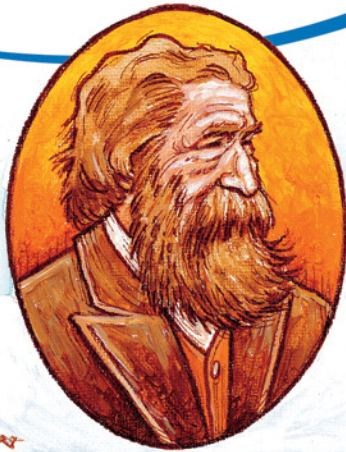


engage Kids

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MISSIONARY HEROES



COURAGE in CRISIS



AMONG THE SAVAGES

The island was filled with cannibals. War and conflict ran throughout the villages. Previous missionaries had been killed and eaten by the savages. It was neither a safe nor comfortable place to live. Yet John Paton felt the call of God to reach the heathens there.

Upon arriving on the island with his wife Mary, he did not receive a warm welcome. The natives attacked the couple who had come to help them! Both day and night John and Mary had to constantly be on guard—their very lives were at stake.

Not only were the people a danger, the Patons battled constant sickness with no hospitals or doctors to turn to for help. Eventually Paton's wife and son died of pneumonia. John had to bury his beloved family himself. Then he was left alone with the savages.



The attacks increased with time. Once the natives succeeded in burning down the church and nearly burned down Paton's home. John continuously prayed that God would protect him and open the hearts of the heathen who so desperately needed the good news of the gospel.

After four years the attacks became so intense, Paton had to leave and return to civilization. Would God bring good from those four short years of his life on the island?



GUESS WHO

Like John Paton, many people in Bible times went through incredibly dangerous circumstances. But they showed courage and perseverance in obeying the call of God.

Unscramble the letters to find the names. Then draw a line from the hint to the correct name.

RSEEHT

The one who led the Israelites to march around Jericho seven times before the walls of the city crashed to the ground.

BAMRAHA

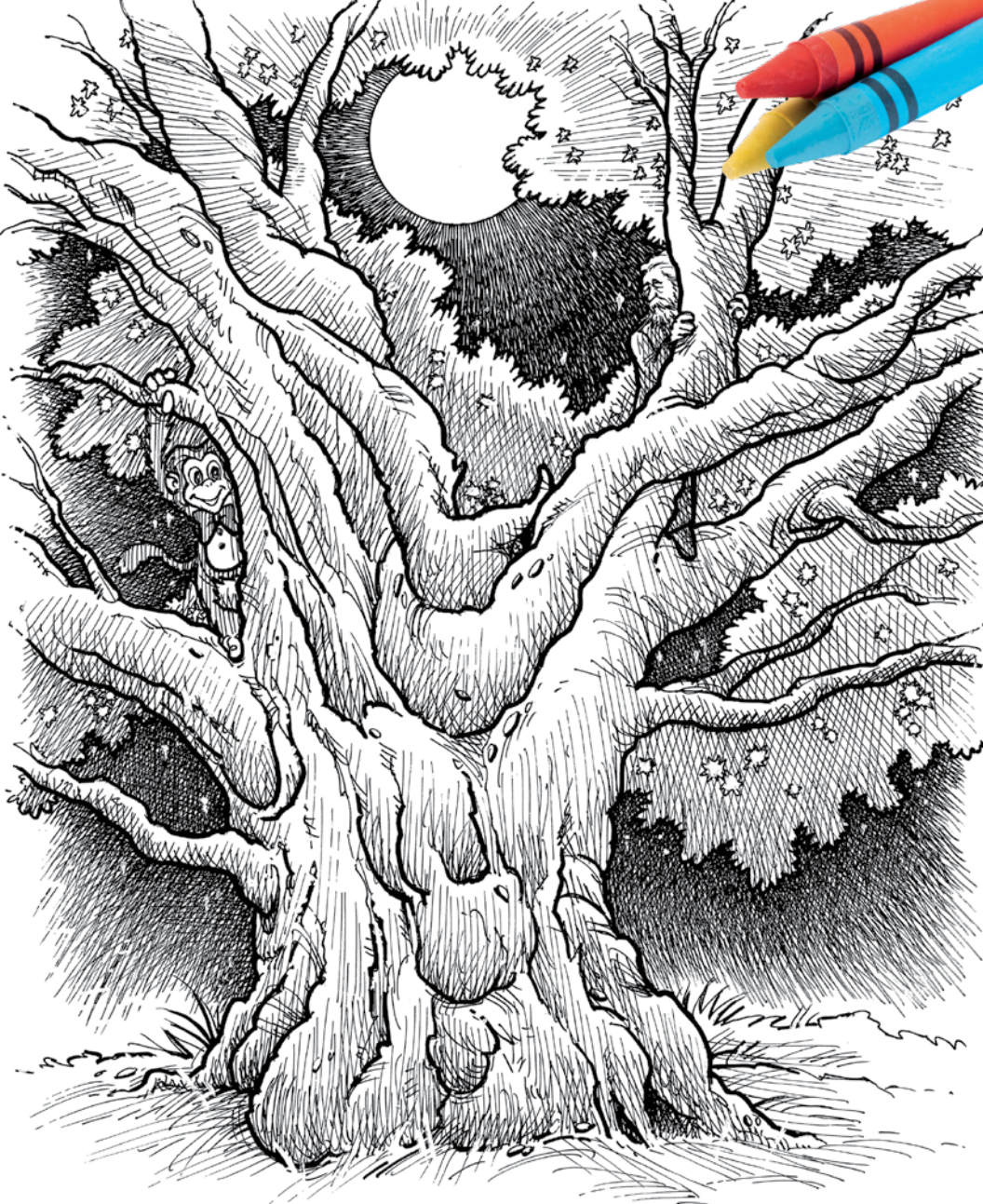
The one who guided the Israelites on foot through the walls of the sea to escape the Egyptians.

SSMOE

The one chosen by a king to live in the palace and who convinced him not to do away with the Jewish race.

HOSAJU

The one willing to sacrifice his son because God had commanded him to do so.



MEMORY VERSE

Wait for the Lord: be strong, and let your
heart take courage: wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:14

SALVATION COMES TO THE ISLANDS

Eventually John Paton remarried and returned with his new wife Maggie to the South Seas. His heart had not left the savages who were desperately in need of God. Upon their arrival an old island chief who had been friendly to John before did much to ensure the safety of the Patons. Because of this chief's protection, the savages became very respectful of Paton and his work.

The natives could not read or write. One day while building their house, John needed some tools. He wrote a note on a piece of bark and asked the chief to take it to his wife. She



read the note and gave the tools to the chief. The old chief demanded that Paton explain how his wife heard the bark talk. This opened the way to teach the chief how to read, using the Bible as a textbook.

He and his wife began orphanages and provided shelter for lost children. Maggie started classes for young women, teaching them how to sew, sing, and read. Before long the natives began to openly receive the gospel.

Soon the majority of the former savages gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Paton played a part in translating the Bible into their native language so they could read the Scriptures and continue to spread the word of God.

No, the path John Paton walked was not easy—far from it. But he knew the call God had given him, and he followed it with unwavering faith and determination. Because he diligently pursued God’s plan, souls are in heaven today who otherwise would have fallen into hell. And he did so not for personal gain but for the glory of God.





Louie's treehouse Lair



CHOOSING COURAGE

What difficulty are you facing? Is it telling a friend about Jesus, making a restitution, showing Christ's love and being friendly to a new kid in the neighborhood, or obeying God to raise your hand in praise? Act courageously and persevere in hardship. You are not expected to be courageous on your own. Jesus is always here to help you. And as you obey God even through struggles, you truly glorify Him.



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