



RESTORING



RESTORING FAITH

Louie and Margot followed Mrs. Motovilov the next day as she walked down the busy streets of Prague. They were on their way to observe her English class and meet her new students.

Louie was especially excited to meet these young people, and Margot wore a rare smile as she listened to Louie blurt out all his questions.

“How many students do you have?”

“Do they like bananas?”

“Do they like monkeys? Will they like ME?”

Mrs. Motovilov laughed. “Don’t worry, Louie. They will like you.”

He sighed with relief as they entered the classroom. Louie greeted a young woman already there. She had dark hair and pushed her glasses up her nose, responding with a faint “Hello.”

Soon more students trickled in, and class began. Louie and Margot had opportunities to introduce themselves and interact with the students in fun word games to review their previous lessons.

When class ended, they said goodbye to their new friends

and followed Mrs. Motovilov down the street again.

“We get to try that funny train now, right?” Louie bounced, nearly colliding with a vendor’s stand but avoiding the disaster.

“Yes, it’s time to meet up for our picnic now,” Mrs. Motovilov replied.

That morning the Durhams and some of the Motovilov children had gone grocery shopping for their picnic. Mr. Motovilov had not been in English class that day because he was meeting with a friend from the Russian church.

The world was washed in golden hour by the time the whole group came together again. Everyone boarded a funicular, a special kind of train car that climbs up a hill, and the funicular slowly moved up Petřín Hill.

Louie watched out the window with Margot and the Durhams. The green trees passed by, dusted with sunbeams.

“It’s so beautiful,” Margot whispered.

“I’m glad we came.” Louie agreed. His stomach rumbled. “And I’m so ready for that picnic.”



Heads Up

To play the game Heads Up:

1. Write names of animals or toys on small pieces of paper.
2. First player chooses a piece of paper without looking at the name on it.
3. The player holds the paper up to his/her forehead, with the name of the animal/toy facing outward so teammates can see.
4. Teammates will give the player clues to help guess the word before a 60-second timer goes off.
5. Take turns playing the game.

To make the game a little more challenging, write the names of the missionaries you have learned about so far this year, and have your teammates give you clues from the stories you have read.

Examples of a missionary and a clue could be:

1. Heather Durham - Who wrote a letter to Margot the European mink, introducing her to Louie the monkey?
2. Tim Iovan - Who took Misha, the young Romanian, to the airport for the first time?
3. Harper - What is the name of Tim and Sharron Teed's dog?

Memory Verse

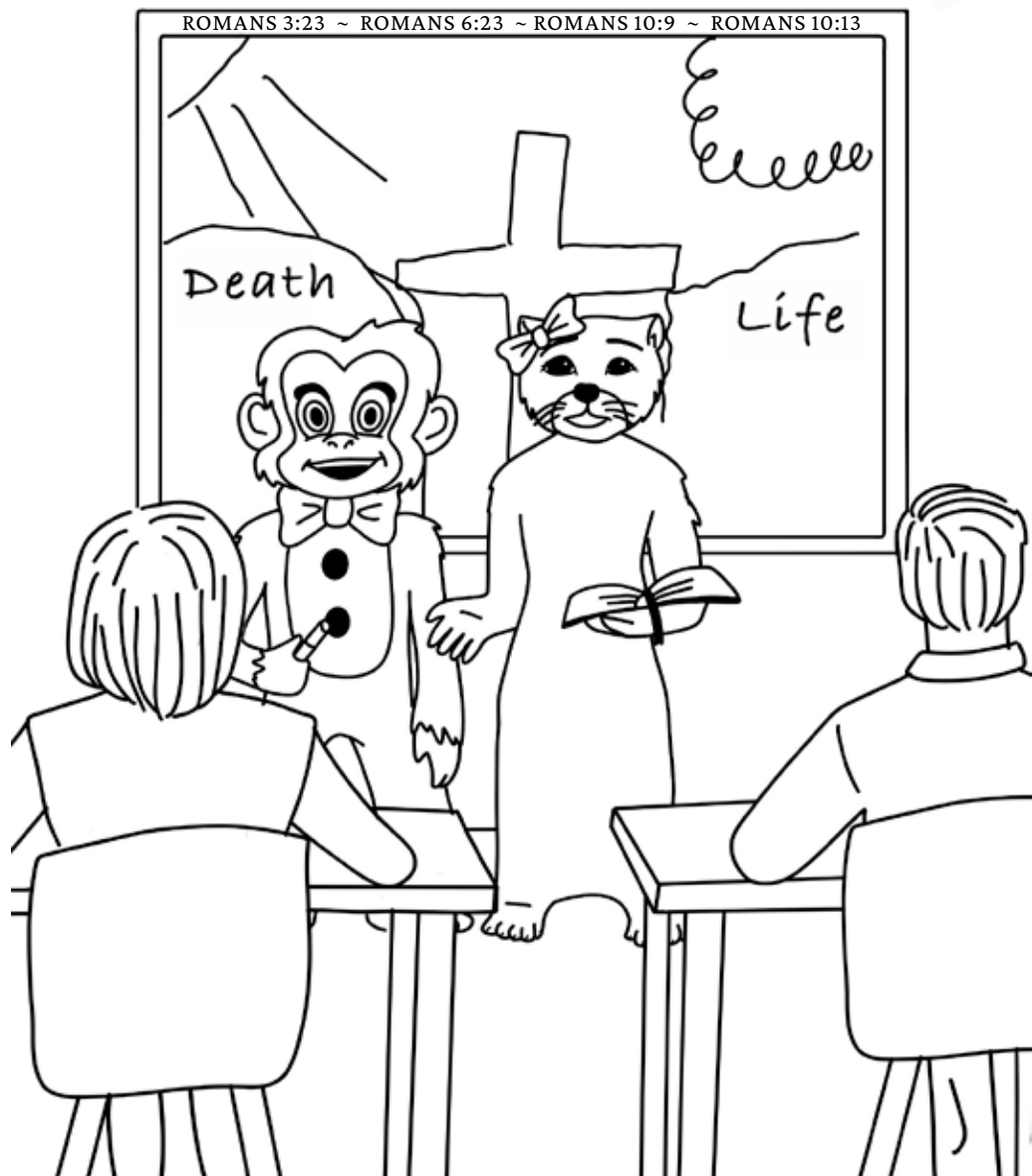
But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone
who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

I Peter 3:15 ESV

Coloring Page

Louie and Margot share the gospel with students. Romans 5:8 tells us that God showed His love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Jesus was the bridge from death to life. Color the page and read the verses from Romans.

ROMANS 3:23 ~ ROMANS 6:23 ~ ROMANS 10:9 ~ ROMANS 10:13





CHRISTMAS TRADITION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

BY MAUDE MOTOVILOV

During the first week of December in the Czech Republic, some children eagerly await a special day, while others dread it. It is called Saint Nicholas Day and is widely celebrated.

On this day Saint Nicolas and his two helpers—an angel and a devil—may come to your home and ask you to recite a poem or sing. They will ask your parents whether you have been good or bad. You should hope your parents' reports are good. If they say you were good, the angel will reward you with something sweet. But if they tell Saint Nicolas that you were bad, the devil might snatch you, throw you into his sack, and carry you off. That, or you will be given a lump of coal.

Students have said they were terrified of the devil that came to their apartment. We are thankful we know the true meaning of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve families in the Czech Republic gather around the table for a special meal, usually consisting of potato salad and carp fish. Some people buy the fish alive early and keep it in their bathtub. After the meal a bell rings—it is the signal that Baby Jesus (Ježíšek in Czech) has come and left presents under the Christmas tree. Czechs believe Ježíšek is a magical flying baby like a little angel who comes in through an open window. Since he is not



LIVE CARP TO BE PURCHASED FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

seen, everyone imagines what he looks like. This tradition makes the story of Jesus seem like a fairy tale.

Last year we invited students to our apartment for Christmas Eve. There were no devils, carp, or Ježíšek, but it was an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas and why Jesus came. The group was diverse with people from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Japan. We invited an older Czech woman who has had a troubled life. She could not come, but the invitation touched her. We are thankful for God's restoration and healing in her life.

Many people in Czechia do not believe in God. They see the Bible as a book of fairy tales. Their tradition of Ježíšek being a magical creature who delivers gifts encourages this belief. Please pray that the people of the Czech Republic will know that God is real and that He wants to restore them as His children.

Louie's Treehouse Lain



WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Parents, don't miss the opportunities that holidays and traditions provide to teach your children what they mean, why we celebrate them, and how can they be used to tell others about the gospel. Rather than simply following traditions, help your children understand the truths behind them. The Motovilov family uses holidays as opportunities to explain the gospel, connecting familiar traditions to biblical truths and using these special occasions to point others to Christ.



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