

engage Kids

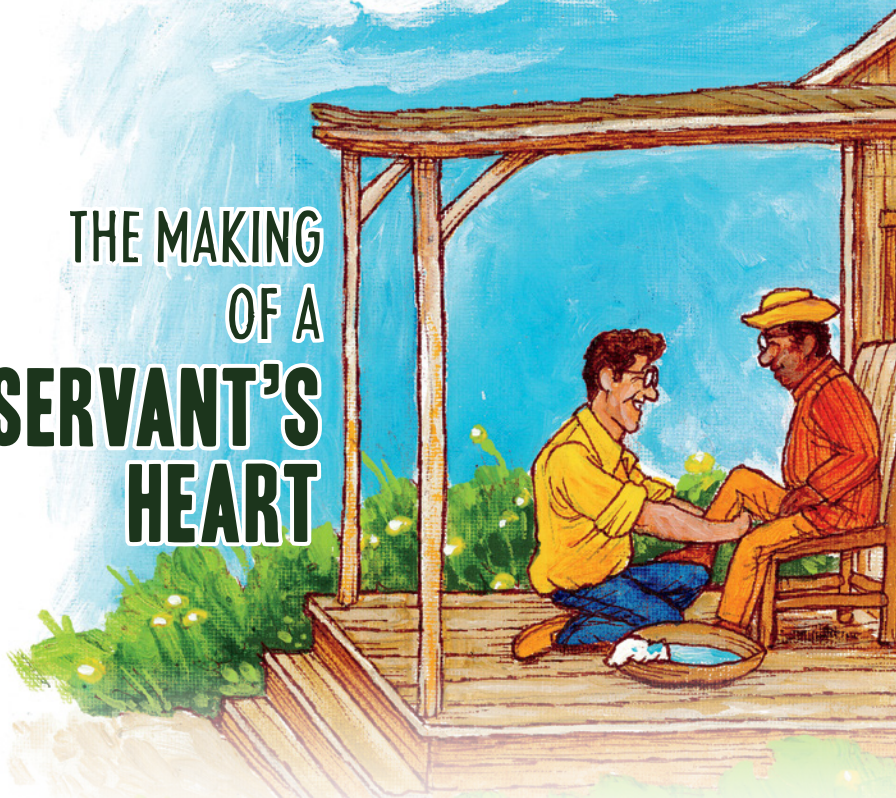
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CARIBBEAN



AGENTS of CHANGE

THE MAKING OF A SERVANT'S HEART



Deep blue oceans, palm trees, sandy beaches—that all sounds like an amazing vacation! But this was a mission field for Joe Smith and his wife Lois. The Smiths traveled down to tropical islands called The Bahamas to be missionaries. At first this was a difficult change! They had to learn a new culture, make new friends, eat different foods, live in a foreign place, befriend the Bahamian people, and deliver the gospel message to them.

Gaining the trust of the Bahamians took time. It is not always easy to make friends with new people. But the Lord provided Mr. Smith an opportunity to reach out to his neighbor, a man named Mr. Pinder.

Mr. Pinder was older and had a number of physical problems. To make matters worse, he had a stroke. In the process of recovering, his foot became infected with gangrene. Gangrene is a bacterial infection that, if not cared for properly, could



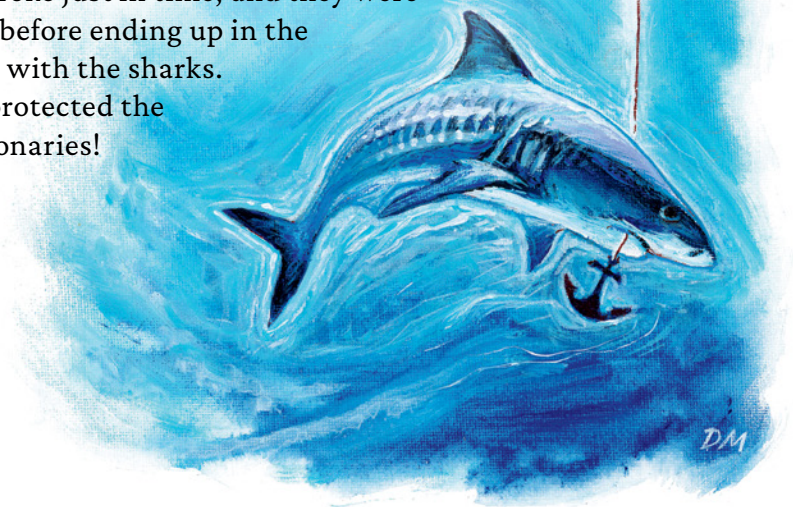
have caused Mr. Pinder to lose his whole foot!

Joe Smith came to Mr. Pinder's aid and took care of the infected foot. This was not an easy job. Every day Joe had to clean out the nasty wound and bandage it. However, this was an opportunity, presented by God, to show Jesus in action to Mr. Pinder. God changed Joe's heart, giving him a greater desire to love and serve others. And through this encounter the other islanders of that settlement saw they could trust Joe Smith as well. This became the open door for the Smith's ministry, and in time many lives were changed by the power of the gospel.

SHARK ATTACK!



Joe Smith largely fed his family of six from the ocean. He became very good at swimming and fishing underwater, like what you see on the coloring page. One night he and a friend went out in a little boat for some deep-sea fishing. After they caught many fish, the blood in the water started to attract sharks. These powerful creatures began stealing the fish and snapping the men's fishing lines. To keep this from happening again, they put a hook on their steel anchor cable and threw it overboard. A shark bit down on it and began to pull the boat until it almost capsized. Thankfully the anchor line broke just in time, and they were freed before ending up in the water with the sharks. God protected the missionaries!





MEMORY VERSE

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



HOW A SIMPLE ACTION CHANGED A LIFE

When you are ten years old, a broken toy can ruin your day. That was the case for young Cecil, a little Bahamian boy who was sitting on his front porch trying to fix his mechanical toy. Missionary Joe Smith was out visiting in the community and saw Cecil's struggle. Mr. Smith joined him, and together they worked on the toy until, to Cecil's amazement, it was completely fixed—almost as good as new.

Cecil's encounter with Mr. Smith was a moment he would never forget. He began to follow Mr. Smith everywhere



he went—he wanted to grow up to be just like him. Mr. Smith had done such a simple gesture for Cecil, but it made an unforgettable impact. His influence powerfully affected Cecil, and it was through this influence that Cecil grew in his knowledge and relationship with the Lord.

Fast forward years later, and Cecil is now a grown, married man with three children and one grandchild. He and his wife still live in the Bahamas, and they also pastor a church on the island! This church has had a powerful impact on the Bahamian people. Alongside the church Cecil has also built a prayer chapel inside a lighthouse there in his hometown.

God works in incredible ways. In Cecil's life He was working through a broken toy to introduce him to a friendly, helpful missionary who would influence and teach him the ways of Jesus. We must trust in God's plan and be open to His leading—just as Joe Smith and Cecil did.



Louie's treehouse Lair



GOD, CHANGE ME FIRST!

Before Joe Smith was able to minister effectively, God had to change his heart into one of a loving servant.

What can you do that may not be easy but will help someone else? As you do uncomfortable things for Jesus with a proper attitude, He can change your heart to be more like His. And then He will use you even more to help change the lives of others.



ENGAGE KIDS is a ministry of
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