

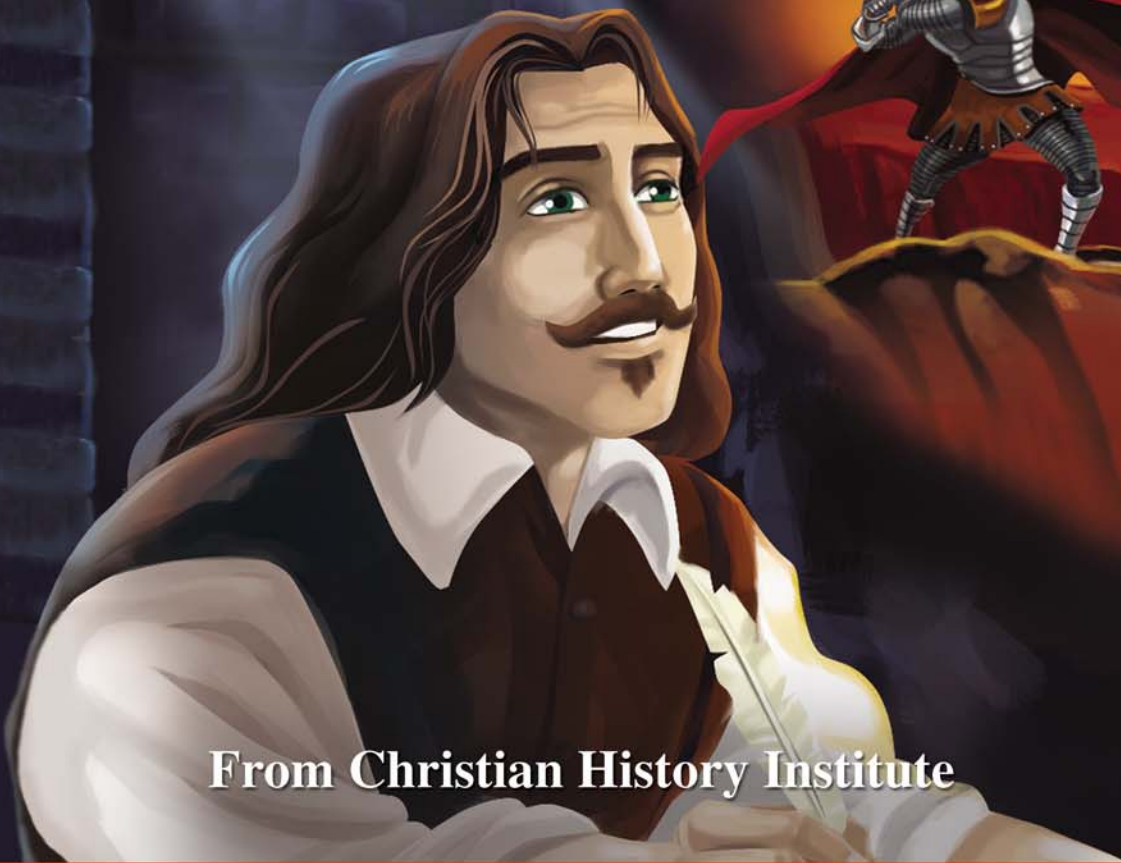


THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for the DVD

The John Bunyan Story



From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T

Table of Contents

Lay Down Your Burdens	3
My Story So Far Timeline	4
Dig into the Story!	5
Dig Deeper	6
Prison Minister Interview	7
Gifts and Talents	8
Armor of God Word Activity	9
Stories With Lessons	10
Story Mix-Up	11
Matching Game	12
Color the Scene	13-16

NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on page 20 of the Leader's Guide.
--



Lay Down Your Burdens

John Bunyan is a tinker. He travels from house to house mending pots and pans and other household objects. The bag of tools he carries with him is quite heavy, but he carries something that is even heavier—a burden of unforgiven sin. Unscramble the sins represented by John's tools. Look up **Ephesians 4:25-32** and **2 Corinthians 12:20** for help if you get stuck. How can John stop carrying the weight of these sins?



1. ILGYN

2. LNETISGA



3. LGIREUAQRLN



4. GIUCSNR

5. TCNEHAGI



6. RANEROGAC



7. EAGR



10. YOEASJL



9. TINSEBTRE



8. SOGPSI



My Story So Far Timeline

Use this timeline to represent your own personal life story. Fill in important events, both good and bad. Add extra markers and write above and below the timeline. Make it as detailed as possible, and use pictures if you like.

I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Born	2 years	4 years	6 years	8 years	10 years	12 years

Discuss: Which events in your life have been positive and which have been negative? How has God been with you through both your good and bad times?

Alternate Idea: On a separate sheet of paper, draw your life as a series of high's and low's. A mountain or hill will represent a high point or good time, while a valley would be a difficult event or time. Label the peaks and valleys with the events they represent.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

—Philippians 4:12-13



Dig Into The Story!

Questions to get you thinking and talking

1. What kind of childhood did John Bunyan have? How is it different from your own experience?
2. Why do you think John was troubled with bad dreams?
3. What sorts of things did John do to try to get right with God? Do you know of people who try to earn their way into heaven with good deeds or by trying not to sin?
4. John overheard some ladies discussing their faith. What was different about their experience with God? What did John need to do in order to have the peace that they had?
5. What special gifts did John Bunyan have?
6. Was John's family supportive of his decision to preach, even though he would be arrested?
7. How did John continue to serve God even when he was in prison?
8. Why do you think the jailor trusted John to leave the jail in order to preach?
9. What would you say was the worst thing that happened to John Bunyan? Why?
10. What is the most important thing John Bunyan did in his service to the Lord?



Dig Deeper

Thinking through some tough issues

1. Look up the word “ordained.” What is the process for becoming an ordained pastor in your church?
2. John Bunyan was not allowed to preach because he wasn't an ordained pastor in the Church of England. What do you think of that?
3. Do you think John Bunyan should have preached when he knew he would be arrested? Why or why not?
4. Who or What does the dragon Apollyon represent?
5. What does Apollyon mean when he speaks of his “infernal abode?” Use a dictionary to look up these words.
6. Apollyon the dragon is a representation of the challenges and temptations of life. What unique “dragons” do kids your age face?
7. What Christian groups or classes are you involved in at church? How about outside of church? John Bunyan was accused of running an “illegal meeting,” meaning it was not a part of the official church. Why do you think the church had rules like this?
8. How did John's family show support for him even after his arrest? Do you know someone who is going through a difficult time? How can you show love and support for them?
9. What type of attitude did John Bunyan have while he was in prison? How can you keep a good attitude even when life seems unfair?

Prison Minister Interview

Invite someone who has been involved in prison ministry to your classroom for an interview. Here are some sample questions you can ask:

1. How did you get involved in prison ministry?
2. Are you afraid when you go to the prison? Were you afraid the first time you went?
3. Describe the kinds of things you do with the prisoners.
4. What do you enjoy the most about prison ministry?
5. What challenges do you face in prison ministry?
6. Have you seen many prisoners have their lives changed?
7. What have you learned from people in prison that has most surprised you?
8. What is the hardest thing for prisoners who want to turn their life around?
9. Do some prisoners get involved in ministering to others? How?
10. Have you ever met someone like John Bunyan who found that prison brought out his gifts in an unusual way?
11. What are the greatest needs in this type of work?

Enrichment Idea: Find a tangible way for your class to support a prison ministry. This could be preparing simple gifts, writing letters of encouragement, making cards, or collecting Bible resources to be given to prisoners who want them. You may also consider ministering to the families of those who are incarcerated. Find an established prison ministry to help coordinate the details of this project

I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

—Matthew 25:36

Gifts and Talents

God has given every person a unique set of gifts and talents. He wants us to develop our talents so we can serve him. Circle the pictures that show talents you have, then look at the list below and circle places where you can use these talents.



Being a Friend



Sports



Music



Writing



Public Speaking



Art

List some other gifts and talents God has given you:

Now where can you use your gifts and talents? (circle all that apply)

Church Neighborhood World Missions School Home

Armor of God Word Activity

Christian is dressed for battle. Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us the kinds of armor a Christian should wear. Look up the passage and fill in the words on each piece of armor. How will these things help Christian in the battle?



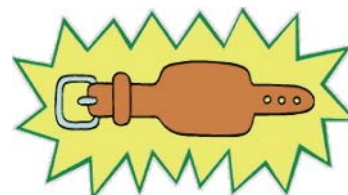
SWORD OF THE



SHIELD OF



SHOES FIT WITH THE



BELT OF



BREASTPLATE OF



HELMET OF

Stories With Lessons

John Bunyan wrote stories to teach lessons about faith. Long before John lived, Jesus did the same thing. Jesus told stories known as “Parables,” in order to teach lessons. Decode the clues in this rebus story to read one of Jesus' parables.



- CR

50 + 50



If a _____

&

100 - 99



+ ER\$

_____ of them _____ away,



100 - 1

will the _____ not leave the _____ on



- H



the _____ go to _____



- LU

100 - 99



+ ERED



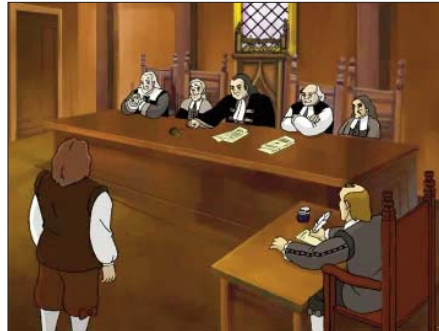
_____ the _____ that _____ ?

Discuss: What was Jesus trying to teach with this story? Why do you think Jesus used stories to teach lessons? What was John Bunyan trying to teach with his story, *The Pilgrim's Progress*? Can you think of a lesson that people should learn? Can you make up a story to teach that lesson?

“Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” – Psalm 119:105

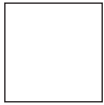
Story Mix-Up

These pictures of John's story are all mixed up. Number the pictures in the correct order.



Matching Game

Match the person on the left with their role in the John Bunyan Story on the right.

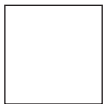


New Prisoner



Mary

1. A mischievous lad with a foul mouth.

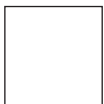


Apollyon



John Bunyan

2. A man who serves God fully through all kind of trials and challenges.

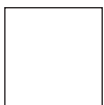


Young John Bunyan



Judge Kelynge

3. John's wife, who supports his decision to preach.



Pastor Gifford



Hazelwood

4. Visits John in prison, bringing him soup.



Jailor



Elizabeth

5. Helps John understand that he needs to give his burdens to God.

6. Listens to John's story and considers his own burden of sin.

7. Allows John to leave the jail to preach.

8. Represents life's temptations and challenges in John's dream and in his book.

9. Sentences John to prison for preaching without a license.

10. Goes to the battlefield in John's place.

Color the Scene #1



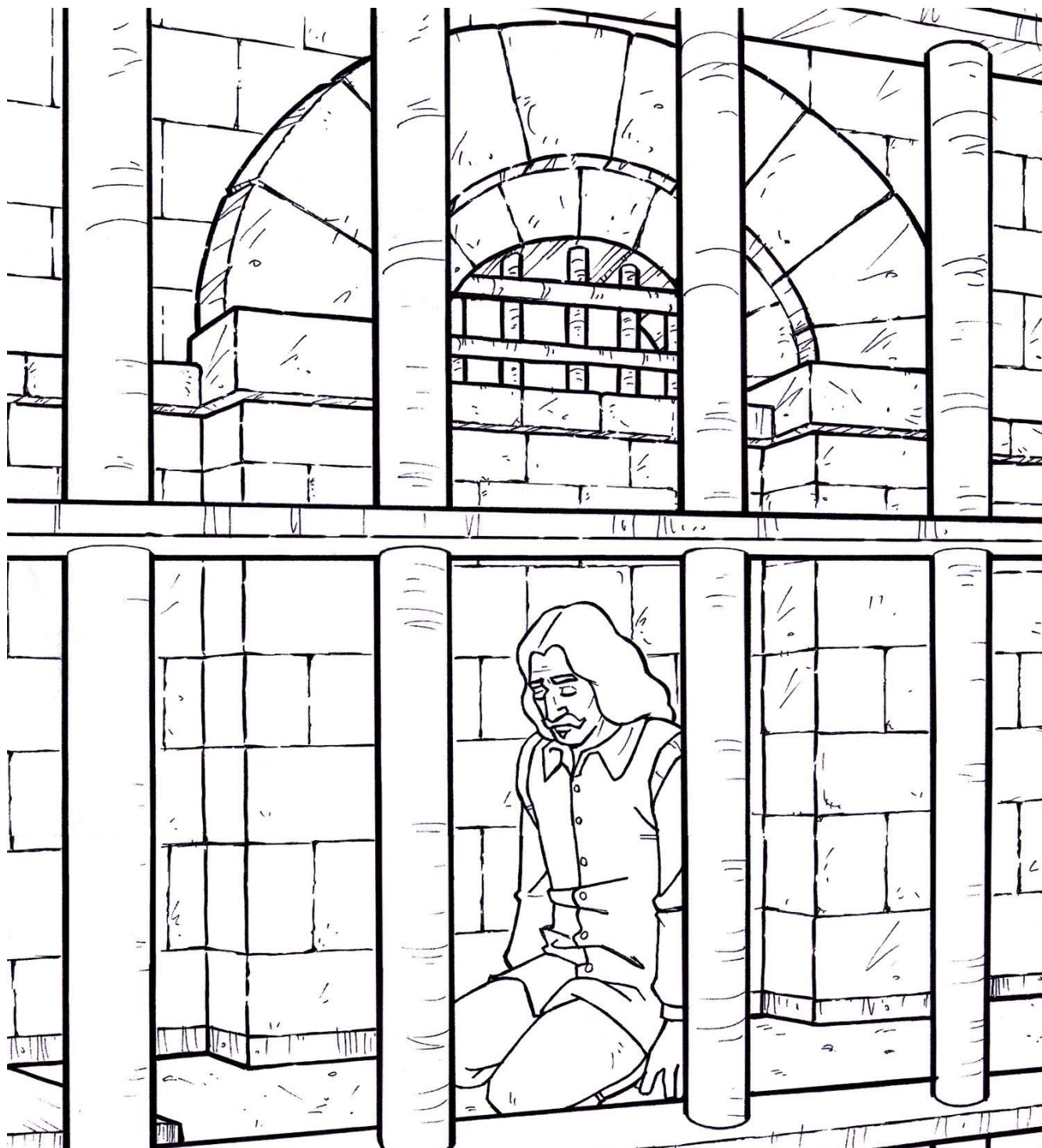
Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. – Ecclesiastes 12:1a (NIV)

Color the Scene #2



“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” – James 1:12 (NIV)

Color the Scene #3



**“You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.”
– Revelation 2:3 (NIV)**

Color the Scene #4



“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”

– Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)