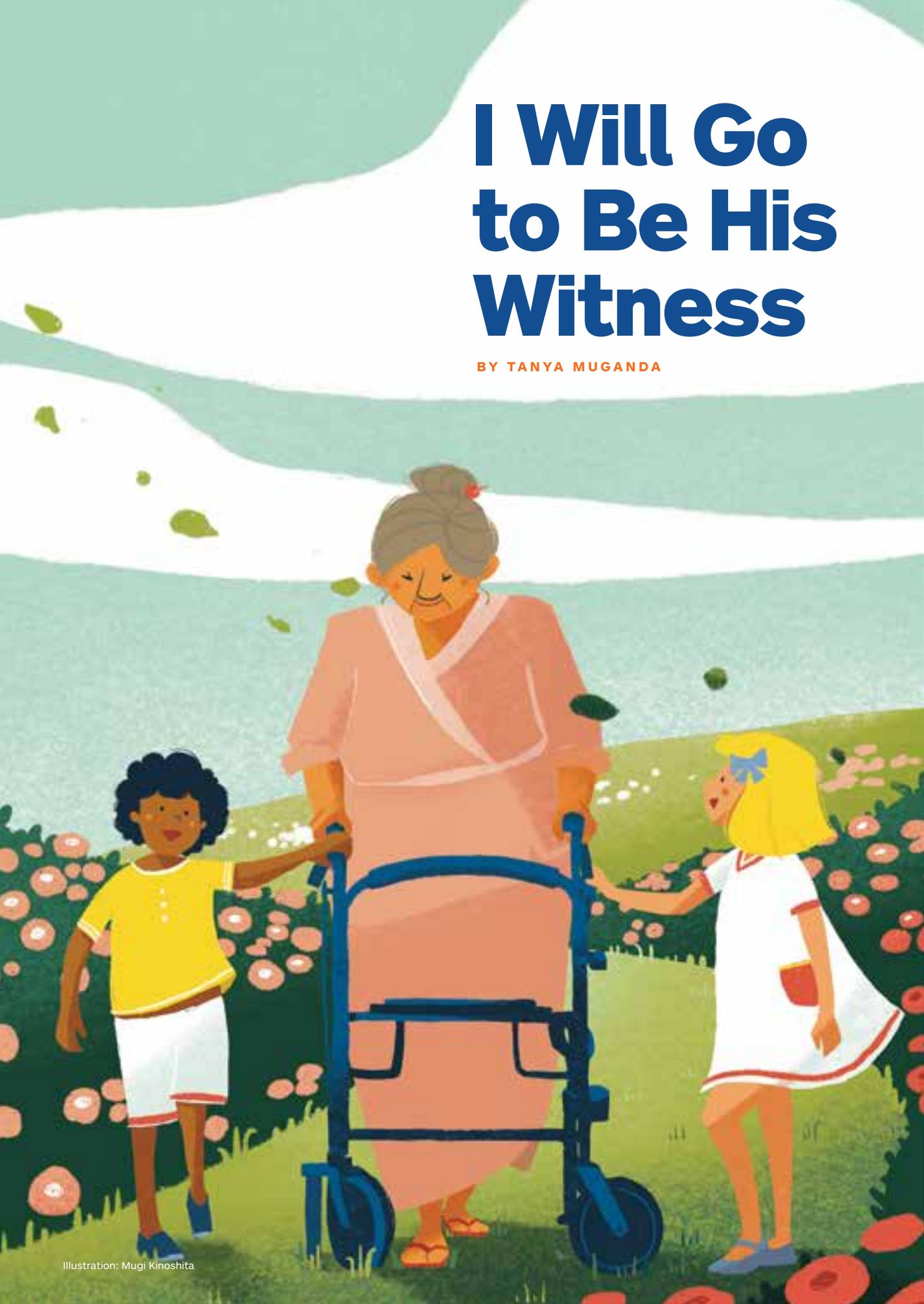


I Will Go to Be His Witness

BY TANYA MUGANDA





Be a Witness!

Bible Treasure: Genesis 15:12-18

It was a quiet night, and Abraham was outside. God surprised Abraham with a message: “Abraham, it’s time for you, Sarah, and your family to move to a new land where you will have lots of children and your name will be known.” Abraham thought to himself, *Wow, God is promising me a new land and more family. I can’t wait to tell Sarah.*

Sarah came outside with a surprised look. “Why are you out here in the dark? Are you OK?”

Abraham replied excitedly, “God has told me to move our family to a new land to reach more people—a land where we will be known for future generations as a huge family.”

Sarah had a confused look on her face and said, “I’m nervous about this move because we are leaving everything we know.” Abraham encouraged Sarah, letting her know that God would make a way. Abraham had lived in the land called Ur his whole life, but He trusted God’s promises to make the big move.

Can you imagine being told by your parents that you must move to a new school, church, or neighborhood, where you must make new friends?

On the way to this new land, Sarah, Abraham, and his nephew Lot carried their dishes, furniture, and clothes on their camels. Sarah complained, “It’s so hot in the desert.”

Lot grumbled, “I feel weak and thirsty.”

Abraham responded trustingly, “I am feeling tired too, but we are almost there.” God protected them till they arrived safely.

During this trip Abraham,

Sarah, and Lot walked a lot along with their camels. They saw interesting towns as they got closer to their destination. They finally arrived in the land of Haran.

Then God told Abraham to move again! This time God said that Abraham would move to what was called Canaan. Sarah and Lot were surprised that they would need to pack up and move again. It was another long trip of walking, but God got them safely to this new land.

In Canaan God would make this land Abraham’s, where he would have many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Abraham, Sarah, and Lot unpacked all their clothes, dishes, and furniture and set up their tents for their new home in this land. It was a foreign land, but God would help them as they would witness to others around them. Abraham was a stranger in a foreign land. He was a witness to the love and power of God. You too can be a witness for God in a new neighborhood or church.

IT’S YOUR TURN

- What would you take with you on a trip? Draw something that you would take with you on your trip.
- What was the name of the final land that Abraham, Sarah, and Lot moved to?
- Have you ever had to move to a different neighborhood, country, or city? How did you feel?
- What can you share with others when you move to a new place with strangers or new friends?

Witness Even When Life Is Unfair

Bible Treasure:
Genesis 39:20–41:43

“This can’t be happening!” Joseph muttered under his breath. Joseph had just been put in prison for being falsely accused of mistreating Potiphar’s wife. Joseph was sad because things were looking bad. He had been sold as a slave by his brothers to a foreign land called Egypt, and now he had been thrown into jail for doing nothing wrong. It was cold and dark. The food was terrible. Joseph felt alone and afraid. There were so many questions that he had. He wondered if this was all God’s plan. Joseph had some doubts, but he still trusted God’s plan.

“I know God will help me through this tough time,” said

Joseph. While he was in prison, he helped the prisoners. Some of the prisoners started having dreams that they couldn’t understand. “Joseph, can you help me understand this scary dream that I had?” Joseph asked what had happened in these dreams. They described these weird dreams, and Joseph, through God’s help, was able to explain those dreams. One of the prisoners left the prison and went back to work for Pharaoh, but he never mentioned Joseph’s name. Joseph had been forgotten.

The jail guard was impressed at how Joseph was helpful toward the prisoners. Joseph had been put in charge by the jail guard. Despite how bad things were, Joseph wanted to help others around him in prison. Would you be able to help others when you are going through a tough time? Joseph did show that despite everything going wrong, he wanted to be God’s witness. Joseph waited on God while God worked behind the scenes.

A few years went by. Now Pharaoh was struggling with

some strange dreams, but no one in the palace could help him. “I know of someone in prison who can help interpret your dreams,” said Pharaoh’s butler.

“Go get him. What are you waiting for?” said Pharaoh.

Pharaoh told his dreams to Joseph: “Well, I saw these thin-looking cows eat the healthy cows that had gone to eat grass.” God helped Joseph to understand and explain to Pharaoh that there would be a famine. Pharaoh was amazed at the wisdom and saw that Joseph would be a good leader. Joseph was given the job as the ruler over all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh!

Joseph’s witness was not easy, with all the bad things that had happened to him, but he continued trusting God through prayer. We can learn from Joseph’s story that no matter how hard it gets, we can trust God to help us. God has a plan for each of us.

IT’S YOUR TURN

- What happened to Joseph when he was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife?
- Would you have responded the way Joseph did?
- What would you do if you were mistreated by a classmate or friend? Would you continue to pray and trust God?
- List some things that can help you witness even when you feel misunderstood and alone.





The Strangest Disease

Bible Treasure: 2 Kings 5:1-16

“What is that spot on your skin?” asked Naaman’s wife.

“I just noticed it recently,” said Naaman. Naaman had something strange going on with his skin. He started getting white spots all over his body. There was no cure, and nothing was working.

“It looks like you have leprosy,” said Naaman’s wife.

“Oh, no. How can I continue to be a commander with this disease?” sighed Naaman. Naaman was the commander in chief under the king of Syria. He was in charge of all the soldiers in the king’s army.

There was a young maid from Israel who worked in their household and overheard their conversation. She felt bad that Naaman had white spots on his

body. She decided to witness to her master about the prophet Elisha.

“I have good news about curing the master’s leprosy,” she told Naaman’s wife. “God can heal him,” said the young maid. Naaman’s wife ran quickly to tell her husband. Naaman didn’t know what to think, taking advice from a young slave girl, but he listened. The young maid had mentioned a prophet by the name of Elisha who was led by God. Elisha could help Naaman. Naaman would have to go to prophet Elisha in Israel to find out what he would need to do to be healed from leprosy.

It was a long journey to go to Elisha’s house in Israel from the kingdom of Syria. Naaman went with some of his men and servants to find out if there was going to be a miracle for this disease that he had. Naaman arrived safely in Israel.

The instructions were specific. Naaman would have to go dip himself into the Jordan River seven times! “Is that even possible, that I could be cured by dipping myself in dirty water?” Naaman asked. One of

his servants encouraged him to listen to the prophet’s message. With a scared look on his face, Naaman went into the water seven times, and when he came out, his skin was new again.

“This is truly a miracle! There is no other true God than the God of Israel!” exclaimed Naaman. The young maid didn’t just work for Naaman, but became a good friend. The young maid’s faith in God and witness helped others like Naaman to see how powerful God is. It doesn’t matter what age you are; God will give you the strength to help someone in need. The next time you feel sick, remember this story and how God can heal you.

IT’S YOUR TURN

- What did it take for the little maid to witness to her master? Why was it difficult?
- Share with two friends how God healed you when you were sick.
- How did your friends respond when God healed you?

Sleeping in a Lions' Den

Bible Treasure: Daniel 6

Daniel loved God. Daniel lived in the land of Babylon. He prayed three times a day and knew that God would never leave him. Daniel had been put in charge of various things in the kingdom, and King Darius trusted him.

But not everyone was happy with him. "Hmm, Daniel thinks he is better than us. We will get him!" some said. These bad men were thinking of ways to get Daniel in trouble and have King Darius hate him. The bad men suggested an idea to the king to make a law that everyone worships only him.

"OK, it's now a law, and anyone who breaks this law will be thrown into a lions' den," said the king.

"Aha, now Daniel has no choice but to obey this law," said the bad men.

When Daniel heard of this new law, he continued to pray, and he did not stop praying! The bad men couldn't believe their eyes! "How can Daniel not obey this law? He is in trouble now," echoed the bad men. Daniel was not afraid, for he knew that God would be with him.

Daniel was a witness showing there is a God of heaven. Daniel was not afraid to pray even though the bad men were watching him. These men reported what they saw to the king, who was disappointed,

because he liked Daniel. He had no choice but to throw Daniel into the lions' den for disobeying the law. Daniel was not afraid, but still trusted God to save him.

"Look at Daniel. It's over for him; we will see if his God will save him, ha-ha, ha-ha," the bad men laughed.

As Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, King Darius watched sadly. "Daniel, I hope your God will save you," he said. Daniel was in the lions' den all night. Early the next morning the king went to check to see if Daniel was still alive. "Daniel, did your God save you?" asked the king. Daniel yelled out that he was safe. The king was happy to hear that Daniel was kept safe from the lions. God had protected him! The bad men were so angry that their plan had failed.

It won't always be easy when you are put through tough

things, but God can protect us, too. Sometimes when you stand for God, you will be hated by your friends, but He has promised: "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, NIV).

IT'S YOUR TURN

- Have you ever been tempted to disobey your parents or your teacher at school?
- Read Matthew 5:16. In what way was Daniel's witnessing a light for the king?
- Try some creative ways to pray. Maybe do a prayer walk with an adult and friends in your community.



Frenemies

Bible Treasure: John 4:1-26

It was a hot day. Jesus walked in the desert for a long time. He decided to stop at a well to rest His dusty feet. Jesus was very thirsty. As soon as Jesus sat at the well, He saw someone coming toward Him. A Samaritan woman stopped by the well to get water. In those days there was no store to buy water; people would have to go to a well for it. The wells back in those days were deep and needed some type of bucket with a rope to get down to get water. Imagine having to carry around a bucket just to get water from a well. That was how life was for many people back in those days.

“Please, can I get a drink of water?” asked Jesus. The Samaritan woman was surprised.

“Why are you asking me for water?” she said. In those days Jews and Samaritans did not talk to or befriend each other, so it was a surprising encounter for the Samaritan woman. It did not matter to Jesus who the woman was or where she was from. Jesus loves everyone and was not afraid to ask for water.

“If you knew who I was, you would have asked Me for living water,” said Jesus.

“What do you mean, living water? You can’t even get water from the well!” the Samaritan woman responded. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that anyone who drinks from the well will thirst again, but those who drink living water from Him will never thirst again. The living water

that Jesus was talking about was the message of salvation and everlasting life with God.

“Wow, tell me more about this living water!” said the Samaritan woman. She asked more questions. Then Jesus explained to her that He was the Messiah! “You have made my day; I finally get to meet You in person!” said the Samaritan woman. The Samaritan woman got so excited that she ran off to tell everyone that Jesus was there and to go see Him. A crowd came right behind the Samaritan woman as she came closer to Jesus. What a sight it was. The rest of the Samaritans believed the woman because of what she had told them, and she was encouraged by Jesus’ love and the way He treated

her even when she made bad decisions. When you share the story of Jesus, more people will come to know who He is.

IT’S YOUR TURN

- Have you ever been friends with someone no one liked?
- What does the story of the Samaritan woman teach us? How would Jesus want us to treat others?
- Is it easy to share Jesus with a friend?
- Think of something nice that you can do for a new child in your school or church. Maybe give them a new Bible, a card, or a care package.



Second Chances

Bible Treasure: Acts 9:36-43

There were beautiful quilts laid out in Tabitha's living room. She had a special gift for being generous, and she would sew quilts, clothes, and blankets for people in her town. She was a friend and helper to poor people. Tabitha was also known as Dorcas. She lived in a town called Joppa, which was a busy port by the sea. Many boats came to Joppa with visitors.

Tabitha was known as an apostle or helper of Jesus because of the love she had shown making clothes for those who needed them. "Hey, Tabitha, thanks again for that pretty scarf you made for me," said a visitor standing outside her door.

"No problem; I just want everyone to have what they need," said Tabitha. Everyone loved Tabitha. She welcomed everyone into her home with a warm meal and a gift of something she made. If a family didn't have enough money to buy new clothes, Tabitha made sure to help by making clothes for some of these families. Many people were encouraged and thankful for someone like Tabitha. God gave Tabitha not just a gift of hospitality but also the gift of sewing. Tabitha loved God and loved people.

One day Tabitha got very sick. She got worse and worse, and the doctor could not find any medicine to help her get better. After a while Tabitha died. What



a shock it was to those who loved her. Everyone in that town was heartbroken and cried. Her body was washed and prepared for burial.

Meanwhile, some people heard that Peter was nearby in another town. Some of the people remembered that Jesus' disciples not only healed but also brought people back to life. They believed that Peter could bring Tabitha back to life. They sent some men to find Peter and ask him to come to help them. "Peter, please come as fast as you can; Tabitha has died!" they said. Peter went with the men, and when he got there, he went upstairs to the

room where Tabitha was lying. "I need all of you to leave the room, please," Peter said. He knelt and prayed to God. Then he looked at Tabitha and said, "Get up!" Tabitha opened her eyes and got off the bed. As she walked out of the room, everyone looked with amazement and praised God.

"A miracle from God has happened. Tabitha is alive!" they said.

The people started telling everyone what Peter had done through the power of God, and many started to believe in Jesus. God brought Tabitha back to life to show how marvelous He is.

IT'S YOUR TURN

- What good things can you do to help others in your community or church? Maybe you could pick up trash at a park, help the needy by donating money with the help of your parent, or give away clothes that you don't need anymore.
- How is helping the poor and needy a good way to witness?



Tentmaking for Jesus

Bible Treasure: Acts 18:1-3

Have you ever seen tents made from animal skin? Aquila and Priscilla were known as tentmakers. There were no sewing machines, so they sewed large tents by hand with huge needles. Tentmaking was a good job for them to bring home money.

They were a loving Christian couple. Paul, also a tentmaker, met Aquila and Priscilla when he was traveling to different cities. They welcomed Paul into their home and worked with him in the city of Corinth. Priscilla and Aquila also made tents with Paul. As they all worked together, Paul would share God's Word with them. They

learned a lot from Paul. Paul stayed a long time in Corinth and continued sharing the gospel during that time. Aquila and Priscilla wanted to help Paul teach the Word of God to others. They enjoyed it so much that they decided to go on a mission trip with Paul. It would be a new experience, but they were happy to share how good God was to them.

"Paul has been such a good friend to us. I'm so excited that we are joining him on this mission trip," Priscilla exclaimed joyfully.

Aquila agreed with Priscilla. "Yes, God has been blessing us through this ministry of tentmaking and friendships." Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla packed up their belongings to go on the mission trip. They traveled by boat to share the gospel with as many people as they could. It was like a tour of many cities, to share the love of God.

They landed at Ephesus, which was one of the largest cities at that time.

They would travel to different places telling people about Jesus. People were very excited to hear about the Word of God, and many people believed and became Christians. It must have been such an amazing sight to see crowds come to hear about God.

Aquila, Priscilla, and Paul stayed for a while in Ephesus. Paul left Aquila and Priscilla behind in Ephesus to continue traveling and sharing the Word of God. Many people turned their hearts and lives to God and became Christians. Because of the hospitality of Aquila and Priscilla to Paul and many others, people came to know the one true God. There are many ways that we can share the good news about God too. God can give you a talent or gift to help others. You can serve God through music, preaching, teaching, sewing clothes, or many other ways.

IT'S YOUR TURN

- Have you ever traveled on a world tour of countries or maybe visited some states where you live? Did you meet new people and taste interesting foods?
- If you can't travel to many places, can you still tell others about Jesus? Suggest some ways.
- Do you have friends that can help you share the love of God? What creative ideas could you come up with together?

Miracles in Prison

**Bible Treasure: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11;
2 Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 16:25-40**

Paul enjoyed traveling and teaching about God in different cities and countries. Some days were long. Paul would get tired and sad, but he knew that God was with him. When most people met Paul, they felt God's presence. There was always a feeling of peace around Paul, and he performed many miracles.

One time Paul and Silas were thrown into prison because an angry mob was not happy with them teaching the gospel. Some believers warned them to leave, but Paul continued preaching and felt that God was with them.

"Leave our town; you are bringing trouble here," shouted the angry mob. Paul and Silas were hurt by their actions. Paul and Silas prayed and worshipped God even when they were going through a tough time. It felt as if they were all alone and barely hanging on. But God was working behind the scenes.

While in prison, Paul and Silas prayed to God and sang hymns with so much joy. Suddenly there was a loud boom. It was an earthquake! Doors flung open all over the jail, but Paul and Silas continued praising God. While they (and the other prisoners) could have escaped, Paul and Silas stayed so they could share the good news with the jailer. The jailer was amazed to see Paul and Silas still in their prison cell singing praise songs. *Even in prison, Paul and Silas are still happy praising God, I must find out about this God they worship,* the jailer thought to himself.

The jailer invited Paul and Silas to his home and gave his

life to Jesus. In the most unlikely place, God worked a miracle. God used this experience for His glory. Paul and Silas were an example that when it seems as if there is no hope, God provides a way. Even in the most unexpected places, God gives us joy. Maybe you have experienced joy when you are helping others even when you are having a bad day. God can give you strength to get through life and to share that joy with others, who will learn about how loving He is. ☺

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IT'S YOUR TURN

- Have you ever gone through a tough time? Maybe you didn't do well on your test or didn't get picked to play on a sports team at school. How did you react, and what did you feel?
- Ask your parents how God helped them through a tough time.
- How can you help others experience joy during a tough day at school? What are some things you can do for others to know more about God?

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