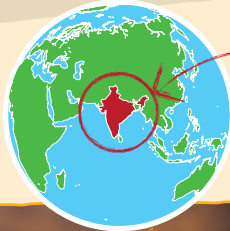


# Being brave for Jesus

Parents/guardians are advised to read through this magazine to ensure that it will be suitable for their child. This magazine can be used alongside the lesson plan for children and young people in the Suffering Church Action Week Inspiration Pack.



## India: Golden's story



But one day, Golden's life changed forever. A huge crowd of angry people came to the homes of Christians in Orissa and tried to make them stop being Christians and follow their gods instead. Lots of the Christians ran away into the jungle, and the people set fire to their houses and burned them down, including Golden's house.

**G**olden and his family are Christians from a place called Orissa in India. Until he was six years old, Golden lived a normal life with his family. Christians in Orissa mostly lived peacefully with the other people around them, who do not follow Jesus and believe in different gods.



After that, Golden and his family had to live in tents. One of these tents was very leaky, and a lot of rain came in. Golden and his little brother were ill many times, and Golden's schoolbooks were all damaged, so it was hard for him to study.

Barnabas Fund helps Christians like Golden when people hate and attack them because they are following Jesus. We helped to build Golden's family a proper house made of bricks. It only has one room, but finally, the family have a place to call their own again.



Golden is twelve now. When he grows up, he wants to be an evangelist. This means that he wants to tell lots of other people about Jesus. Golden said:



*"I am thankful to God for everything. God is the provider of everything in our life in this world."*

We might expect that Golden would be sad and angry about what happened to his family. He suffered greatly just because he is a Christian. But when Golden looks back, he sees everything that God has done for him in his life, and instead he is so thankful. He trusts God and loves Him very much.

Golden is **faithful**. Being faithful means not turning away from what you believe, even when things are hard. We can be faithful, too, because God is faithful to us. He will never leave us and He will always love us.



## Bible story

# City walls built on faith

(Nehemiah 1-6)

**M**any years ago, Nehemiah was an important man in the Persian court. He was the king's cupbearer, which means that the king trusted him to taste his wine before he drank it, to make sure it was not poisoned. But although Nehemiah was the king's servant, he was also one of God's people. And for Nehemiah, God always came first.

One day, Nehemiah's brother came to visit him from Jerusalem, Nehemiah's home town. His brother told him some heart-breaking news. The wall of Jerusalem was lying in ruins, and God's people in the city were in trouble and ashamed.

When he heard this sad news, Nehemiah was very upset. But he was a very faithful man, so he prayed to God, asking for His help.

A few months later, Nehemiah was serving the king his wine. But instead of pretending to be happy around the king, Nehemiah let his true feelings show. The king could tell that he was broken-hearted.

*"I know you are not sick, so why is your face sad?"* asked the king. Nehemiah was terrified. He was not supposed to look sad around the king. But Nehemiah answered, *"Why should I not be sad, when my home town lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"* The king said, *"What are you asking for?"*

Before he answered, Nehemiah prayed again in his heart. Then he said, *"If it pleases the king, please send me to my home town, so that I may rebuild it."*

Amazingly, the king not only said that Nehemiah could go, but he also gave permission for Nehemiah to use wood from the king's forest for the building work. Nehemiah knew that this had happened because God was with him.

But when Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, not everybody was glad to see him. Many of the people in the city were enemies of God. Some of them were very annoyed that Nehemiah had come back to make things better for the people of God.

Nehemiah encouraged his people to rebuild the city wall, and they got ready for the work. But two of God's enemies said, *"What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"*

This was a very serious accusation. But faithful Nehemiah knew exactly what to say. *"Our God will make everything work out for us, and we will build this wall,"* he answered.

So the people of God began to rebuild the wall, with each family mending a different part. This made their enemies very angry, and they tried several times to stop the work. They teased God's people and secretly planned to attack them.

But Nehemiah did not let the plotters win. Instead of getting distracted, he prayed and trusted that God would deal with His enemies. When God's people heard about the plan to attack them, they prayed for God's protection and they guarded the wall. Nehemiah told them not to be afraid. He reminded them that God was with them, saying, *"Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome."*

Nehemiah's enemies even tried to trick him into going to meet them so that they could attack him. But Nehemiah was too wise for them. He replied that he was too busy with the work to go.

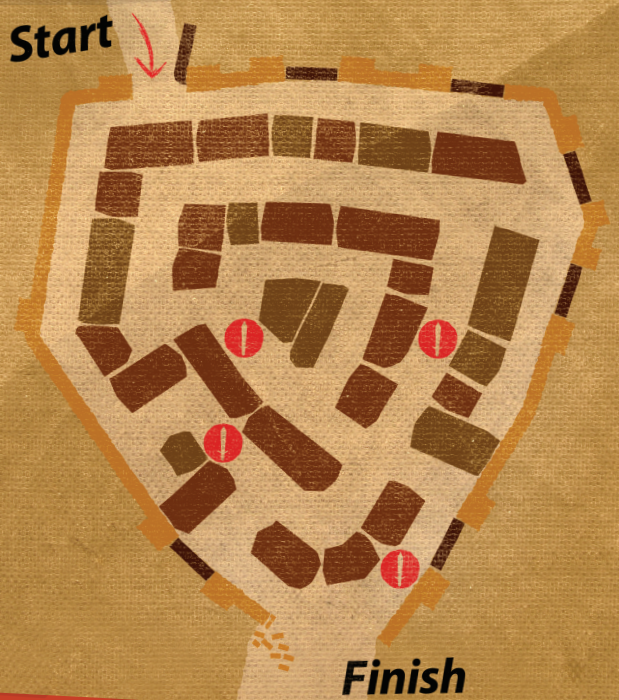
Despite all their enemies' attempts to prevent them, the people of God built the wall higher and higher. Finally, after 52 days, the building work was finished. Not only was Jerusalem a safer place to be, but everyone around could see that God was the one who had made it all happen.

Nehemiah achieved something amazing when he rebuilt the wall. But he knew that he could not do anything without God. At every step of the way, he prayed.

Nehemiah was very **faithful**. He always trusted that things would work out in the end because he was on God's side. And God proved him right.

**Can you help Nehemiah find his way through Jerusalem?**

Start



Finish





# Uganda: Rose's story



**R**ose has not always been a Christian. In fact, in the part of Uganda that Rose is from, a lot of people do not believe in Jesus. When Rose heard about Jesus and became a Christian, her life was changed forever. She knew that God would take care of her.

But Rose's family do not believe in Jesus and follow another religion instead, and they were very angry with her for becoming a Christian. They were so furious that they refused to pay for her education any more. Rose was not able to study for two years.

When Barnabas Fund heard that Rose was in trouble, we paid for her to continue her studies. Now Rose is about to finish her training, and she should be able to get a good job.

But something even better has also happened. Rose kept talking to her family about Jesus, and one day they started to listen! Rose's mother even gave her life to Jesus.

Now, Rose wants to tell even more people about the wonderful things that God has done for her. When she finishes studying, she wants to help to start a church in a new area, so that more and more people will come to know how amazing Jesus is.

*Rose said: "My vision is to serve the Lord with all my heart. Christ died for me; I will live the rest of my life glorifying Him"*

All through the difficult times, Rose never stopped trusting God. She was **faithful** and she knew that He would provide for her. We should also be faithful when times are hard, or when people do not like us because we are Christians. God's love for us is bigger than any of the difficulties we face, and we can trust that He has a plan for our lives.

Look up the Bible verses to find the missing words, using the New International Version. Then try to find them in the grid below. The words go up, down, from left to right, and diagonally.

"I keep my \_\_\_\_\_ always on the Lord" (Psalm 16:8)

"The righteous \_\_\_\_\_ live by faith" (Romans 1:17)

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is \_\_\_\_\_ in all he does" (Psalm 33:4)

"Faith is confidence in what we \_\_\_\_\_ for" (Hebrews 11:1)

"A faithful person will be richly \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 28:20)

"If we are faithless, He \_\_\_\_\_ faithful"

(2 Timothy 2:13. "He" means God here!)

"A faithful God who \_\_\_\_\_ no wrong, upright and just is He" (Deuteronomy 32:4)

"\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, who is great and awesome"

(Nehemiah 4:14)

**Sometimes it can be difficult to focus on the truth about God when the world is so distracting. It can feel a bit like this puzzle!**



# Activity: Light in the darkness

Making a silhouette jar is a great way to help you remember Golden's story. It's very easy to make, too.



1

Carefully cut out the comic strip below.



Activity



2

Stick the label to a clear glass jar using sticky tape.



3

Ask an adult to help you light a tea-light candle and put it inside the jar. Don't put the lid on or the flame will go out!



4

Turn off all the lights in the room and watch the candlelight shine through the shapes. The darker the room is, the better you will be able to see.



5

When you've finished with your jar, you could use it to collect coins in. If you ask an adult to help you to send them to Barnabas Fund, we will use them to help Christians like Golden.



*"I am thankful to God for everything. God is the provider of everything in our life in this world."*

**- Golden -**

