

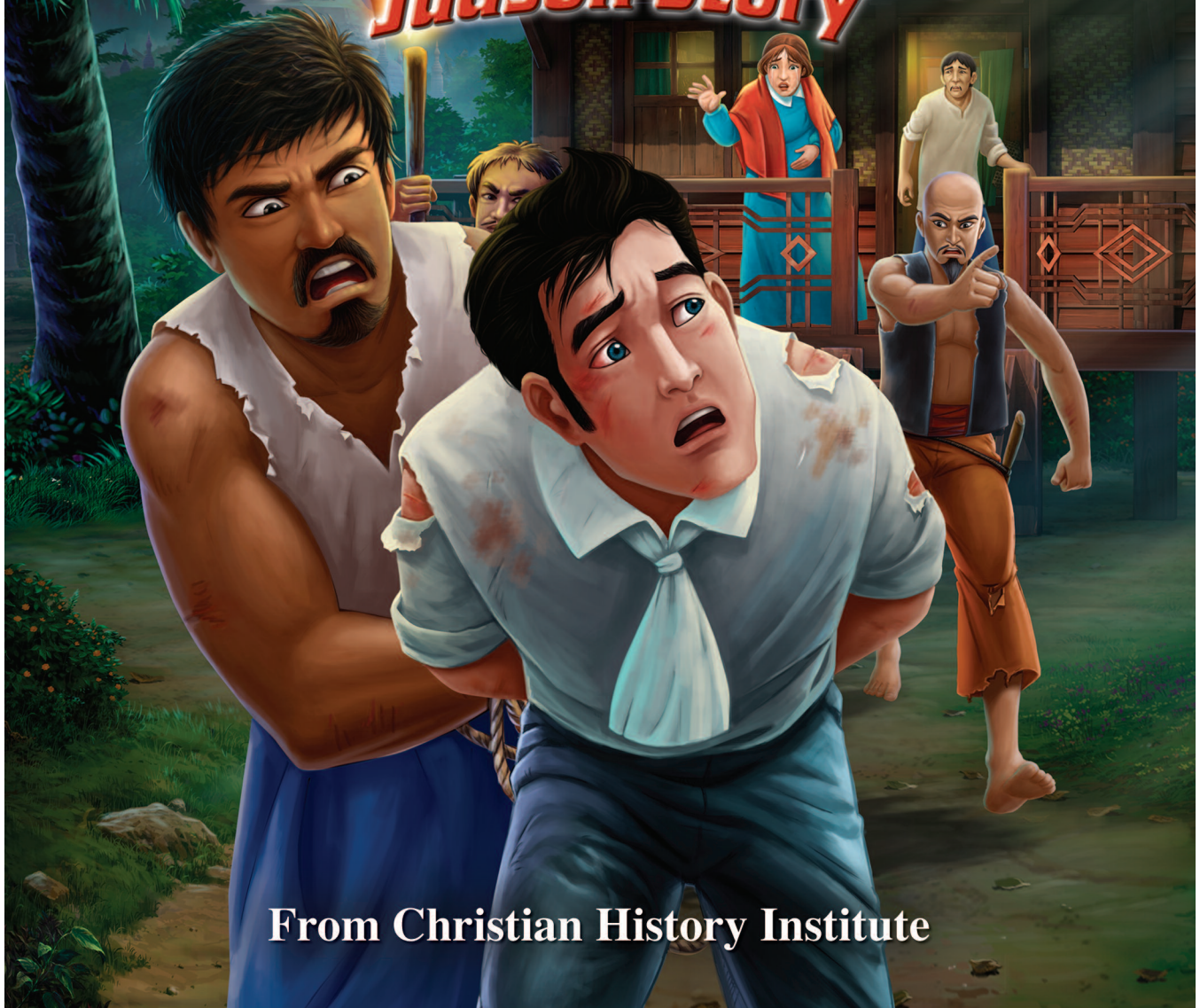


THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Leader's Guide for the DVD

The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story



From Christian History Institute

L E A D E R



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Introduction to the *Torchlighters* Series

Torchlighter: *One who commits to serving God
and passing on the light of the Gospel,
even if the going gets tough.*

Kids today have no shortage of heroes. From Hollywood celebrities to musical artists and sports figures, it would seem that there are plenty of heroes to go around. However, the heroes offered by popular culture are teaching children that physical perfection, financial success, and fame are the most important goals in life. The morals and values presented are often in direct opposition to the standards parents want to pass on to their children. So, while there is no shortage of heroes, there is a dreadful shortage of heroes worth emulating.

The *Torchlighters* video series offers children real heroes that they can depend on. These heroes have lived truly great lives marked by moral depth, strength of character, and an unwavering commitment to Christ. By sharing in their struggles and small steps of obedience, we are all challenged to live lives of faith. It is our sincere desire that as children get to know these “torchlighters,” they will be challenged to follow in the footsteps of the greatest torchlighter of them all, Jesus Christ. Learn more about the mission behind this series and find more free resources at

www.torchlighters.org



Synopsis of *The Torchlighters:* *The Adoniram Judson Story*

Though raised in a Christian home, Adoniram Judson fell away from the faith to pursue fame and fortune. But when the young deist is confronted with his mortality, he becomes a passionate servant of the Gospel, casting aside his ambitions for political prestige and entering the mission field instead.



Adoniram baptizes the first Burmese convert.

His path takes him and his new wife Ann to the Buddhist nation of Burma, where they diligently seek to reach the Burmese with the good news of Jesus Christ. After six years, Adoniram baptizes his first convert: a simple fisherman named Maung Ing.

Meanwhile, Adoniram labors to translate the Bible into Burmese and to gain the trust of the authorities. He travels to the capital of Ava, where he hopes the king will grant tolerance of Christianity.

But when war breaks out between Britain and Burma, his plan backfires. Every westerner becomes a suspected spy, and Adoniram is thrown into the capital's death prison. His Burmese translation, his family, and his own life face grave danger. Will the Gospel survive in Burma?

Meet the first American foreign missionaries—the husband and wife team that sparked the modern missionary movement in this sixteenth episode of the Torchlighters!



Teaching Plan for *The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story*

Welcome to Burma (modern day Myanmar), the second largest country in Southeast Asia, where Buddhism is at the center of cultural life and foreigners are immediately distrusted. Ann Judson wrote these words upon her initial entry to the city of Rangoon:

“The polished spires of the pagodas, glistening among the trees at a distance, appear like steeples of meeting-houses in our American seaports. The verdant appearance of the country, the hills and valleys, ponds and rivers, the banks of which are covered with cattle, and fields of rice; each, in their turn, attract the eye, and cause the beholder to exclaim, ‘Was this delightful country made to be the residence of idolaters? Are those glittering spires. . . but the monument of idolatry?’”

When she and her husband Adoniram first arrived, barriers of language, culture, and religion seemed insurmountable. Buddhism ruled the land, and imperialistic foreigners from Britain made the country's inhabitants suspect every westerner of ill intentions. But when Adoniram set to the long labor of translating the Bible into Burmese, the strange and even foolish-sounding Gospel of Jesus Christ would break into Burma's world of Buddhism, spirits, and gods. As a result, their work changed the religious landscape of Burma for years to come.

Join us as we dive into the life of Adoniram and Ann Judson, the first American foreign missionaries. Our overall theme of personal evangelism will carry throughout the four lessons with select verses. Follow these easy steps to get the most out of this episode of *The Torchlighters*!

1. PREVIEW *The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story* before showing it to your students. This will help you to recognize the major themes and teachable moments that occur throughout the video while equipping you to answer student questions. Our theme for this series is *Fishers of Men*. Four subthemes will be explored:

- **Lesson 1: Fishing for People** — Jesus calls his disciples to the radically new work of sharing the Gospel.
- **Lesson 2: God's Heart for Fish** — It is God's desire that all would know him.
- **Lesson 3: Catching for Christ** — Others can only hear about Jesus if we tell them.
- **Lesson 4: God Provides the Catch** — Many who hear the Gospel will be saved.

2. REVIEW the Supplementary Information. Become more informed on this true story by reading through *Key People* on p. 18, *Burma (Myanmar) History* on p. 19, and the *Timeline* on p. 20. On your DVD you will also find an informative documentary giving important and interesting background information.

3. SELECT and PREPARE Teaching Material. Our four-lesson plan is designed to lead children on a faith journey with Adoniram and Ann Judson. Our evangelism focus is intended to show children that sharing the Gospel is the responsibility and privilege of every believer, even as it requires patience and trust in God's plan for his kingdom. Feel free to mix and match to best suit your group and the time available. All material is reproducible and designed to help children apply the teaching themes.



NOTE: Special supplies are needed for activities in each session. To help your group understand how all Christians are called to missions, we encourage you to assign the “Every Day Missionary Interview” found on p. 11 of the Student Pages after completing session 2. You can also invite a guest speaker to present to your group. You will have time for your guest speaker or for students to share their interview experiences in session 3.

4. VISIT www.torchlighters.org. The materials in this guide and the Student Pages are just the beginning. Visit our website for other free resources, such as unique ministry ideas, publicity posters, interactive Kids Zone, and the “Carry the Torch” theme song, craft, and relay! If you are planning a teaching series based on *The Torchlighters*, consider using the theme song, craft, and relay as part of an introductory session focused on the question, “What is a Torchlighter?”

Are you planning a *Torchlighters* showing or event? Publicity is easy when you download free posters at www.torchlighters.org.



Session 1: Fishing for People

FOCUS: Jesus calls ordinary people to be his disciples and to carry out the extraordinary work of sharing the Good News about him.

THEME VERSE: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

- **PREPARE:** Use the information on p. 19 of the Leader's Guide to teach about Burma. Use a map and gather iconic images of Burmese pagodas, landscapes, and people for a complete picture of Burma. Decorate your room with paper palm trees and/or come dressed in fishing garb to really set the tone!

(For more background on Burma and the Judsons, watch the documentary included with your Torchlighters story. You can also refer to *Christian History* magazine issue #90: Adoniram and Ann Judson. Downloadable PDFs of articles or copies of the print issue can be found at ChristianHistoryInstitute.org.)

For **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME** you will need an old deck of cards you don't mind ruining (you can also use Go Fish game cards specifically geared for children.) Print out, cut, and paste four copies of today's theme verse to four matching face cards of the deck. (Make sure it's done well so as not to be distinguishable from the other cards!)

For **CHINLONE** game, you will need a 6"-8" balloon and/or hackey-sack.

For **JESUS FISH INVITATION**, make copies of p. 10 and bring enough art supplies and scissors for your group.

- **GAME—CHINLONE:** SAY: *Have you ever played a game of hackey-sack? Chinlone (pronounced as spelled), also known as caneball, is a traditional sport in the country we'll be studying today. It's a lot like hackey-sack: you play by standing in a circle and passing the ball without using your hands. But there are some differences. The ball used is woven together from something called rattan, a kind of palm tree, and the players walk in a circle the whole time with one person in the middle. Why don't we try our own version?*

Instructions: Using the balloon, have your group stand in a circle and begin passing the “ball” around. Once they get the hang of it, add in variations to increase difficulty (walking in a circle, person in the middle, using a hackey-sack instead of balloon.)

- **TEACH—BURMA, BUDDHISM, AND BAPTIST MISSIONARIES:**

ASK: *Imagine your family moved to another country. What would it be like? What would be the hardest things to learn and adjust to as you made your life there? Would it be worth it? Why or why not?*



SAY: Our faith hero, who will we learn more about in just a moment, left his life in the United States to live with the people of Burma and teach them about Jesus.

ASK: Have you ever heard of Burma, also known as Myanmar? What do you know about this country? Let's learn more about it now.

Use p. 10 of the Leader's guide and gathered visuals to share facts about the country of Burma.

- **BURMA WORD SEARCH:** Direct your group to pgs. 3-4 of the Student Pages to review facts and complete the word search.

ASK: Have you ever gone fishing? Do any of you have any good fish stories? How long does it take to catch a fish? What do you use for bait?

SAY: There will be a fisherman tale in the story of our faith heroes. In Burma (and many places in the world), fishing is an important occupation. Did you know that fish and fishermen are also a big part in the story of Jesus? Let's see if our theme verse for today can help us understand more about that.

- **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME:** Invite your students into your Bible center for Bible time. Explain the rules and play a quick game of Go Fish with your group. Whoever gets the matching set of verses and lays it out first wins the game. Ask that person to read the verse out loud.

SAY: Let's look at this verse in context.

READ: Matthew 4:18-22.

DISCUSS: Who is speaking in verse 19? Who were the fishermen? What did Jesus mean when he said that he would make them "fishers of men?" What does it mean to follow Jesus? Why do you think Jesus chose uneducated fishermen as followers?

SAY: Jesus' plans for his people are so much bigger than we could ever imagine. If we look at the rest of the New Testament, we see that the normal, every day people he calls to follow him live out extraordinary faith! These disciples, for instance, helped to establish Jesus' church and build it up. In the book of Acts, we see how thousands of people came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah through their witness and how many of them performed amazing miracles in Jesus' name. Did you know that if you are a believer in Jesus, he has called you to live out this extraordinary faith, too? Every Christian, no matter how "ordinary," can be an extraordinary witness to the one true God. And if we seek him, he will use us to accomplish his good purposes.

- **PREVIEW THE ADONIRAM AND ANN JUDSON STORY:** *SAY: When we gather together next time, we will watch a 30-minute video about Adoniram and Ann Judson, the first American foreign missionaries, and how God used their faith in Burma. Let's watch a short clip together.*

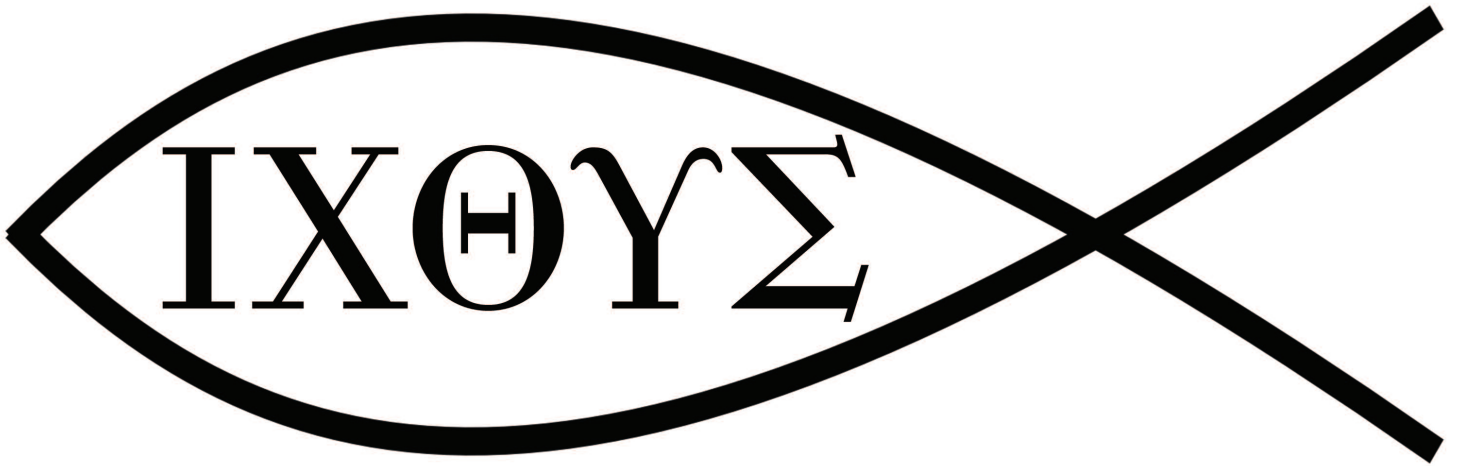


Play the short preview clip at the beginning of the DVD.

SAY: Have you ever seen one of these on the back of a car or somewhere else? [show image of Jesus Fish]. Do you know what it means? In Greek, the word for fish, ichthys, was used like an acrostic poem by first-century Christians as a symbol for their beliefs about Jesus. See these letters? Each Greek letter stands for a truth only Christians would know: (I) Jesus, (CH) Christ, (TH) Son of (Y) God, (S) Savior. It became a secret way for Christians to recognize one another when they were persecuted for their beliefs. According to ancient stories, when Christians met a stranger, they would draw one side of the fish in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other side and completed the fish, they would know they met a believer.

- **PROJECT—JESUS FISH INVITATION:** Print the invitations on p. 10 of the Leader's guide for your students. Instruct them to fold and tape together, then decorate and personalize at least one invitation to give to a friend.
- **CLOSING PRAYER:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for using people just like us to do big things for your kingdom. Please help us to seek you in everything we do and to listen to your call to share the good news about you. Amen.*
- **PREPARATION FOR NEXT LESSON:** Bring poster board and markers for **MISSIONARY WANTED**. If you choose to play Go Fish! during Bible time, paste four copies of next lesson's verse to the faces of four matching cards in your deck.
- **LOOKING AHEAD:** Think about and secure a guest for the **EVERY DAY MISSIONARY INTERVIEW** in session 3. Choose someone who can easily handle Scripture and is able to discuss what it looks like to share Christ and minister to the needs of the community in their particular vocation or station in life. For example, an individual who works regularly with a Gospel-centered nonprofit, someone who is allowed to use their nonprofit work to also share Christ, or a Christian who has had opportunities for evangelism in a secular career would be good candidates.

NOTE: Refer to the answer key on p. 22 for answers to selected Student Pages.



Want to know what the secret message is?
Join us to find out!

_____ Date:
_____ Time:
_____ Place:



Session 2: God's Heart for Fish

FOCUS: View *The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story* and consider the cost and reward of sharing the Gospel and why God wants us to do so.

THEME VERSE: “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:3-4

- **PREPARE:** Be sure to have all the equipment necessary to show *Torchlighters: The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story*. Print out additional copies of pgs. 5-6 in the Student Pages for the **JESUS FISH ACROSTIC**.

For **MISSIONARY WANTED**, you will need poster board (enough for groups of 4 or so), markers, and tape.

For **SHARKS AND MINNOWS**, gather masking tape or cones to mark the end lines.

(Optional) For **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME**, have four copies of today's verse ready on the matching face cards in your deck.

- **ACTIVITY—JESUS FISH ACROSTIC:** Admit your guests and direct them to pgs. 5-6 of the student pages or hand out copies. Ask students to explain what the fish symbol and corresponding acrostic mean.
- **REVIEW:** Refresh your group with facts learned about Burma.
- **ACTIVITY—MISSIONARY WANTED!:** Divide your class up into groups of about four people. Ask them to create a “help wanted” ad for a missionary. Be sure to include the qualifications needed. When everyone is done, share the work among the class and discuss why they chose each qualification.
- **INTRODUCE THE VIDEO:** SAY: *Today we're going to watch the story of the first American-born missionaries, who also happen to be the first missionaries to the country of Burma: Adoniram and Ann Judson. Adoniram Judson was an aspiring American politician in the 1800s, but God called him to be a missionary instead. When they arrived, Adoniram and Ann worked hard to reach the people, learn the language, and translate the Bible into Burmese. Everything could be lost when war breaks out and Adoniram is thrown in jail. As you watch the movie think about the question, “How patient must you be to ‘catch a fish’? What is the reward?”*
- **SHOW** the 30-minute program *The Torchlighters: The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story*.
- **STUDENT QUESTIONS:** Allow students time to process the video and ask questions about flow and content.



- **FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Lead discussion using appropriate questions from “Dig into the Story” on p. 7 in the Student Pages. For further questions, direct your students to “Dig Deeper” on p. 8.
- **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME:** Ask a volunteer to read 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

SAY: These verses come from a letter that Paul the apostle wrote to Timothy, a young pastor that he was encouraging and mentoring in his ministry. In this letter, Paul offers some of his testimony, thanking God that he was saved by his grace and love. Paul states in 1 Timothy 1:15 that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Because of this, he instructs Timothy to pray sincerely for everyone, including kings and leaders (1 Tm. 2:1-2). He explains why in our theme verses today.

DISCUSS: What does it mean that it pleases God for us to pray for people who don't know him? What can we know about God from these verses? How does praying for people and sharing the Gospel with them please God and bring glory to him? Were there ever times God answered your prayers for someone else's salvation? Did you have to be patient and wait? Are you still waiting for God to answer prayers about someone in your life?

SAY: Remember how long it took for the fisherman to trust Jesus as his Savior? One thing we learned from Adoniram and Ann Judson today is that we have to be patient and faithful. God's timing and purposes may be different from ours, but he always hears our prayers and answers them in his own way and time. So what can you do? You can remember the unbelievers in your life by praying for them faithfully and sharing God's Good News when you have the opportunity.

- **GAME—SHARKS AND MINNOWS:** Play this variation of tag in a gym or a field. Set up two lines of cones with an appropriate amount of space to run in between. Pick one person in your group to be the shark and stand in the middle of the gym/field while everyone else, the minnows, stands on a starting line on the side. Instruct your group to run to the other side of the space without getting tagged when you say, “Go!” Anyone who gets tagged becomes a shark. The last person to get tagged wins the game.
- **PARENT LETTER:** Distribute this letter to help parents understand the lessons you are sharing in class (p. 17 in Leader's Guide).
- **CLOSING PRAYER:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for how much you care for people and that you want everyone to know you. Help us to be faithful to pray for those who need you and to live in ways that reflect the truth of your word. Amen.*
- **PLANNING AHEAD:** Be prepared to host your guest for next session or assign the interview questions on p. 10 of the Student Pages by asking your group to interview someone personally. See p.12 of the Student Pages for the supplies needed for the **GOLD LEAF PRAYER BOX** craft.

NOTE: Refer to the answer key on p. 22 for answers to selected Student Pages.



Session 3: Catching for Christ

FOCUS: Others only hear about Jesus if we tell them!

THEME VERSE: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:14

- **PREPARE:** Gather the supplies for the **GOLD LEAF PRAYER BOXES** as noted on p. 12 of the Student Guide. Prepare the Scripture verse for today. Invite your guest to come speak for the **EVERY DAY MISSIONARY INTERVIEW**.

Bring cones for the active game **PORT OR STARBOARD**.

(Optional) Prepare verses on four matching face cards for **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME**.

- **GAME—PORT OR STARBOARD:** Start your time by taking your group to your gym or outside space. Set up cones in a large rectangle. As the “captain,” stand in the center of the space and have your group stand facing you. Explain the following commands:

Port: run to the left side

Starboard: run to the right side

Bow: run to the front

Stern: run to the back

Captain's coming: stand to attention and salute

Hit the Deck: lie on the floor

Much like “Simon Says,” players need to do the actions associated with the commands. Those who do the wrong action or are the last to follow a command are out. Last player standing becomes the new captain.

- **REVIEW:** Use p. 9 in the Student Pages (*Story Mix Up*) to review the story of Adoniram and Ann Judson. Encourage the class to share the important details of the story, focusing on what they know about their lives and legacy. Encourage your guest to ask questions of the students as they review the story.
- **EVERY DAY MISSIONARY INTERVIEW:** Invite your guest to share what he or she has prepared for the class. Allow plenty of time for questions and encourage your students to use the interview on p. 10 for more discussion questions. Alternatively, have your class share what they have learned from their own personal interviews.
- **ACTIVITY—ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY GOD:** As time allows, direct your group to p. 11 of their Student Guides and follow the instructions.



- **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME:** Invite the class into your Bible center for Bible time. (Play Go Fish! if time allows.) Ask them to review what was discussed the last two sessions and take time to read today's verse.

READ: Romans 10:14.

ASK: *What are the questions this verse is asking? Why?*

SAY: *If you look in your Bible, there should be a little heading over verse 5. What does it say? (Message of Salvation to All). This part of the book of Romans talks about the good news of Jesus and what we're supposed to do with that good news. Let's read the context of verse 14 now.*

Read Romans 10:9-15.

SAY: *Verse 9 promises that if we believe and confess that Jesus is Lord, and that he did what the Bible says he did (rose from the dead), that we will be saved. This is confirmed in the next few verses. The message of salvation given to us is a message that is for all people. This is what the writer means in verse 12 by saying there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. No matter what nationality you are, every person who trusts in Jesus for salvation becomes a member of God's family. This is wonderful news! Every Christian should want to share this hope with those who haven't heard!*

DISCUSS: *So why is it our responsibility, as believers in Jesus, to share the good news? What are some ways we can share the good news with those who haven't heard? What were some ideas shared through our Every Day Missionary Interview?*

- **GOLD LEAF PRAYER BOX CRAFT:** Refer students to p. 12 in the Student Pages for instructions.
- **DECODE THE QUOTE WORKSHEET**—Complete the puzzle on p.13 of the Student Pages.
- **CLOSING PRAYER:** *Dear King Jesus, what a gift you have given us in knowing you! But we know there are so many people around the world who haven't heard your good news and trusted you for salvation. Please guide us to those people, and give us the courage to tell them about you. Amen!*
- **PLANNING AHEAD:** Look at the recipe on p. 14 of the Student Pages and consider bringing in a Burmese dessert for your group! Research and gather the profiles, pictures, and names of missionaries that your local church supports and bring stationary, envelopes, and pens/pencils for **ENCOURAGE A FISHER OF MEN.** Weather and season permitting, advise your group to bring a bathing suit/change of clothes for **WHAT IS THINGYAN?** Gather water guns, balloons, and/or other appropriate toys.

NOTE: Refer to the answer key on p. 22 for answers to selected Student Pages.



Session 4: God Provides the Catch

FOCUS: God equips his followers to share the Gospel, and many who hear will be saved!

THEME VERSE: “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Matthew 9:37-38

- **PREPARE:** Bring the missionary profiles you have selected beforehand to share with your group.

For **WHAT IS THINGYAN?** fill up water balloons and water guns before your time together.

Have today's theme verse ready for **Go Fish! Bible Time** and bring a Burmese snack to celebrate the completion of this unit. A recipe for Burmese Mango Cake is available on p. 14 of the Student Pages. Dried or fresh tropical fruit (such as mango) is also an authentic Burmese snack.

- **CRAFT—PAPER ZAYAT** Go to pgs. 15-16 of the Student Pages to learn about how the Judsons used the Zayat to spread God's Word, then make a paper zayat by following the listed directions.
- **GO FISH! BIBLE TIME:** Invite your group into your Bible area.

READ: Matthew 9:35-38.

DISCUSS: *What was Jesus doing as he traveled through Israel? How did he feel about the people he encountered? What did he tell his disciples?*

SAY: *Jesus tells his disciples to pray both for the “harvest” and for the “workers.” What does he mean by the “harvest is plentiful”? Because there are so many who still need to know, Jesus tells of the need for workers. We saw in last lesson's theme verse that it is the responsibility of believers to be the “workers” who share the good news of salvation.*

READ: *John 21:1-14*

DISCUSS: *When does this story take place? Why are the disciples fishing? Does the great catch of fish remind you of any other Bible stories we've read? What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?*

SAY: *After Jesus died, the disciples returned to what they knew best: fishing. But Jesus came back to life, and he had greater plans! Do you remember our first lesson, when Jesus promises to make his disciples “fishers of men?” Throughout Jesus' ministry, Jesus affirms this promise to his disciples. After his resurrection, he repeats his commands for them to share the good news and teach new disciples (see John 21:14-28; Matt. 28:16-20; Lk 24:44-48). And Jesus did not send them without any help. The Bible tells us that God will equip his followers for the work he has commanded them to do through the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:8). The Bible also promises us that “my word that goes out from my mouth...will not return to me empty” (Isaiah 55:11). What a great promise! He doesn't send his workers out into the harvest without the tools they need, and HE is the one who works in the hearts of those who hear.*



We saw in the movie that it took six long years for the Judsons to have the encouragement of a first convert to Christianity. Ann and Adoniram must have often felt rejected and unable to do what God had called them to do. At times it may have seemed like they were great failures. But God worked mightily through them, even when they couldn't see it. By the time Adoniram died in 1850, there were 7000 believers in Burma!

DISCUSS: How is the truth in our theme verse today comforting? Does it make you feel hopeful or worried that God uses us as his workers? How can the truths of the Bible encourage us when we feel like we fail to share God's good news adequately?

- **ENCOURAGE A FISHER OF MEN:** Display the profiles of missionaries your church supports and ask each member of your group to choose one to encourage with a letter. Direct your group to pgs. 17-18 of the Student Pages for ideas. Be sure to pray for each missionary and mail the letters at the end of your time. You can also encourage your students to write down the missionaries' names and keep them in their gold leaf prayer box.
- **WHAT IS THINGYAN?:** Go to p. 19 of the Student Pages for a brief introduction to Thingyan. Enjoy learning about the festivities with a water battle of your own! Draw the group together for a final prayer.
- **PRAYER:** *Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us how you use people like us to be the hands and feet of your church. Even when it seems hard or impossible, help us to trust you will do what your word promises. We pray that we would serve you faithfully in our own words and actions so that so many others will come to you. Amen.*

NOTE: Refer to the answer key on p. 22 for answers to selected Student Pages.

Dear Parents,

Today in class your child viewed a *Torchlighters* DVD depicting the lives of Adoniram and Ann Judson, the first American-born foreign missionaries and the first ever to reach Burma. This young and likeable American couple left everything they knew to bring the Gospel to the far East. They wound up in Burma—a tropical Buddhist kingdom with little regard to Westerners or their religion. Despite personal hardship and cultural setbacks, Adoniram worked tirelessly to translate the Bible into Burmese. With Ann’s help, he gained a small group of converts over the years. But when the British Empire went to war with Burma, every foreigner became a suspect of treason. Adoniram was thrown into jail, very nearly losing his life and his precious translation in the process, but God had greater plans. Ann and Adoniram’s labor would be the beginning of a spiritual awakening in Burma and invigorate the flourishing of missions work around the world.

During our time together we will focus on the theme “Fishers of men,” and we will discover how Jesus calls everyone, even unexpected people in ordinary places, to share God’s extraordinary Good News with the world. We hope this experience is meaningful for your child. If you have any questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Key People in the Adoniram and Ann Judson Story

ADONIRAM JUDSON (August 9 1788-April 12 1850) – Adoniram Judson was born in Malden, Massachusetts, to Abigail and Adoniram Judson, Sr., a Congregational minister. The incredibly intelligent Adoniram entered college when he was 16 and soon left the faith. Through the influence of his good friend Jacob Eames, he became a deist with strong aspirations for fame and political power. However, when Jacob fell violently ill and died in 1808, Adoniram returned to his faith and vowed to serve as a missionary. He and Ann married in 1812, two weeks before leaving for the mission field in India. On the way there, the Judsons became Baptists, and therefore lost the support of their sending agency. Ordered out of India by British authorities, the couple moved to Burma and witnessed for six years before gaining a convert to Christianity. Adoniram translated the Bible into Burmese and almost lost his translation during the Anglo-Burman war when he was arrested and tortured on suspicion of being a spy. Upon his release and after grieving the death of Ann and his third child, Adoniram continued his translation work. He married twice more and saw the church of Burma grow to 8,000 believers before he died of a respiratory disease in 1850. His translations are still used today.

ANN JUDSON (December 22 1789-October 24 1826) – Born Ann Hasseltine in Bradford, Massachusetts, Ann Judson was a teacher, Christian, and prolific writer. Despite losing two children (one in miscarriage during their travel to Burma), Ann worked tirelessly alongside Adoniram, writing a catechism in Burmese as well as translating the Gospel of Matthew into Thai. Her letters home and devotional writings were published in America during their time in Burma, gaining widespread support for the missions movement. Weakened by the stress of caring for a newborn and Adoniram while he was in prison, she died of smallpox in 1826. Her third child died six months later.

MAUNG ING – Maung Ing is a composite of two individuals of note during the Judsons' missionary efforts. Maung Nau, a common laborer, was Adoniram's first convert. Maung Ing, his fourth convert, was responsible for saving Adoniram's translations.

KING BAGYIDAW (July 23 1784-October 15 1846) – Also known as Sagaing Min, King Bagyidaw was the seventh king of the Konbaung dynasty of Burma. In 1819 he succeeded his grandfather King Bodawpaya. The first Anglo-Burmese War, which occurred during Bagyidaw's rule, was lost to British India at great cost in 1826. He reigned until 1837, when a coup forced him to abdicate the throne to his brother, Prince Tharrawaddy. Bagyidaw died under house arrest at age 62.

REV. JONATHAN PRICE, M.D. – A medical missionary who arrived in Burma with his family in 1821, he joined Adoniram on his second journey to Ava, where they were arrested and tortured during the Anglo-Burmese War.



Burma (Myanmar) History

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

During the Judsons' missionary journey, Burma was a monarchy under the established Konbaung Dynasty (the Bamar Empire), ruled by King Bagyidaw. However, British colonialism and three wars over borders (1824-26, 1852, and 1885) led to the eventual fall of the Third Bamar Empire. The wars ended in British rule in 1886.

RELIGION

Buddhism is the most prevalent belief system among the people of Burma of the past and today. Animism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Chinese Taoism and Confucianism, and Judaism are also present but make up a minority. The missions work of Adoniram and Ann Judson and their successors up until the 1960s converted many to Christianity as Baptists, most heavily impacting the animistic tribes of the Karens, Chin, and Kachin.

CULTURE

Many diverse ethnic groups make up the people of Burma, including the Burmese, Shan, Karen, Rakhine, Lisu, Chin, and Mon. Each has its own linguistic makeup and culture.

BURMA TODAY

Today Burma is more commonly referred to as Myanmar. Until 2011 it was ruled by a military junta, the Tatmandaw. Travel to the country was off limits to foreigners for the last several decades; however, the government changed hands and democratically elected a president in 2016, opening the doors to tourists worldwide.



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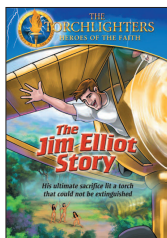


Adoniram and Ann Judson Timeline

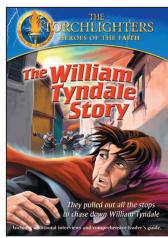
- 1788** Adoniram Judson is born.
- 1789** Ann Hasseltine (Judson) is born.
- 1808** Adoniram converts from deism to Christianity and dedicates his life to God.
- 1810** Adoniram graduates Andover Theological Seminary and resolves to become a missionary. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) is formed.
- 1812** Adoniram marries Ann; Supported by the ABCFM, the Judsons and another missionary couple sail for Calcutta as the first American foreign missionaries. En route, The Judsons study Baptist teachings in order to refute them, but instead find themselves in agreement. They resign from the ABCFM (forgoing their support) and are baptized by William Carey in India.
- 1813** Forced out of India, the Judsons travel to Burma.
- 1817** The first ever printing press in Burma prints 800 copies of Adoniram's translation of the Gospel of Matthew.
- 1819** Adoniram baptizes his first convert; by 1822 there will be 18 believers.
- 1823** Adoniram completes translation of New Testament into Burmese.
- 1824** The first Anglo-Burmese War erupts. Westerners are under suspicion, and Adoniram is imprisoned for twenty months, until December 31, 1825. Suffering from long-term illnesses and caring for a newborn, Ann visits the prison and also advocates for Adoniram with authorities. Adoniram's translation work is miraculously rescued in a pillow.
- 1826** As the war ends, Adoniram is freed and translates the treaty of Yandabo between Burma and Great Britain. Ann Judson dies. Their last surviving child, Maria, dies six months later.
- 1834** Adoniram completes his translation of Old Testament; marries widow Sarah Boardman. Baptist membership in Burma begins to rise sharply, doubling every eight years until 1866.
- 1845** Sarah Boardman Judson dies.
- 1846** Adoniram marries Emily Chubbuck during an American tour.
- 1850** After 37 years of service, Adoniram Judson dies at sea. He leaves behind the entire Bible translated into Burmese, 100 churches, and over 8,000 believers.
- 1854** Emily Chubbuck Judson dies in New York.



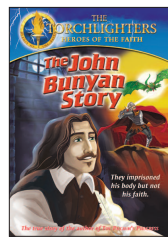
The Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith Series



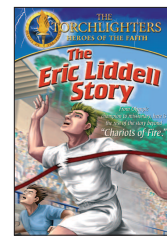
JIM ELLIOT
Missionary
to Ecuador



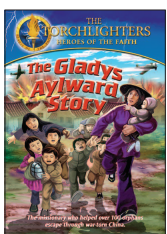
**WILLIAM
TYNDALE**
Bible translator



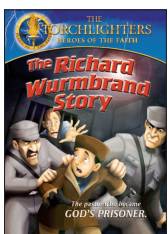
JOHN BUNYAN
Author of *The
Pilgrim's Progress*



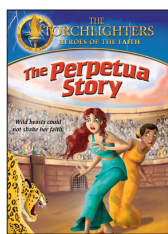
ERIC LIDDELL
Olympian
and missionary



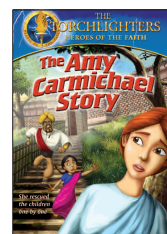
GLADYS AYLWARD
Missionary
to China



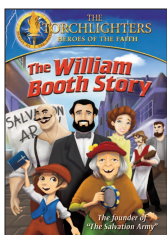
**RICHARD
WURMBRAND**
Founder of The
Voice of the Martyrs



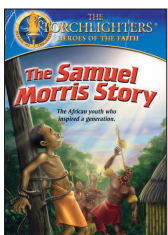
PERPETUA
Early church
martyr



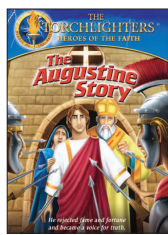
AMY CARMICHAEL
Missionary to India



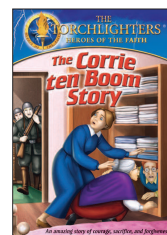
WILLIAM BOOTH
Founder of
The Salvation Army



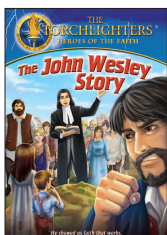
SAMUEL MORRIS
African prince turned
missionary



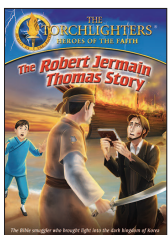
AUGUSTINE
Early church
theologian



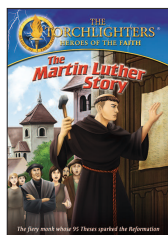
CORRIE TEN BOOM
Rescuer during
World War II



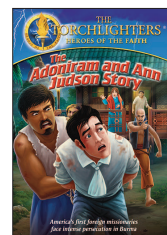
JOHN WESLEY
Founder of the
Methodist movement



**ROBERT JERMAIN
THOMAS**
Bible smuggler
to India



MARTIN LUTHER
German monk who
sparked the Reformation



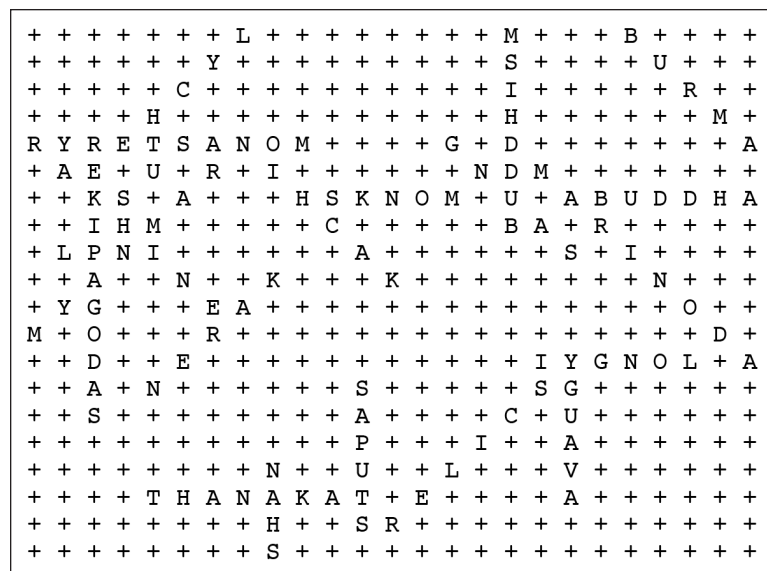
**ADONIRAM AND
ANN JUDSON**
Missionaries to Burma

Coming next: *The Harriet Tubman Story*! Visit www.torchlighters.org for more information and resources.



Answer Key for Select Student Pages

Burma Word Search, p. 3-4



Jesus Fish Acrostic, p. 5-6

Iesous — Jesus
Christos — Christ
Theou — God
Yios — Son
Soter — Savior

Story Mix-Up, p. 9

Student Handouts for the DVD *The Torchlighters: The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story*

Story Mix-Up
These pictures of Adoniram and Ann's story are all mixed up. Number the pictures in the correct order.

3 
Adoniram translates the Bible into Burmese.

8 
Mauw saves the Burmese Bible translation.

2 
Monks confront Adoniram's new teachings about Jesus.

6 
Adoniram is arrested.

1 
The Judsons go to Burma, despite the danger.

5 
Adoniram baptizes Mauw.

7 
Ann visits Adoniram in prison.

4 
Dr. Price and Adoniram seek the king's permission to tell the Burmese about Jesus.

Learn more about *The Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith* programs at www.torchlighters.org

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God, p. 11

- F Peter
- C Woman at the well
- A David
- G Esther
- B Gideon
- E Paul
- D Ruth

Decode the Quote by Ann Judson, p. 13

“A little while, we are in eternity; before we find ourselves there, let us do much for Christ.”