

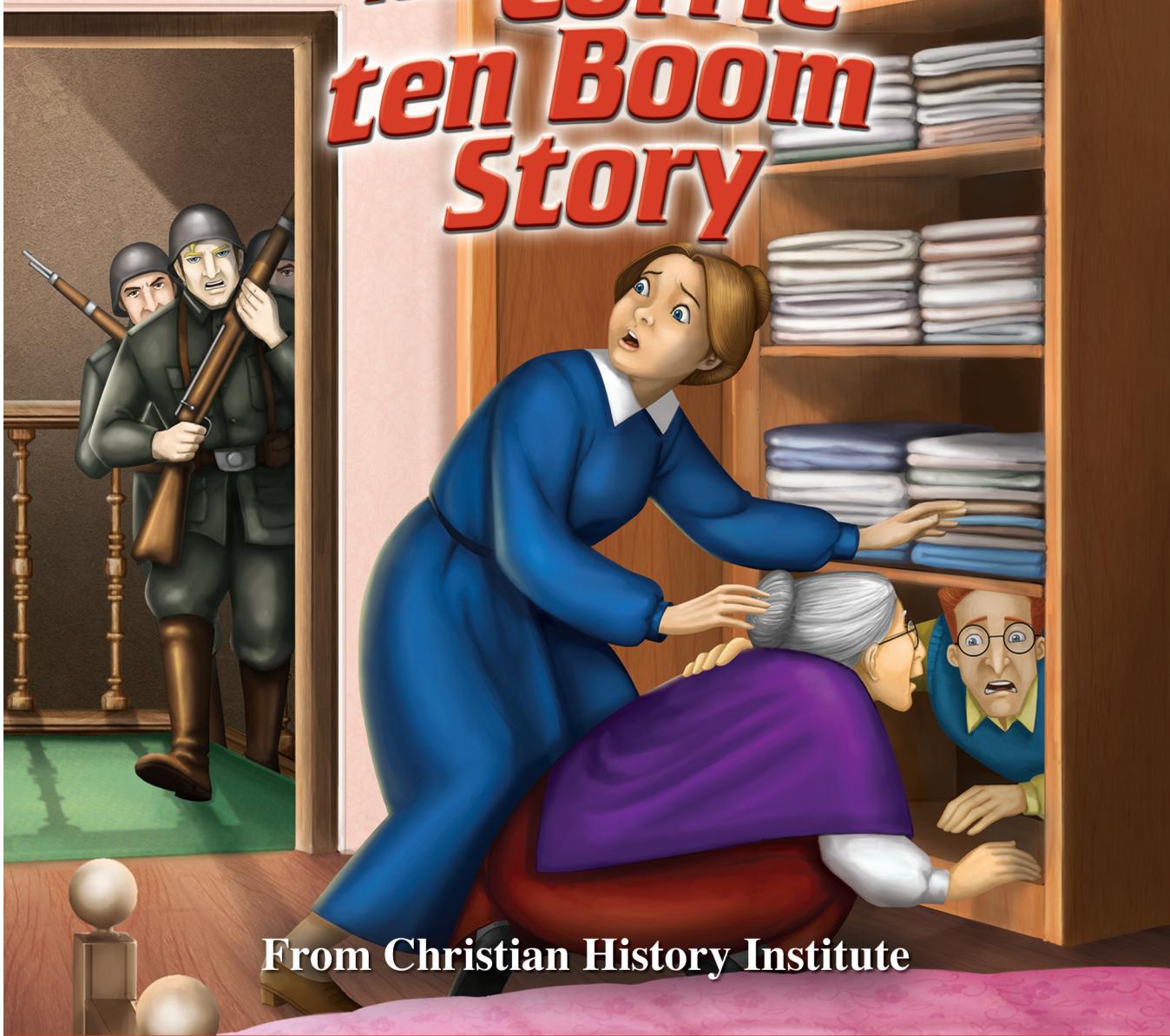


THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

The Corrie ten Boom Story



From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T



Table of Contents

What's the Word?	3
Watch for Watches!	4
Dig into the Story!	5
Dig Deeper	6
Story Mix-Up	7
Special Guest Interview	8
Hidden Messages: Rahab Crossword Puzzle	9
Tulips: Beauty in a Bulb!	10
The Story of Yona, a “Kid of Courage!”	11
Kids of Courage Prayer Chart	12
Secret Codes and Messages	13
Play: <i>Thank God for the Fleas</i>	14-18
Color the Scene	19-23

NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on page 23 of the Leader’s Guide.



What's the Word?

Read through 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and then answer these questions to find out what God's Word promises and teaches!

1. 2 Timothy 3:10-17 is a charge from Paul to encourage Timothy to continue living a godly life. What are some of the challenges Timothy faced that made it hard to live a godly life? What challenges have YOU faced?
 2. What do verses 10 through 12 say about persecution? Why do you think Christians are often persecuted by the world?
 3. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say? Why is it important to us that Scripture is God-breathed? How does that affect the way we live our lives?
 4. What is the difference between teaching and training? Rebuking and correcting? How does this help the “servant of God” according to verse 17?
 5. What are some ways that God has used His Word to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you?



Watch for Watches!

"All the watches in your closet are safe."

Corrie hid "watches" in her house, and God kept them safe!
Can you find the real watches hidden in Corrie's workshop?





Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you talking and thinking about Corrie

1. How do watches play a role in the story?

2. Who is Peter? What does he want Betsie, Corrie, and Father to do?

3. Why does Corrie agree to help the Jews? How does she risk her life?

4. Peter tells Corrie they will need to communicate in codes to protect the people Corrie is hiding. What codes do they use?

5. During the raid, how does God protect the Jews in hiding, even when Mary's wheezing is heard through the wall?

6. After they are imprisoned, where are Corrie and Betsie taken? How do Betsie and Corrie show Jesus' love?

7. How did God use the bad things that were happening, like the fleas, to accomplish good? Give other examples.

8. At the end, why does Corrie forgive the Nazi guard?



Dig Deeper

Thinking through tough questions

1. During World War II, some Christians, like the ten Booms, chose to help the Jews, while others did not. Why do you think these other Christians did not help? What are the consequences of doing what is convenient instead of doing what is right?

2. Terrible things happened during World War II, but Betsie was able to see God working, even through the fleas! How does God use bad things in this world for the good of His people?

3. Have you been able to see God at work, even when something bad happens? When?

4. The Nazi guard was able to find forgiveness through Jesus Christ, but does that excuse him from punishment? What are the consequences of his crimes?

5. God used Corrie to bring His message of salvation to people on both sides of the war. What is the hope that the Gospel brings to the world? How does it change people? How has the Gospel changed you?



Story Mix-Up

These pictures of Corrie ten Boom's story are all mixed up.

Number the pictures in the correct order.



During World War II the Nazis invade their town.



The ten Boom family is arrested for helping the Jews.



After her release Corrie tells others her story of faith and even forgives the Nazis.



Corrie ten Boom and her family run a watch shop in Haarlem, Holland.



Corrie and her sister Betsie arrive at the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.



The Nazis persecute the Jews, but the ten Booms help them.



The ten Booms hide the Jews from the Nazis.



Even in the harsh camp, Corrie continues to pray and help people.



Special Guest Interview

Invite a guest who has special needs or works with people with disabilities. Begin by sharing what you have learned from Corrie's story and the lessons so far. Ask the questions below to find out more!

1. Who are people with disabilities? What makes them different from me?

2. What are some of the challenges that people with special needs face?

3. What can you tell me about your experiences with special needs? What is difficult? Where have you seen God working through these experiences?

4. The Bible says God loves and values all of His children, even when the world does not. What does this mean for you?

5. Corrie ten Boom, our faith hero, worked with people with handicaps, too. Have you read any of her books? What is your favorite one?

6. How can I share God's love with a person with a handicap?

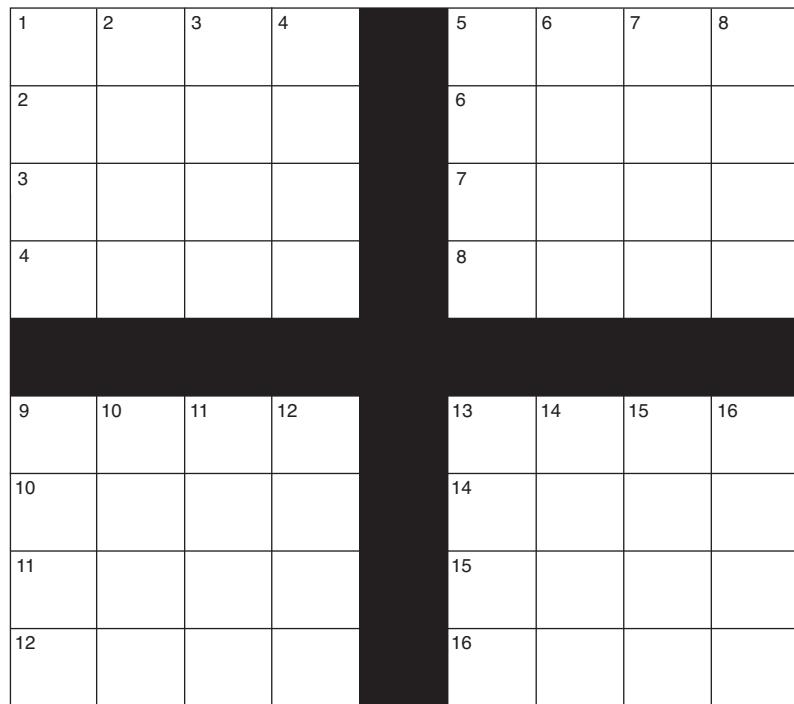


Hidden Messages: Rahab Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues, the story of Rahab, and a Bible to solve the puzzle below!

Across and Down

1. The ____ of Jericho told Rahab to bring the men out.
2. It was a good ____ to hide the men with stalks of flax.
3. The ____ thing Rahab did after the men left was to tie the cord in the window; rhymes with "text."
4. Rahab said the men left when it was time to close the city ____.
5. The men told Rahab, "We will not keep ____ oath unless you tie a cord in the window."
6. Rahab told the men, "____ for three days."
7. A statue of a false god. (Exodus 20:4)
8. Jacob said to Esau, "____ me your birthright." (Genesis 25:31)
9. After the pursuers left, the gate was ____.
10. Rahab and other heroes had faith (Hebrews 11:31). Faith is being confident in what we ____ for (Hebrews 11:1).
11. The first words of many stories are, "Once ____ a time."



12. Israel set up a ____ of meeting at Shiloh (Joshua 18:2); rhymes with "sent."
13. Rahab's house was part of the city ____.
14. The searchers looked all over the ____ and did not find the men.
15. Rahab told the king's messenger that the men had ____.
16. The pursuers went out of the city too ____ to get back in the gate; rhymes with "gate."



Tulips: Beauty in a Bulb!

The tulip is the national symbol for Holland, the country where Corrie ten Boom grew up. All tulips start out as “bulbs,” which don’t look anything at all like tulips! Get yourself a dry, brown, papery, pointy, funny-looking tulip bulb and get ready to bring out its inner beauty!

PICK: Choose a good spot to plant your bulb where the tulip will get a lot of sun-shine. You can use a pot or a nice spot in an outside garden. Dig around in the soil to make it nice and loose so the water will drain well.

PLANT: It is best to plant tulips in late fall. The tulip wants to rest in the cool before it does the work of sprouting! Dig a hole three times deeper than the height of your bulb. Put the bulb in with the pointy-end up. Cover with soil and pat down firmly. Water your tulip after you finish!

WAIT: Here is where patience comes in as you wait for the bulb’s inner beauty to be released. If you have normal rain or snow through the winter, the bulb will not need any help from you. But if it’s extra dry, go ahead and water it once a week. When you’ve just about forgotten that you planted it and the air starts to warm with the coming spring, you will see some green shoots popping out of the soil!

ENJOY: In a few more weeks your tulip will grow taller and will form buds. Those beautiful, fragrant tulip flowers will soon open up for you to enjoy! Let your tulip remind you not to judge others by their exterior, but to look at the heart.

Tulip Trivia: Tulips are not native plants to Holland, but were brought there by a Dutch scientist in the sixteenth century from present-day Turkey. They soon became so popular that they were more valuable than Dutch money for a short time!





The Story of Yona, a "Kid of Courage!"

Many children around the world are not safe because of their faith or the faith of their parents. Christians have opened safe houses in many places to help them. Just like Corrie helped many people hide, these safe houses help hide families from those who want to hurt them for their faith in Jesus. Here is the story of Yona, a Christian from Indonesia, who lives in a safe house because her family has been attacked by radical Muslims:

"I am 14 years old, and I have been at the safe house since 2010. I want to share my story. My mother told me this story. It happened when I was three years old.

Our home was on the beach, and my father went fishing with his friends. A riot was happening in the area. My mother told my father it would be better if he didn't go out because of the situation. But finally my father went fishing at night without telling my mother.

A few hours later, my mom heard the sound of gunfire from the beach. Our neighbors and my mother tried to find the source of the gunfire. The friends who went fishing with my father came back from the sea without him. They only brought back his boat. My father is still missing today.

Sometimes I feel sad when I remember my father, but now I have Jesus close to me. I love to read Psalm 23:3 because the Lord always walks with me.

I pray every day at 9:00 a.m. Once I prayed that God would provide me with a school uniform, shoes, and books. God answered my prayers, and he provided.

I love science and get good grades. I want to be a doctor when I grow up; I want to treat sick people.

Be thankful if you still have a father and mother. If you live in the free world, then obey God and always pray to Him."

Be sure to visit www.kidsofcourage.com
to read more stories about kids just like you!



Kids of Courage Prayer Chart

You can be a Kid of Courage too! One way you can help kids like Yona is by praying for them every day!

- Using the website www.kidsofcourage.com, research the safe house kids and the countries they came from, or research places where your church has sent missionaries.
- Using the chart below, write a prayer request for a different person for every day of the week. You can also write down countries where Christians are persecuted.
- Now you are ready to pray through your week!

SUNDAY	
MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	



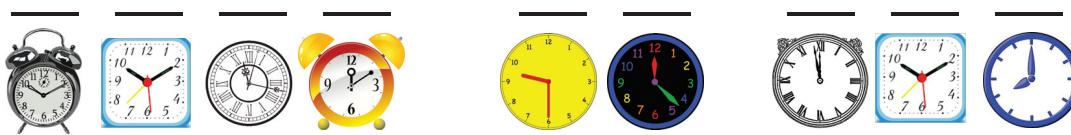
Secret Codes and Messages

Use the key below to find out Corrie's secret message!

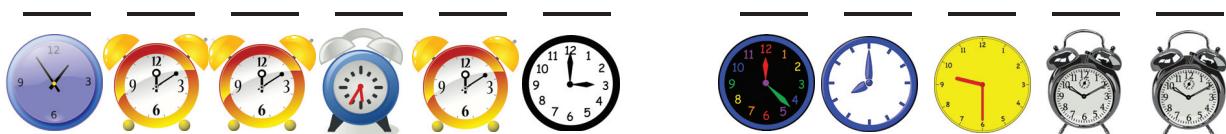
"



,



"



A	D	E	G	H	I	L

N	O	P	R	S	T	V

Discuss: What does the secret message mean? How do you think Corrie applied it to her story? How can you apply it to your own life?



Play: Thank God for the Fleas

Corrie ten Boom learns to trust and thank God in all situations.

CHARACTERS

Corrie

Betsie

Prisoner #1

Prisoner #2

Prisoner #3

Prisoner #4

Optional: More prisoners

SCENE ONE

(Ravensbruck women's prison, Germany. Several bedraggled women prisoners are in drab, loose, one-piece prison dresses. They sit on cots, gathered around Betsie and Corrie. Betsie has an open Bible on her lap. The women scratch their arms and legs, and brush and pick "fleas" off themselves and each other.)

Corrie: What's our Bible reading today, Betsie?

Betsie: First Thessalonians, Corrie. (*to the other prisoners, cheerfully*) And I'm so glad all of you came to listen today!

Prisoner #1: (*exaggerating dramatically*) Well, I WOULD have gone to the opera or the art museum today, but it just wasn't convenient.

(*Betsie smiles and others chuckle.*)

Betsie: First Thessalonians says, "Comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."

Prisoner #1: That sure doesn't sound like THIS place. God must not have known about Ravensbruck when he wrote that.

Betsie: God knows about everything! Especially about suffering! He talks about it many times in His Word.



Prisoner #2: (*standing, speaking somewhat angrily*) Then where was God when we were brought here? Even though our train car fit only 30 women, the soldiers stuffed 80 of us in there! We couldn't sit or stand or lie down, or ANYTHING. We could hardly even breathe. And it was so disgusting! For four days they wouldn't let anyone out to use the bathroom. (*sits down angrily*)

Prisoner #3: (*stands*) Yeah, and it was about a million degrees in there. They gave us just a little bread to eat, but who could eat? And once or twice they handed in a pail of water, but only the women closest to the door got some. Hey Betsie and Corrie, you were on that train. How was God helping you deal with it? (*sits down*)

Corrie: Betsie had a fever and was really weak. But you know Betsie! She kept reminding me of things to be thankful for.

Prisoner #4: Like WHAT???

Betsie: I was very thankful that our father, who died in prison, is in heaven with Jesus. It would have been awful to see him suffer in one of those train cars.

Corrie: And I was thankful for the prisoner next to me who squeezed into a tighter ball (*squeezes into a ball to demonstrate*) so Betsie would have room to lay her head in my lap. When you see someone trying to make things easier for others even when they're suffering themselves, you know God is at work.

Prisoner #2: (*shaking her head*) You two are amazing.

Corrie: We're no different from you! Except we have a relationship with Jesus, and He helps us get through all these things. Would you like to know Jesus, too?

Prisoner #2: We'll see. Just don't push me, okay?

Prisoner #3: Betsie, when we first got here, after the guards made us sleep outside in the mud and the rain for two days, I noticed you were really sick. You had a fever and diarrhea. Are you going to tell us God was involved in THAT?

Betsie: (*brightly*) Oh, yes! God worked most wonderfully in that situation. Corrie had this Bible (*puts her hand on the open Bible*) and a bottle of vitamins hidden in her clothes. When they made us stand in line to take off our old clothes and put on this, (*puts her hand on her shoulder*), I had to ask to be excused to go to the bathroom. We hid the Bible and the vitamins in the bathroom and came back and got them later. That's why we are able to have this Bible here now, without the guards knowing!



Prisoner #1: What's even crazier than that is how you two get away with doing a Bible study in here without the guards ever coming in this room and catching you. (*slaps a flea on her arm*) I'm so sick of these fleas!

Corrie: It's a mystery to us, too, why the guards never come in here when we're having a Bible study. But we're thankful for the opportunity. Anyhow Betsie, what were you saying?

Betsie: I was talking about First Thessalonians, Corrie. The next verse says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Corrie: (*brushing off a flea*) These fleas! I've got to admit, Betsie, I'm having trouble with that verse. Sometimes it seems like there's not much in prison to be joyful about.

Prisoner#1: No kidding!

Prisoner #2: You noticed!

Prisoner #3: So you ARE normal after all!

Prisoner #4: I'd like to hear Betsie's answer to this one!

Betsie: (*looking at Corrie, surprised*) Aren't you thankful we're in here together, Corrie? Most of these women don't get to see their relatives!

Corrie: (*ashamed*) Oh, yes, I AM thankful for that. (*folds her hands, bows her head, closes her eyes*) Thank you, God. (*opens her eyes*) But Betsie, what about how crowded we are in here? Five of us sleep in a bed that fits one! What about that?

Prisoner #1: Yeah, what about that?

Betsie: There are more women who can hear about Jesus since we are in here with them, Corrie. Thank God for that!

Corrie: (*reluctantly*) Oh all right. (*sighs, folds her hands, closes her eyes*) Thank you for the jammed...crammed...stuffed...packed...suffocating...crowds. Amen. (*opens her eyes, other prisoners chuckle*)

Prisoner#1: (*sarcastically*) THAT was sincere!



Betsie: (praying sincerely, ignoring the joking) Yes, thank you, Father, for all these things, and for your Bible, and for the fleas.... (opens her eyes, startled, as Corrie interrupts)

Corrie: The fleas! Betsie, that's too much! There's no way I can be grateful for the fleas! (brushes off "fleas" and scratches)

Other prisoners: (brushing and scratching) Yeah! No way! She's right! Come on, Betsie!

Betsie: The Bible says give thanks in ALL circumstances, not just in pleasant circumstances. Fleas are part of this place where God has put us. So now we will all thank God for the fleas....

(*Other prisoners roll their eyes or shake their heads. One makes a circle with her finger beside her head signaling that Betsie is crazy. All finally bow their heads.*)

Betsie: And thank you, God, for the fleas. Amen. (*Everyone raises their head.*) Well, I guess our time is up. Thank you for coming! See you next time!

Other prisoners: (standing up and walking away) Bye, girls! See you next time! Thanks! Love those fleas!

Corrie: Betsie, I think you may have gone too far this time. How will we bring those women to Christ if you keep talking about crazy things like thanking God for fleas? (brushes one off)

Betsie: Trust God, Corrie. Trust God.

End of Scene One

SCENE TWO

(*Same setting. Corrie is sitting on a cot with an open Bible. Other prisoners are gathered around. Betsie is not among them.*)

Prisoner#1: Where's Betsie tonight, Corrie? We've been waiting for ten minutes. She's never late.

Corrie: (worriedly) I don't know. Maybe the guards finally discovered our Bible studies. It's such a miracle they've never found out about them and punished us.

Prisoner #2: I hope they haven't found out. I'm learning so much about God that I never knew before. (brushes off a flea) I'm still not real excited about Betsie's fleas, though.



Corrie: Isn't Betsie something? She has a good heart, and I've learned a lot from her, but it's been a month since she made us thank God for the fleas, and I still think she is wrong this time.

Betsie: (*enters hurriedly, breathlessly*) Hi, everyone! Sorry I'm late! (*sits by Corrie, smiling*)

Corrie: What happened, Betsie? Where've you been? And why are you looking so pleased with yourself?

Betsie: Girls, I just found out something very interesting.

Other prisoners: What? Tell us, Betsie! Don't keep us in suspense!

Betsie: You know how we've never understood why we've had so much freedom to hold our Bible studies in this room? Well, I found out!

Corrie: Why, Betsie? Tell us!

Betsie: Today a woman who works in my area said she heard two guards talking. They said they'd never step foot in this room. And do you know why?

Corrie: No, of course we don't know why. Tell us!

Betsie: (*triumphantly*) IT'S THE FLEAS, CORRIE! The guards said they'd never come in here because of the fleas!

(*The prisoners look around at each other and gasp.*)

Prisoner #3: Betsie was right! We CAN give thanks to God in all circumstances!

Prisoner #4: Betsie, will you pray with us now, and this time we'll really mean it when we thank God for the fleas!

Betsie: Of course! God is SO good!

(*All join hands and bow their heads for prayer.*)

This play is courtesy of The Voice of the Martyrs/Kids of Courage



Color the Scene #1



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord." Colossians 3:23



Color the Scene #2



"...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



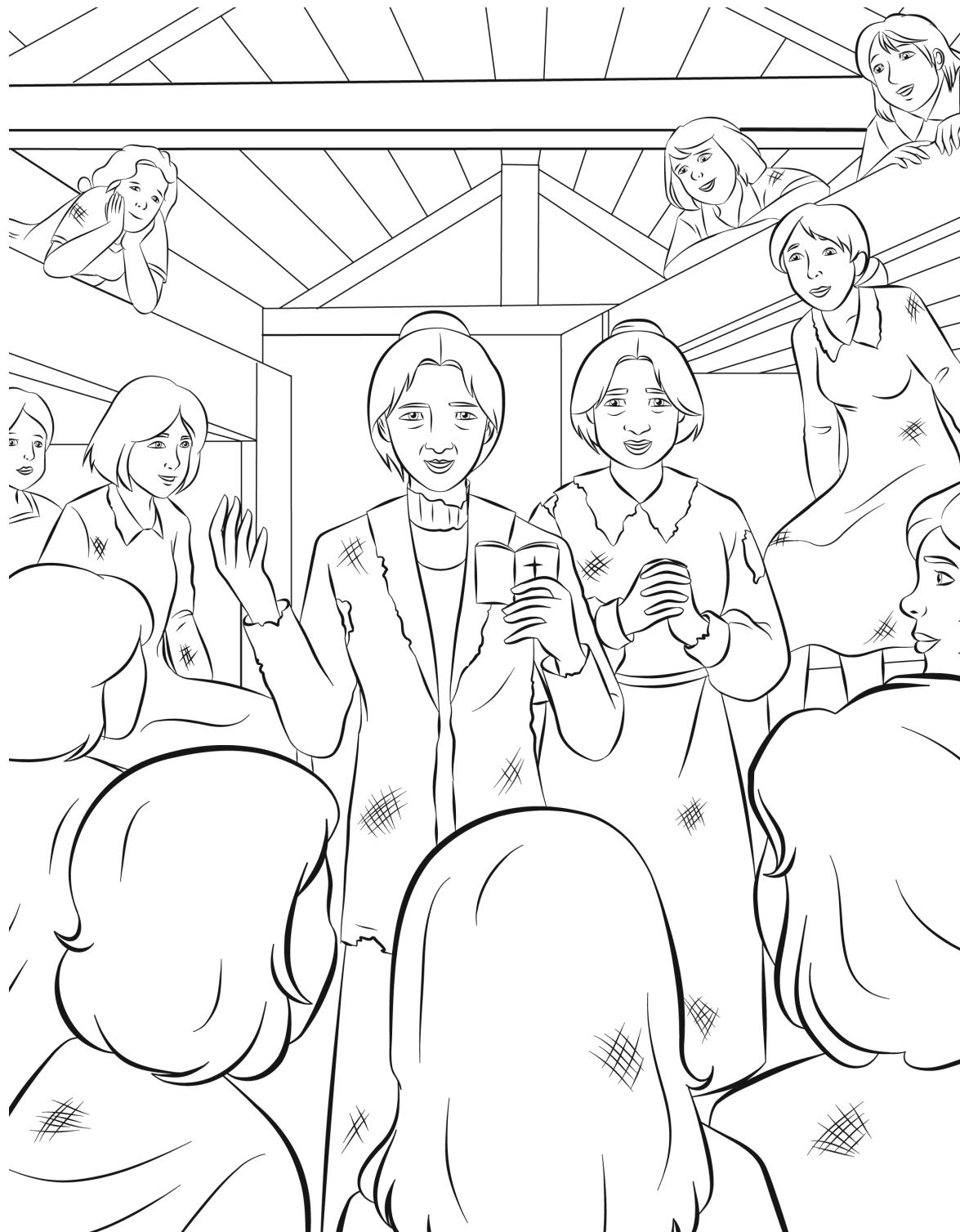
Color the Scene #3



"But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock
in whom I take refuge." Psalm 94:22



Color the Scene #4



"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Color the Scene #5



"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14