."

Everyone was congratulating Pastor Donovan on his five years at the church. Afterwards, there was a lot of clean-up to do. The kids helped by taking the trash

out to the trash cans. When they closed the lids, Natalie thought she saw something. She turned around to see a cat sitting on the fence.

It was late by the time everyone left the church, and Sunday was going to be a big day. The Founder's Day Pageant would be held at the church in the afternoon. Todd, Natalie, their little sister, Ruth, and their mom and dad went home. They lived right next to the church. After Dad had tucked all the kids in bed, he turned in as well. They were all so tired, it didn't take them long to fall asleep.

But sometime, in the middle of the night, Todd awoke suddenly. Something was wrong. He rubbed his eyes and stumbled over to the window. He couldn't believe what he saw.

What did Todd see? Find out in the next exciting chapter of *The Founder's Day Adventure*. CFM



Sneaking up on the enemy camp, the young boy scrunched close to the ground. Spying a clear glass window, he

Mrs. Whestra's kitchen. When she opened her oven door, smoke billowed out. Mr. Whestra saw the smoke and the glass on the chimney. He climbed up and retrieved the glass. On top of the ladder, he looked all around the area. The boy hiding in the bushes held his breath until Mr. Whestra



## Brother Andrew

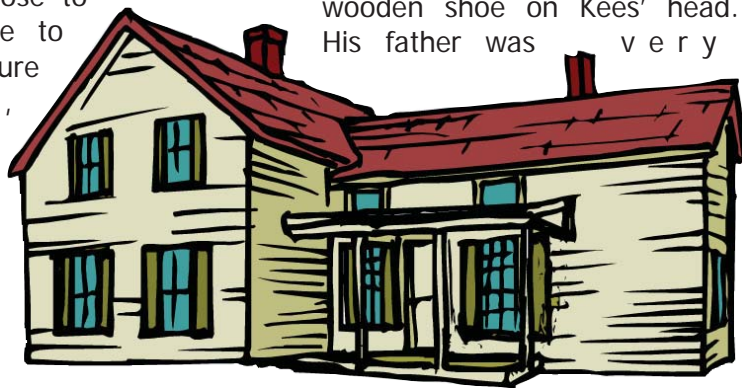
Chapter One

### A Soldier of the Cross

*Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

*Luke 9:23*

crawled on the ground toward it. Soon he was in possession of the clear plate of glass. Standing up against the house, he peeked in the window. He could see Mrs. Whestra in the kitchen baking cookies. In stealth mode, he picked up the glass and carried it on his shoulder. Climbing up a nearby ladder leaning near the chimney, he covered the chimney with the glass. Then before anyone could see him, he hid in some bushes close to the house to watch. Sure enough, the smoke buildup came down the chimney right into

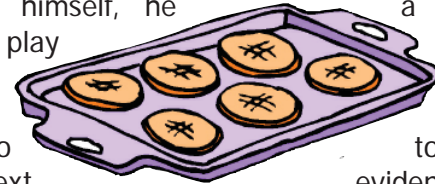


went inside. What amazed him was that Mr. Whestra didn't even look angry. There was something different about him.

Andrew was always looking for adventure. Being a young boy in Holland during the 1930's, however, there was not too much "derring-do" or adventure. So, like any boy, he made up his own. Together, Kees, his best friend, and Andrew made up different missions. In one of these quests, he broke his wooden shoe on Kees' head. His father was very

upset that he didn't take care of his things.

Andrew's family didn't have much money. Bas was his oldest brother. Although he couldn't talk or dress himself, he was able to play any song on the organ just by listening to it. Ben was next



in line. Cornelius was two years younger, then Geltje and Maarje. When the family went to church, his father always wanted to sit on the front row. But there wasn't enough room for the entire family. So, Andrew always managed to sit in the back. During the sermon, he would sneak outside and play. He made sure that he was back before the final prayer. Listening closely, he would hear what people said about the sermon so he could talk about it when questioned. He knew it was wrong, but he didn't care. He was too interested in finding adventure.

After one Sunday, the family was invited to the Whestra's for lunch. Andrew wondered if they knew he caused their stove to mess up. Mr. Whestra handed him a cookie and said, "My wife has made very good cookies since I put up the new glass window."

Andrew knew that he had been found out. But Mr. Whestra never told his dad.

In 1939, Andrew's life was filled with change. First, Bas died from a terrible disease. Then, Germany invaded the countries close to Holland. It was evident they would be marching into Holland as well. Andrew stood under the tree where Bas had spent his days. He watched as army trucks passed and thought of his brother. War was moving closer to his hometown. Soon the government of Holland called for all young men to go into the army. One full year after his brother died, Germany invaded Holland.

Life was hard during the war. At first, there were only minor changes, then they demanded that people turn in their radios. Jewish people were not allowed in any store. Curfews



were strictly enforced, and if anyone didn't do what the Germans said, they would be punished. Food was rationed and the local German soldiers

raided gardens claiming the food belonged to them. Ben had to leave home to keep from being put into the German army. But Andrew was still not quite old enough.

Being a kid, he was able to get into places and do things to cause havoc to the local German soldiers. Throwing firecrackers and cherry bombs at the enemy was just one of many ways he resisted. When he joined the underground resistance, he stepped up his pranks. He put sugar in the gas tanks of the German jeeps which clogged the engine. He took messages from one resistance cell to another. He smuggled Jewish people from one home to another. It was a dangerous mission. Eventually, the German soldiers began to take younger boys and older men. Both Andrew and his father had to hide out to keep



from being taken away.

When the war ended in 1945, he didn't know what to do. The school had been closed when he was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade because the Germans used it for a barracks. He didn't want to be a blacksmith like his father. Although he tried many things, nothing had enough of a challenge for him. He craved adventure. Then he heard the Dutch army needed soldiers. There was a resistance in the Dutch East Indies. He knew that it was a job he could do well. So he joined the service. He told his family and friends of his decision.

One person, Mr. Whestra, was not happy for his decision. "I hope you find what you are looking for," he said.

Would Andrew find what he was seeking in the East Indies? Find out in the next chapter of "A Soldier of the Cross." CFM

All day long, Sophia had been bothering Tabitha by making fun of her. Nothing Tabitha did was right. By the end of the day, Tabitha was very frustrated. On the way home, Tabitha noticed a couple of girls had Sophia cornered. What should Tabitha do? What would God's compassion do? Write your answer in your Knowing God Notebook.

## Singing to Jesus *O Love that Will Not Let Me Go* by George Matheson



**G**eorge Matheson was born in 1842 in Glasgow, Scotland. He was born with poor eyesight which became worse as he grew. But

that didn't keep George from learning. He learned Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. He loved God, and learned as much as he could about Him.

Sometime in his late teens, George met and fell in love with a young lady. He asked her to marry him, and she accepted. But George's eyesight became worse, and the doctors could do nothing to help him. The young woman decided she could not live with a blind man the rest of her life, and she broke their engagement. This was something George never got over.

For 18 years, George served as the pastor of a church in Innelan, Scotland. He had a great ability to memorize sermons and entire sections of the Bible. As he preached, those who listened to him were almost unaware that he was blind.

George lived with his sister while he completed his studies for the

ministry. Eventually, she met a man and fell in love. On the night of her wedding, George stayed at home. He felt such loneliness because he would no longer have his sister around him. He was still heartbroken over his own lost love. It was that night that George realized just how much God loved him. As George sat at the table, in about five minutes he wrote the words that became a much loved hymn.

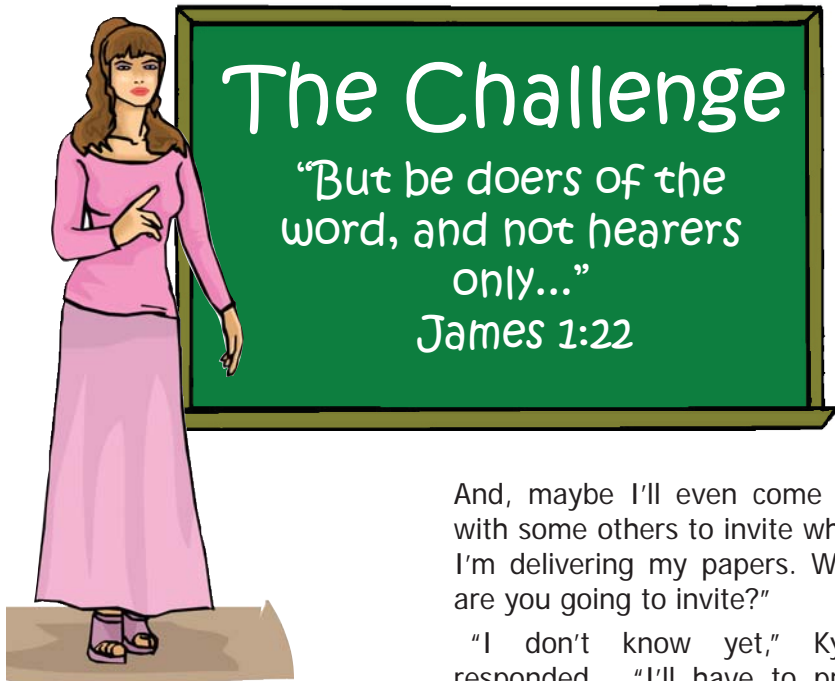
*O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there  
blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.*

George later moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was pastor of St. Bernard's Church for 13 years. He wrote several books and hymns. He died suddenly in 1906. CFM



# The Challenge

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...”  
James 1:22

And, maybe I'll even come up with some others to invite while I'm delivering my papers. Who are you going to invite?"

"I don't know yet," Kyra responded. "I'll have to pray about it."

Mrs. Barnabas, the Sunday school teacher finished praying. "Before you leave," she said to the girls, "I have a challenge for you this week. I want each of you to pray and ask God to show you at least one person you can invite to Sunday school next week. Then we'll see what God does."

Abrianna and Kyra began to talk as they left the classroom. "I

think I'll ask that new girl, Cloe, who moved in down the street last month," Abrianna said. "She looks like she's about our age.

Every day Abrianna prayed that God would show her who to invite to Sunday school the following week. As she was delivering newspapers, there was one block she always had to ride all the way around. She wanted to go down 12<sup>th</sup> Street, but Becca the bully lived right smack dab

in the middle of the block. Becca had made it clear on more than

one occasion that Abrianna was not to ride down her street. So Abrianna had to go way out of her way on 11<sup>th</sup> Street and then back up to deliver Mr. Goode's

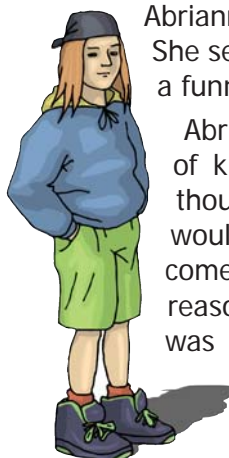
**?** Do you ask others to go to church with you?

**?** Do you judge others by the way they look or where they come from?

paper at the end of the block.

As Abrianna was riding around the block, she saw a moving van. "Ah! Someone new to the neighborhood," she thought to herself. She watched as people worked to unload the truck. Then she saw a couple of kids. The girl looked to be about Abrianna's age. But as she looked closer, she could tell the girl was from a different country, one where she knew a lot of the people didn't worship the One true God. So Abrianna thought the girl wouldn't be interested in coming to her Sunday school class. "I'll just have to find someone else." Abrianna rode on.

During the week, the new girl, Lakeisha, was introduced to Abrianna's class at school. She seemed nice, but had a funny accent.



Abrianna saw lots of kids, but always thought they wouldn't want to come to church for one reason or another. There was Madeline who was always a mess. She wore dirty

clothes and her hair was always uncombed. Annie, another girl, was good at all kinds of things – soccer, basketball, baseball. She was always busy playing games on Sunday, so she probably wouldn't want to come either.

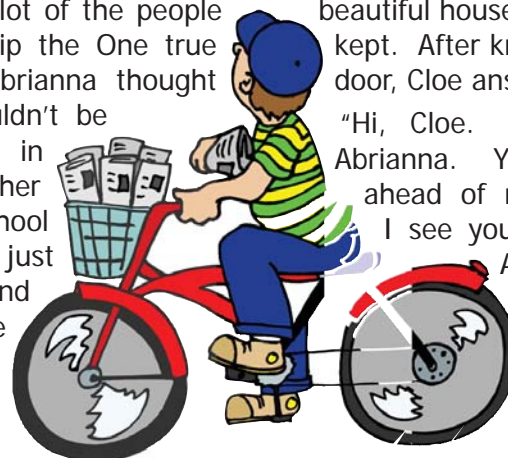
By Friday afternoon, Abrianna had decided she would invite Cloe to Sunday school. So after she finished her paper route, she went to Cloe's house. It was a beautiful house and very well kept. After knocking on the door, Cloe answered.

"Hi, Cloe. My name is Abrianna. You're a grade ahead of me at school. I see you all the time. Anyway, I, well, I wanted to know if you would like to come to Sunday school with me this week."

Cloe grinched. "I'll think about it," she said. Then she closed the door.

On Sunday morning, the girls

all gathered in the Sunday school room. Of the seven girls in the class, two of them had brought friends with them. Abrianna



kept waiting for Cloe to show up, but soon it was time to start. Mrs. Barnabas closed the door, then they opened in prayer. She introduced the visitors in the class, and everyone welcomed them. Then Mrs. Barnabas began to teach the lesson.

“One day, Jesus and His disciples headed toward Galilee.

Now the easiest way to get to Galilee was to go through the country of Samaria. But Jesus was a Jew, and the Jews and the Samaritans didn't get along. So when traveling, the Jews would



woman was not well-liked in town. When Jesus saw her, He asked her for a drink of water. The woman was very surprised that this Jewish man would talk to her, a Samaritan woman.

“After they talked for a while, the woman realized that she was talking to the Messiah. He told her all about herself.

The woman did not have a good history. She probably had many enemies. But yet, she was the one who Jesus wanted to talk to. The Bible tells us that she believed Jesus to be the Messiah and she went into town and told all the people there to come see a Man who had told her all things that she had done. Many of those people believed her, and many more believed after they had talked to Jesus.

“What if Jesus had not decided

to go through Samaria? What if Jesus hadn't talked to the woman because she was a Samaritan? What if you don't tell someone of Jesus because you think they're too bad, or won't listen, or because they don't like you?”

About that time, someone from the back of the room raised her hand. “Yes,” Mrs. Barnabas began. “You came in late, so I didn't get your name. What would you like to say?”

Everyone turned to look, and Abrianna couldn't believe her eyes. There in the back was Lakeisha. “I know,” Lakeisha began, “that I am here because someone did obey God and came to my country. They told us about God. Two years ago, I became a Christian after my parents did. We had to leave our country because they don't like Christians there. I'm glad that someone came to tell me and they weren't afraid. And then this week, Kyra invited me to come to this church. I am very thankful.”




with them. She realized that she needed to show God's love and compassion to others by telling them about God.

The following week, Abrianna went to Becca's house and knocked on the door. She began to tell her about Jesus. At first, Becca didn't want to hear it. But in time, Becca started coming to church.

What about you? Do you avoid telling someone about the Lord Jesus because you think you know what they will say? Remember, God's Word says we are all sinners. We all deserve to be apart from God forever. But because God loves you (and He loves all people the same), He sent His only perfect Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins. Three days later, Jesus came back to life (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). John 3:16 says that whoever believes will have eternal life. That means a young person, an old person, rich or poor, clean or unclean, a person from any

Abrianna began to think about people she hadn't invited to Sunday school because of the way they looked or because she didn't get along



How would you feel if someone had not told you about Jesus?

Will you show God's love today by sharing Him with someone?

country or of any nationality can be a child of God.



# The Skateboard

*"But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth."*

Psalm 86:15

Megan walked in the door and sat in

the chair. As she began to text message a friend, her mom came up behind her.

"Have you seen your brother, Austin?"

"Oh, you mean *Skateboard Monkey*?" Megan replied. "Yeah, he was out front when I came in. You know, Mom, one of these days he's going to hurt himself seriously. I keep warning him, but he won't listen."

About that time, they heard a thud, then a cry from outside. Mom looked out the window to see Austin laying sprauled on the ground. "Megan, come help. It looks like Austin is hurt."

"Serves him right," Megan muttered under her breath.

Mom looked back at Megan. "I'll deal with you later."

They went outside and found Austin struggling to get up. He had knocked the breath out of himself.

After determining that Austin was okay, Mom sat down with Megan.

"Megan, God wants us to show compassion to others. Before when Austin was hurt, you said it served him right."

"Well, Mom, it did. I mean, he's always doing stupid things. He just got what he deserved."

"And what about you? Do you always get what you deserve? If we all got what we deserved, none of us would go to Heaven. We all deserve to be separated from God. But He loves you so much, He has so much compassion for you, that He made a way for your sins to be forgiven. And He wants you to show compassion to others."

Megan thought for a moment. "I guess you're right, Mom. I'll try to do better and show Austin more compassion. I really don't want him to hurt himself."

Just about that time...Thud!  
Crash!

CFM

