



*Keeping First Things*  
**First**

# THE MISSION WAS

Nothing else mattered. It was all about the mission, and he would not be stopped.

David Brainerd was a young man who lived and breathed missions. He felt God's call to share the gospel with the Native Americans. Brainerd was in his twenties, just beginning life. But he packed up his things, left behind friends and family, and went on his own to the mission field. He did not care about enjoying the comforts of life or gaining wealth and popularity. He had dedicated himself to the cause and desired to labor faithfully for Christ.

On the mission field (places we know today as New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey), Brainerd did not find it easy to make friends. His eating habits and even the places he slept were unclean and uncomfortable. However, this did not cause him to give up. He stayed focused on the goal—to minister to the American Indians.

Unfortunately, Brainerd's time on the mission field was not long. He developed a disease called tuberculosis, and it eventually took his life at the age of

# ALL THAT MATTERED

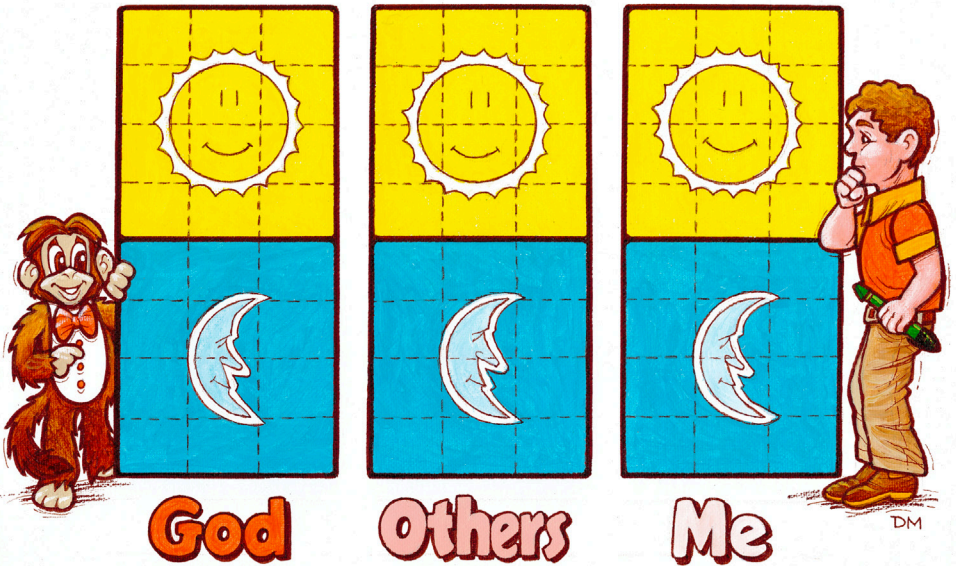


twenty-nine. Sadly, before his death he was discouraged. He felt he had not grown a successful ministry. He felt his work left more to be desired. However, he is remembered for being a devoted, determined missionary. Many missionaries still remember his great work there among the Native Americans.

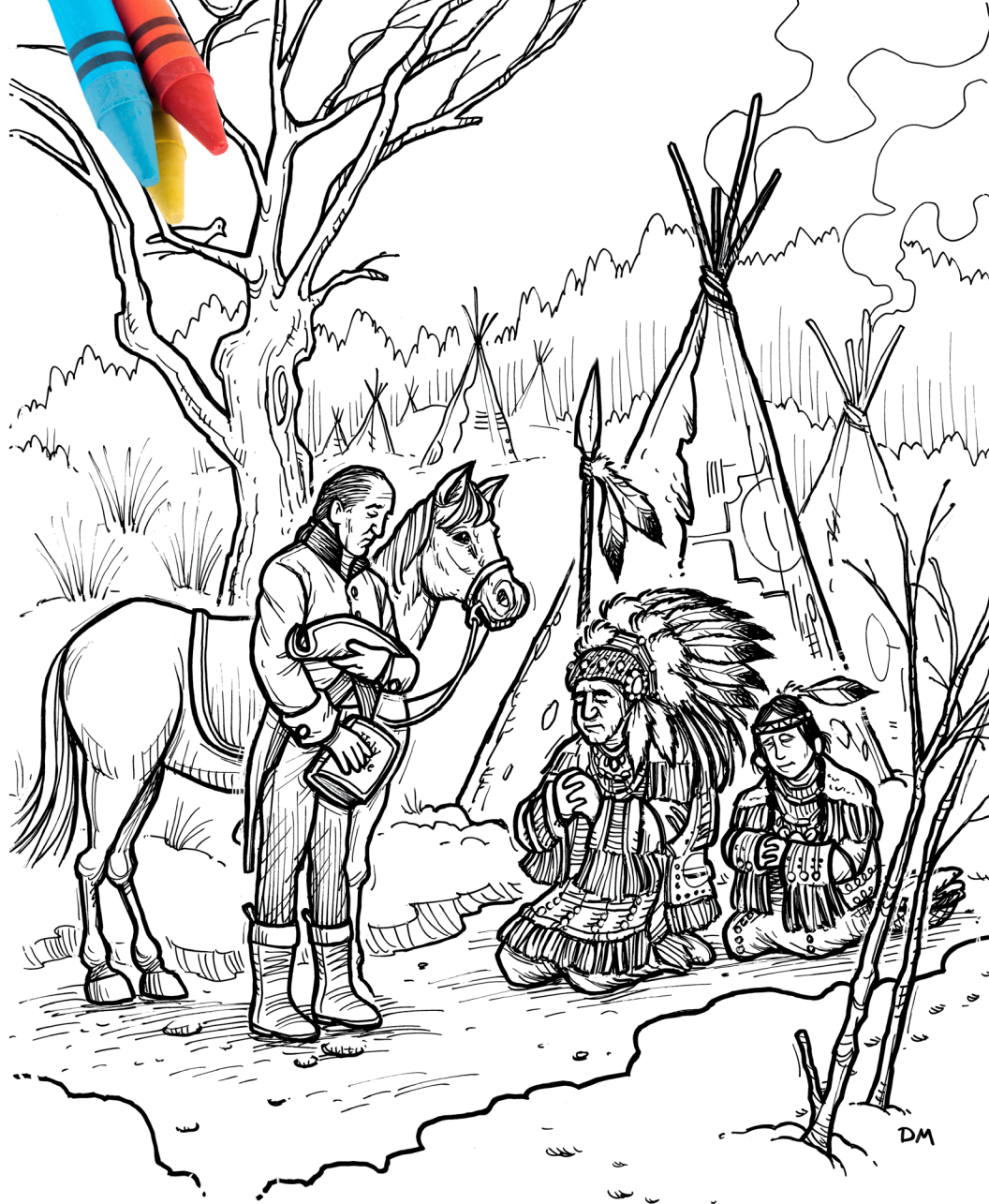
# Are You Keeping First Things First?

The three columns below represent one 24-hour day. Each small box within the column represents one hour of the day. Each column has a title—"God," "Others" and "Me." Whenever you spend part of an hour praying, reading Scripture, going to church, etc., color in a box of the God column. Whenever you spend part of an hour helping a friend, doing chores for your parents, or talking to a family member, fill in a box in the Others column. Then anytime you do an activity for yourself, color in a box in the Me column. This will help you see where you are spending most of your time.

## How do I spend my **TIME**?



As God helps us keep our priorities straight, He will use us to make a spiritual difference in people's lives. We can bless others just like David Brainerd helped many Native American Indians.



## **MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 11:30**

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
And he who wins souls is wise.



# DAVID BRAINERD

## A LIFE OF INFLUENCE

As was stated on page three, David Brainerd felt he had failed as a missionary. The devil will often bring that kind of discouragement to anyone who works in ministry. However, we must remember this is a trick of Satan to convince us to stop and give up!

David Brainerd was not a failure! He was a pioneer missionary, paving the way for others to come behind him. His selfless devotion and passion served as an inspiration to others who answered the call. William Carey, who is called the father of modern missions, went to India sixty years after Brainerd's death. He thanked Brainerd for being one of the big reasons he answered the call. Henry Martin was a missionary to the Muslims. He stated in his writings that it was Brainerd's devotedness that gave him the ability to push forward in his missions work.

You never know who is watching your life. David Brainerd had no idea what kind of an influence he was having on others, but it paid off eternally! Give your best to God, and whenever the devil comes and tries to discourage you, remember others are watching. It is never the right time to give up!





# Louie's treehouse Lair

Saying  
Thank You



David Brainerd's greatest success as a missionary was influencing others to be involved with missions as well! Influence is a powerful tool. You may not realize it, but YOU are influenced by others too. Who in your life has positively impacted you? Tell them thank you, or write them a note expressing your gratefulness.



**Engage Kids** is a ministry of Hope International Missions  
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