

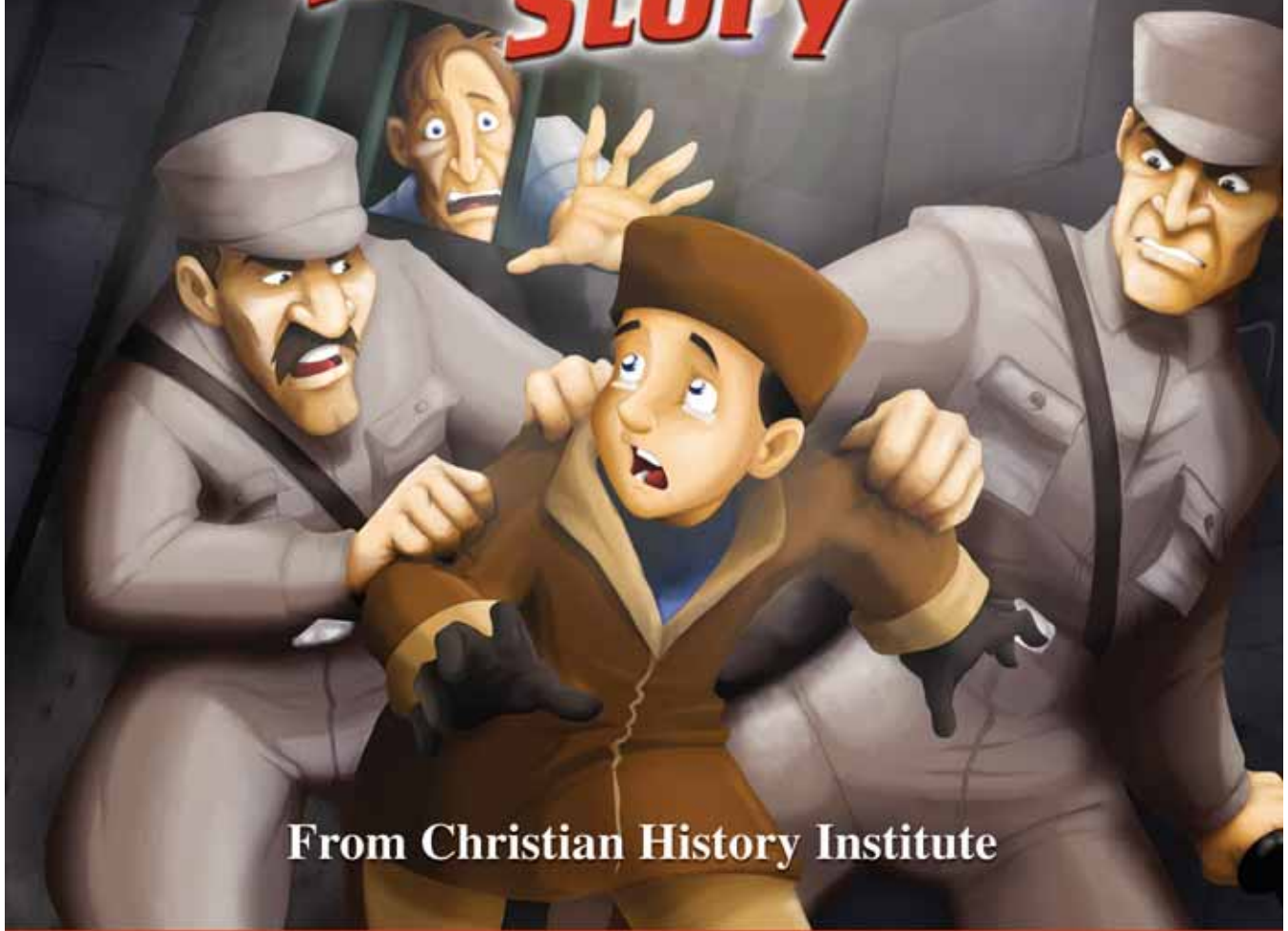


# THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

## The *Richard Wurmbrand* Story



From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T

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NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on page 27 of the Leader’s Guide.



## **Dig into the Story!**

*Questions to get you thinking and talking*

1. Who was arresting Christians in Romania during World War II? What did the Wurmbrands wish to do?
2. In the underground church meeting at the Wurmbrands' home, how is each member of the family working to strengthen the church?
3. How did Mihai feel about his parents' work in the underground church? Do you have opportunities to serve in your church or elsewhere?
4. How did Sabina encourage Richard to take a stand for Christ with courage? Did this surprise you?
5. When Richard was in prison, what methods did the prison officials use to try to break down his will?
6. Of all the things Richard had to endure in prison, what do you think was the hardest for him to withstand?
7. What symbol did the communists try to make Mihai wear when he was in school? Why wouldn't Mihai wear it? How do kids today show their faith to their peers? Are there things you wear or don't wear to show you are a believer?



## Dig Deeper

*Thinking through some tough issues*

1. The video shows the danger that Christians in Communist Romania faced in order to meet as believers for worship. This shows the high value they placed on worshiping with fellow believers. Consider your own feelings about worship. Do you tend to view worship as something you have to do or something you get to do?
2. Many Christians in Romania during World War II willingly went along with the Communists in order to gain protection. Many were deceived by slick sounding arguments and promises. What standards do you use when deciding if a new idea is good or bad? Have you ever been drawn into following a popular idea that you regretted later? What would you do differently next time?
3. Richard Wurmbrand became a Christian as an adult. Statistics show that of those who become Christians, most have their conversion experience as children. In other words, it is hard for adults to choose faith, if they haven't had it as children. Why do you think this is?
4. Richard Wurmbrand believed that when we are wronged, we should forgive quickly. We should not wait until we feel "ready." How did this conviction play out in Richard's life? What can you do to forgive people who hurt you?
5. Even in the midst of horrible circumstances, Richard continued to serve God. How did he have the strength to do this? What difficult situations have you faced? How was your faith impacted when you went through a difficult time? Read Romans 8:28. How can you trust God to work all things for good, even when it feels bad for a time?



## Four Things

*Can you remember the four things that Richard held onto while he was in prison?  
Use the word bank at the bottom to help you fill in the blanks:*

1. There is a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is our Savior and He goes with us everywhere, even \_\_\_\_\_.
3. No matter what we go through, there is the \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God's \_\_\_\_\_, even in the face of \_\_\_\_\_, is always the best of ways.

### WORD BANK:

prison

life

God

reality

love

torture

Jesus



## Story Mix-Up

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



Richard is taken into prison.



Mihai arrives for a visit.



Aunt Alice has bad news for Mihai.



Richard is questioned by the Communists.



Richard suffers in prison.



Richard is kidnapped.



The Wurmbrands before the arrest.



Mihai is looking forward to a visit.



## Secret Code Challenge

*When Richard Wurmbbrand went to prison, he had no Bible, no family, and no friends with him. While there he used Morse Code to communicate with a fellow prisoner through the prison walls. Use the Morse Code below to uncover something Richard says he always had with him in prison.*

— — — — —  
- - - - -

— — — — —  
- - - - -

### Morse Code Alphabet

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

**For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20**



## Faith Story Interview

*Invite a guest to share his or her faith story with your class.  
Someone who became a believer as an adult would work best.*

*Here are some questions to help get the discussion rolling, if needed.*

1. What was your understanding of God when you were a child?
2. Were you raised in a Christian home? If not, what beliefs were evident in your home?
3. Were there people who shared their faith with you when you were young? How did they do that?
4. What was your impression of Christians before you became one?
5. How did you get those impressions?
6. Tell us how you came to accept Christ.
7. What difference has that made in your life?
8. Have you been able to share your faith with others? Have you ever told your faith story before?

**If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9**







## Sunday School Students Say “Jesus Forever!”

*In some countries children need courage to attend Sunday school, because their government does not approve of adults teaching children about God and Jesus. Here is a true story about some brave Sunday school students:*

One day, Chinese police officers raided a Sunday school class of more than 30 children. They put the children in a large van to take them to the police station.

The children knew they were in trouble because of their Christian activities. Their teachers had warned them about what might happen if they came to Sunday school.

The students were probably a bit scared. Wouldn't you be? But they praised God anyway, singing Christian songs together in the van.

At the police station, the children were taken into a room for questioning. A policeman began to threaten them. He told them they could not leave until they wrote, “I do not believe in Jesus” 100 times. Now what could they do? Of course they wanted to go home, but they didn't want to write something untrue and disown their Savior!

**Boldly, the children wrote: “I believe in Jesus today. I will believe in Jesus tomorrow. I will believe in Jesus forever.”**

Now it was the police who didn't know what to do. How could these children be so brave? When the children's parents came to the station, the police said they could not take their children home unless the parents said they didn't believe in Jesus anymore. One widow said, “You will just have to keep them, because without Jesus, there would be no way for me to take care of them.” The annoyed policeman then allowed her to take her children home!

**Discuss:** When you go to Sunday School, how can you remember that it is a blessing to be able to learn in a safe place?

## Color the Scene #1



**“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16a**

## Color the Scene #2



**“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.” Philippians 1:12**

## Color the Scene #3

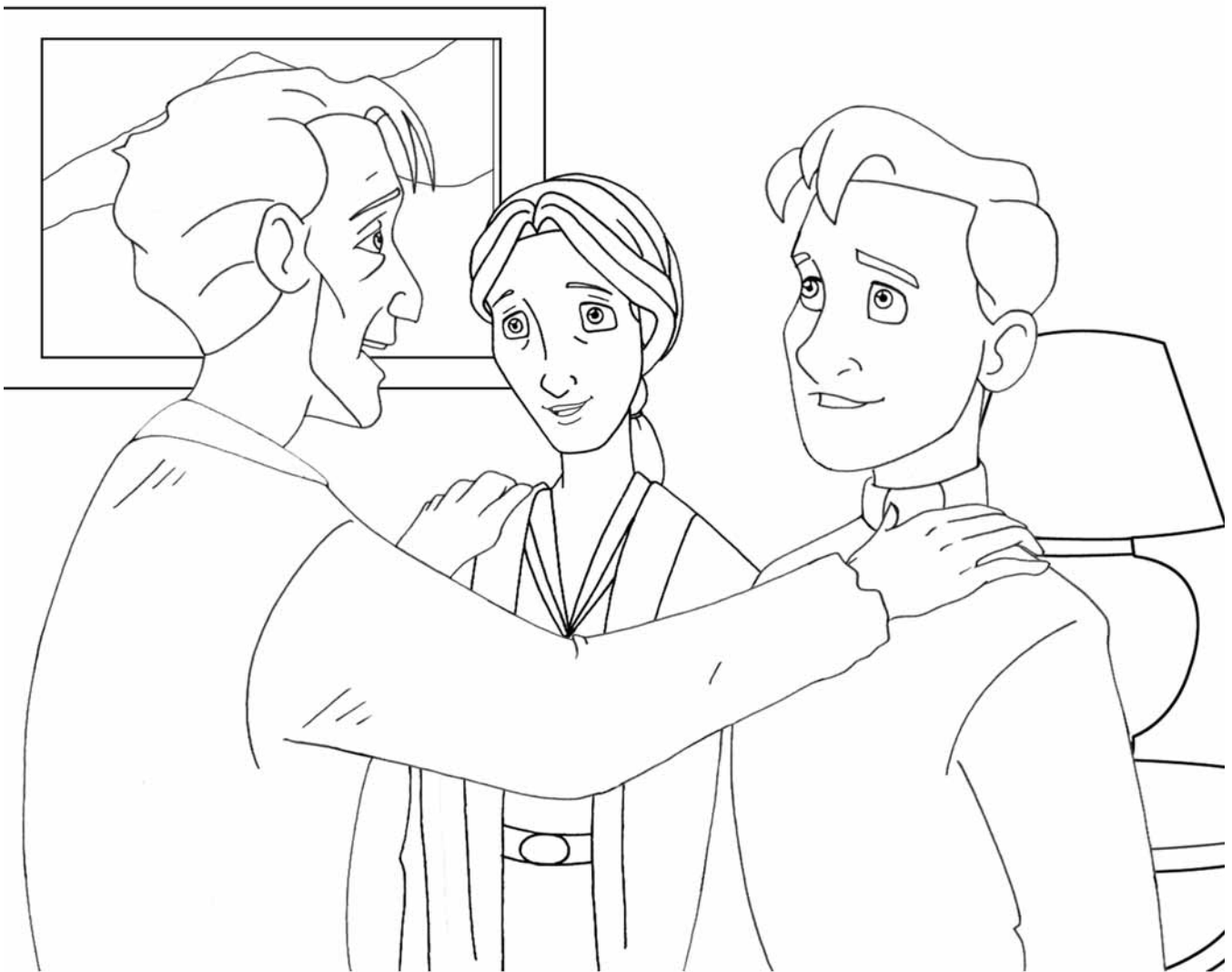


**“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains.”  
Ephesians 6:19-20a**

## Color the Scene #4

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**“Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.” I Chronicles 16:10b**