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BRAVE BRAVE
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Text the word
"BRAVE" to
1 (888) 687-2936
to get weekly text
message reminders
to help you stay on
track with your Brave
Faith journey.

A SIX-WEEK JOURNEY INTO BRAVE FAITH WITH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

BRAVE CHOICE
BRAVE PRAYER
BRAVE CHANGE
BRAVE ACTION
BRAVE LIFE
BRAVE FUTURE

Open **Doors**
YOUTH



READY TO START?

Scan this to start your Brave Faith journey. You will get access to exclusive video content that will encourage you along the way.

Can't scan the code? Just head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith

And text the word "BRAVE" to 1 (888) 687-2936 to get weekly text message reminders to help you stay on track with your Brave Faith journey.

MAKE SURE YOU DO THIS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BRAVE FAITH JOURNEY!

READY FOR A JOURNEY? YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED BY OPENING THIS BOOKLET – AND DON'T BE FOOLED, THIS ISN'T JUST AN ORDINARY BOOKLET. OVER THE NEXT FEW PAGES, YOU'LL FIND STORIES OF INCREDIBLE COURAGE, RISK, PASSION, LOVE AND DETERMINATION. STORIES OF BRAVE FAITH THAT, IF YOU LET THEM, CAN RAISE BRAVE FAITH IN YOU.

BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

Around the world, Christians face abuse, threats, violence, arrest, prison and even death because of their choice to follow Jesus. And many still choose to follow, knowing the risk. This is **brave faith** being lived out - the perspective that knowing Jesus is truly worth everything we have.

Safety. Money. Freedom. Reputation. Career. Friends. Even family. All this can be at stake, but brave faith chooses to keep focused on Jesus, knowing He is worth more than everything else.

In this guide, you'll meet six Christians from around the world who are bravely living out their faith in Jesus. They have chosen Him to be front and centre, and in doing that have seen their lives changed and transformed.

We want to take you on a journey of brave faith with them. Their stories are challenging and inspiring. They can encourage us to have greater passion and perseverance – showing us that taking risks and getting out of our comfort zones can deepen our relationship with God.

Want to grow in passion and courage for Jesus? That's what this brave faith guide and the next six weeks is all about. Up for it? Turn over to find out what this journey will look like.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Over the next six weeks you'll go on your own brave faith journey. Each week you'll meet a different person from the persecuted church. You'll read their story, take time to reflect on God's Word, spend time in prayer and face brave faith challenges to help you live out the things you're learning.

This guide includes six reflections, that's one a week for the six weeks*. You should spend about 20 minutes reading each reflection near the start of the week, then you have the rest of the week to undertake the suggested challenges. If you scan the QR code below, you will get access to exclusive videos to help you stick with the journey.

Text the word "BRAVE" to 1 (888) 687-2936 to get weekly text message reminders to help you stay on track with your Brave Faith journey.

Each week you'll have

- One story
- A linked Bible reflection
- Prayer points
- Two brave faith challenges (one aiming to connect you to your persecuted family and one aiming to grow your faith and push your boundaries)

If you head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith (or scan the big QR code over there) you'll also get:

- Access to exclusive video content for your 6-week Brave Faith journey.



READY TO START?

Scan this to start your Brave Faith journey. You will get access to exclusive video content that will encourage you along the way.

Can't scan the code? Just head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith



WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

The next six weeks are a journey. Don't worry, we're not asking you to do anything weird, but we want you to see that by following Jesus our persecuted family set us an incredible example, and they can inspire us to live out our faith with greater courage and bravery. The first challenges are simple and reflective; those towards the end of the guide are more outward facing and may cost you something (and we don't just mean money).

While this is a six-week plan, we don't want you to forget about this stuff when it's all over - this guide is designed to be the start of a lifetime journey of brave faith. So be prepared to be changed.

YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS ALONE

We're all in this together. The people you'll meet in the stories over the next few pages are already cheering you on, but there are loads of others choosing to start and keep going on their brave faith journey too. Just search **#bravefaith** on Instagram to find a load of stories of courageous faith from the persecuted church and see how others following this brave faith journey are getting on. And you can post and tag your own experiences too - just use **#bravefaith** and tag **@opendoorscanada**.

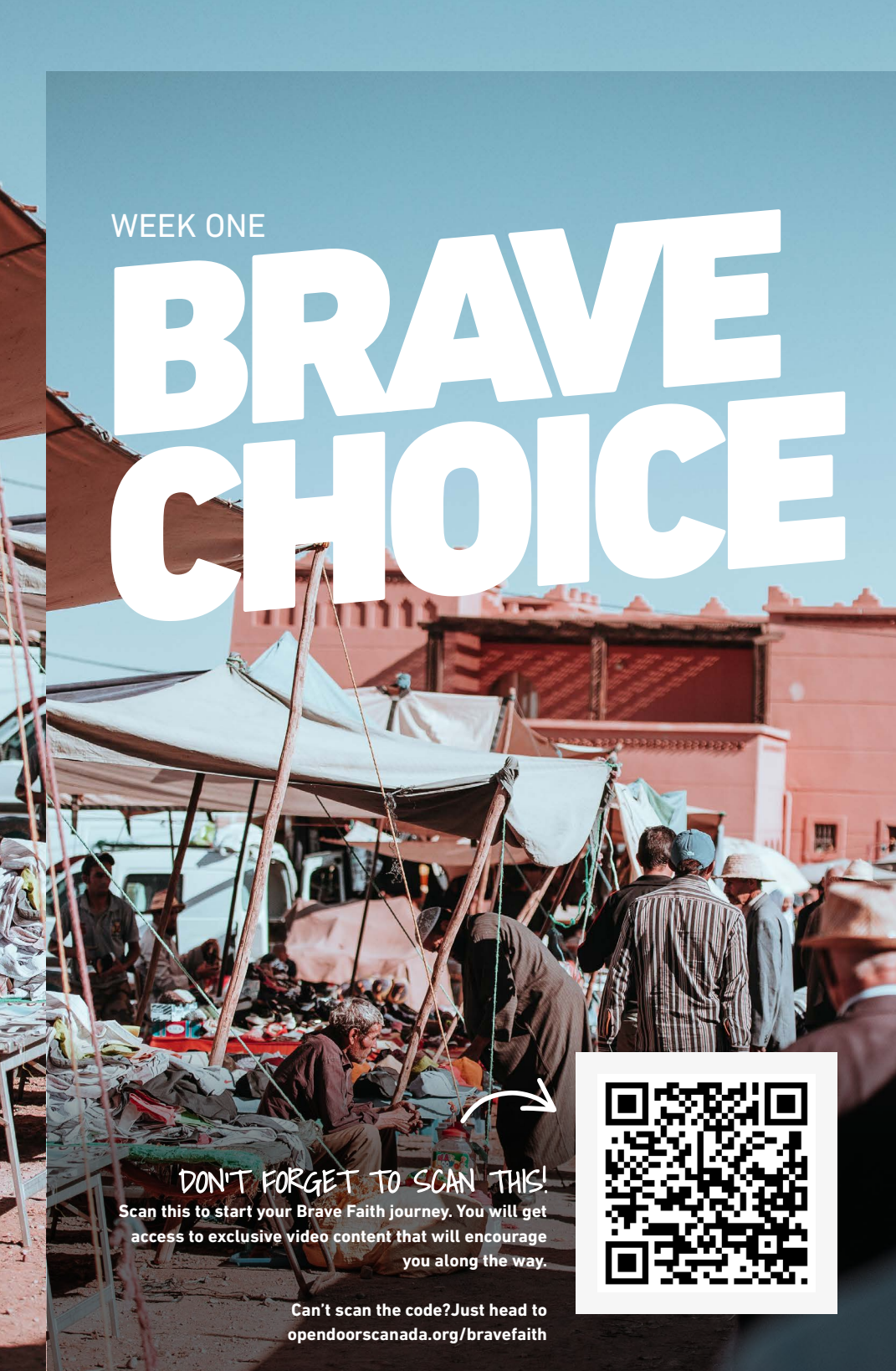
READY. TURN OVER TO GET STARTED!

This is Madeng from Nigeria. He lives in a part of the country that is regularly attacked by Islamic extremists. Life is hard, but he's learned to read thanks to an Open Doors literacy class. His favourite Bible passage is Proverbs 3:5-6:
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."



WEEK ONE

BRAVE CHOICE



DON'T FORGET TO SCAN THIS!

Scan this to start your Brave Faith journey. You will get access to exclusive video content that will encourage you along the way.

Can't scan the code? Just head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith



WHAT'S THE HARDEST CHOICE YOU'VE EVER MADE? IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AROUND A FRIENDSHIP, CHOOSING WHAT SUBJECTS TO STUDY AND WHERE, OR EVEN A CHOICE ABOUT HOW YOU BEHAVE AND ACT.



The hardest choice I've had to make:

Write it in here...



What made it a hard choice?:

Write it in here...



Would you choose something different now?:

Write it in here...

For Kabil*, who's from a country in North Africa, choosing Jesus has been the toughest, yet best, choice he's ever made.

**"BIG PROBLEMS STARTED, AND I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MY FAMILY AND JESUS... I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE LORD. I GAVE UP MY FAMILY, MY HOME AND MY BUSINESS."
Kabil, North Africa**

In his country, most people are Muslims and leaving Islam for another religion can create big problems. Initially, Kabil's parents were OK with his choice. But then things changed. His family made him choose between them and Jesus. Kabil made his choice, and since then his family have disowned him.

This was incredibly hard for Kabil, but he knows he has made the right choice

"NOTHING CAN EQUAL THE LIFE THAT JESUS GAVE TO ME".

Choosing to follow Jesus has a cost but, as Kabil shows, that cost is worth it. Jesus asks us to put Him first, to make brave choices about how we live our lives and show His love to the world around us. Like Kabil, we need to make regular, brave choices to keep following Jesus wherever He leads.

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Read this passage: Mark 10:29-30

- What do you find hard about what Jesus says? Jesus might not be asking you to give up family or home, but is there something in your life that you put above God? What is it? Reputation, security, looks, fashion, gaming?
- Ask God to help you put Him first and choose to use the thing(s) you've pinpointed for Him.

TURN OVER FOR THIS WEEK'S BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGES



BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGE:

1. Discover more stories of brave faith:

Spend 20 minutes flicking through the Open Doors Canada Instagram or watching some of the videos on our YouTube channel (and give us a follow while you're there). Let the stories inspire and challenge you to greater faith and love of God! Check

[instagram.com/opendoorscanada](https://www.instagram.com/opendoorscanada) or [youtube.com/opendoorscanada](https://www.youtube.com/opendoorscanada).

2. Make a brave choice: In 1952, Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, prayed the following brave prayer:

"Whenever, wherever, however You want me, I'll go... I'll begin this very minute... as I take my first step forward, will You consider that this is a step towards complete obedience towards You? I'll call it the Step of Yes."

Brother Andrew had no idea where God would lead him. Decades later Open Doors is serving persecuted Christians in over 70 countries around the world. Through him, God has done incredible things all because he was prepared to say 'Yes'.

Pray that same prayer as Brother Andrew. Choose to say 'Yes' to God and keep choosing to follow where He leads.

PRAYER:

Write your own version of Brother Andrew's prayer. You might want to include the thing that you have been putting before God, telling Him that He's worth more to you than it, in the prayer (and then pray it every day this week)...

Write it in here...

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

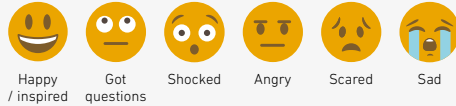
GIVE YOURSELF A FEW DAYS THEN COME BACK TO REFLECT

HOW DID YOU DO WITH THE CHALLENGES?

What story did you find that has stuck with you?

Write it in here...

How did Kabil's story make you feel? (Circle one)



What can you do to respond to the story?

Write it in here...

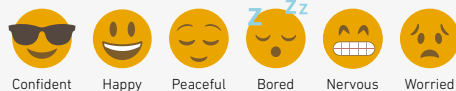
Tick the boxes below when you've prayed your prayer each day this week...

Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday

Did the prayer change as you prayed it each day?

If so, how did it change?

How did praying make you feel? (Circle one)



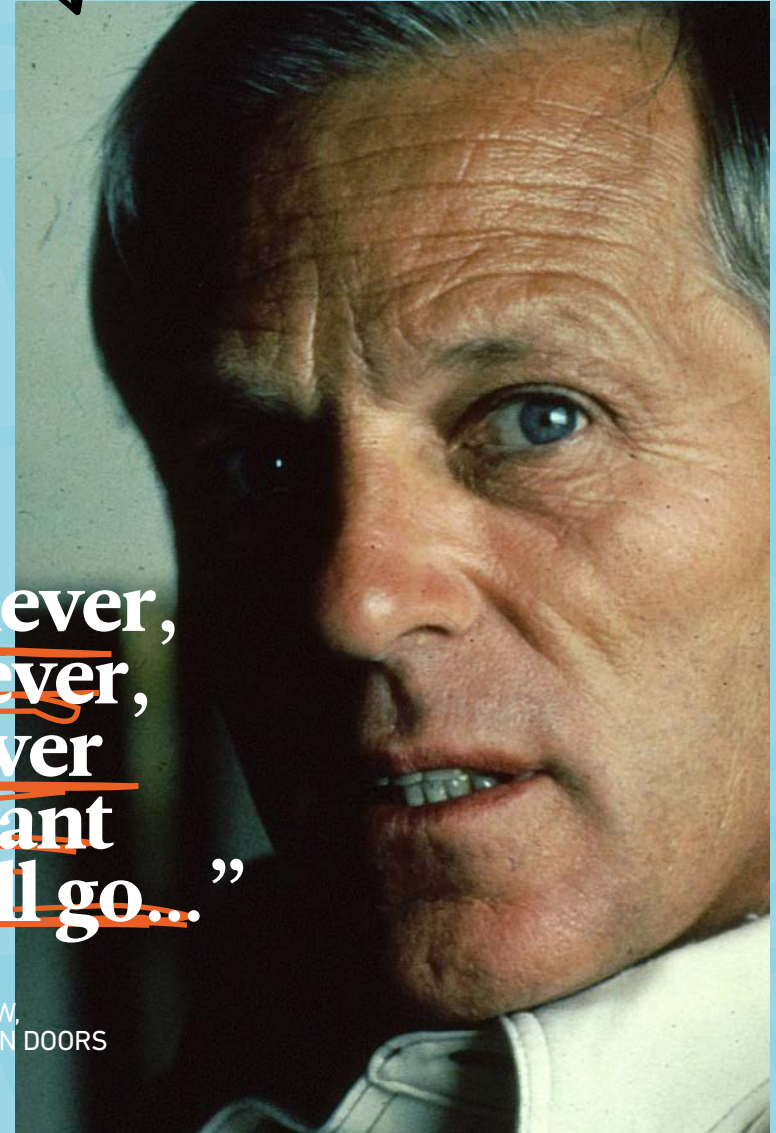
Can you explain why?

Write it in here...



Scan this or head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith to watch WEEK ONE: BRAVE CHOICE bonus video content and be encouraged along your journey.

TRUE LEGEND!



BROTHER ANDREW, FOUNDER OF OPEN DOORS

WEEK TWO

BRAVE PRAYER

WHAT'S THE BRAVEST PRAYER YOU HAVE EVER PRAYED? A PRAYER THAT STRETCHES YOUR FAITH. MAYBE YOU PRAYED FOR SOMEONE TO BE HEALED, OR MAYBE THAT YOU'D BE USED BY GOD (A BIT LIKE BROTHER ANDREW'S STEP OF YES).



What's the bravest prayer you've ever prayed?:

Write it in here...



What happened?:

Write it in here...



If you were to say a brave prayer now, what would it be about?:

Write it in here...

For many, simply asking Jesus to come into their lives is the bravest, most dangerous prayer they will ever pray. But many pray it anyway, knowing the consequences. One guy from North Africa told his story to an Open Doors partner. Before he became a Christian, this man was a wealthy Muslim. But he was having serious questions about God. So, one day he prayed a brave prayer:

**"GOD IF YOU'RE REAL
YOU NEED TO COME AND SEE ME."**

That afternoon, he came home from work and found a man standing in his house. When he asked the stranger who he was, the man said, "Jesus." They then spoke for an hour (yep, we know, it's wild. But read on, it gets better).

When his wife came home, he told her he was now a Christian. She was furious, knowing the decision could lose them everything. The man said to his wife, "Well, you ask Jesus to come, and He will come."

The next day, the man found a letter nailed to the tree in their front garden. It was from his wife. She'd written her own brave prayer: "Dear Jesus, my husband says You are real and You will come, so please come."

A few days later, the man came home and found his wife sobbing on the floor. When he asked her what was wrong she said, "Jesus came and visited me, we spoke for an hour. We are now Christian."

Today, that couple lead a house church. Because of their decision to follow Jesus they have lost their status, reputation, safety and wealth. But they know those prayers were worth it. They've experienced God's world-changing love and He's using them to share that freedom-giving love with others! Ready to pray that same life-changing prayer?

**TURN OVER FOR
THIS WEEK'S BRAVE
FAITH CHALLENGES**



BIBLE PASSAGE:

Read this passage: Matthew 6:5-14

- How does Jesus say not to pray?
- And how does He say we should pray?

Spend some time reading through and praying each line of the Lord's Prayer (verses 9-13). If you don't understand some of the words, look up a different version (The Message one is good).

BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGE:

1. Commit to praying for the persecuted church. One in seven Christians around the world face high or extreme levels of persecution. So, set an alarm on your phone for 7pm everyday or one day each week. When the alarm goes off, pray for just one minute for those who have chosen Jesus in the midst of threats and violence. Pray for courage, boldness, comfort and perseverance. Keep it short and simple. Follow us on Instagram for regular prayers, stories and inspiration.

2. Commit to praying for three people. List down three people that you know who aren't yet Christians or who have a real need in their life.

PERSON ONE:

PERSON TWO:

PERSON THREE:

Pray some brave prayers for these people every day for the next week. Keep it simple, but ask bold things, like they'll come to know Jesus. It doesn't have to take too long, just be consistent and keep praying. We'll come back to these people in week five!

PRAYER:

Jesus, I know You are real, will You come? Help me be inspired by the story I've just read to pray brave prayers. Holy Spirit, work in the lives of the three people I've written down. And I pray for Christians like those in the story who have to hide their faith – give them boldness and may many others come to know You through them. Amen.

MAKE A PLAN TO PRAY AT 7PM

How often will you pray?

- Everyday
- Every week

How will you remember? Tick this box when you've set a reminder on your phone.

NOT SURE WHAT TO PRAY? Follow us on Instagram (@opendoorscanada) for regular posts and prayer points.

What will you pray?

Write a simple prayer here: _____

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE THREE PEOPLE YOU'VE LISTED DOWN. TICK WHEN YOU'VE PRAYED.

Person One	Person Two	Person Three	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday



Scan this or head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith to watch WEEK TWO: BRAVE PRAYER bonus video content and be encouraged along your journey.

“God, if You’re real, You need to come and see me...”

COULD YOU PRAY THIS BRAVE PRAYER? GIVE IT A GO AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

THE BIBLE TEACHES US IN 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 THAT AS WE LOOK TO GOD, WE ARE BEING CHANGED TO BE MORE LIKE HIM. SO, BE HONEST, WHAT DO YOU FEEL GOD MAY WANT TO CHANGE IN YOU? IT COULD BE SOMETHING BIG OR SOMETHING SMALL.



Write one thing God would change about you...

Write it in here...

God loves us completely, and His heart for us is that we would listen to what He says about us more than those around us. We might worry we're not attractive enough, cool enough or generally good enough. We might have a bunch of habits that we know we need to deal with or that our friends might easily lead us into. But no matter what you've written down, God is big enough to deal with it. There's no judgment; God's heard everything before and He's big enough to help you get through it. Don't believe us? You don't have to – just read Pablo's incredible story.

Pablo* is from Colombia. When he was a teenager, he smuggled drugs for a rebel gang. He would drive around in a truck dropping off cocaine to various dealers and passing out anti-government leaflets. One day, enemies of the gang he was working for caught him. To save his life he told them everything he knew about his gang. He escaped, but he was on the run.

He didn't have anywhere to go and his old gang-mates would be after him if they discovered what he did. This is where God stepped in. Pablo met some Christians; they told him about Jesus and he realized God had spared his life for a reason.

After meeting an Open Doors volunteer, Pablo made a brave change. He decided to go back to smuggling, but this time he'd be taking Bibles, rather than drugs, into dangerous parts of Colombia.

It's not an easy job. The rebel soldiers he used to work for are violently committed to their beliefs, and the gospels that Pablo delivers offer a very different way of thinking. There is a price on his head. He's had to go into hiding a few times – they see him as a target for trying to show people a way of living

free from drugs. But he keeps going, and that brave change is helping others to make brave changes too.

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Read: Luke 19:1-10

- How did people react when Jesus asked to go to Zacchaeus' house? Why did they think he wasn't good enough for Jesus?
- Jesus knew Zacchaeus made a lot of money exploiting his own people. But Jesus still asked to spend time with him. Jesus invites us to come to Him now - it doesn't matter if you're not perfect, it doesn't matter what you've done and it doesn't even matter if you're not a Christian, He still invites us to come to Him.
- We don't know how long Jesus and Zacchaeus spent together, but it wasn't long. In that short time with Jesus, Zacchaeus completely changed. If we want to change, spending time with Jesus should be where we start.

**TURN OVER FOR
THIS WEEK'S BRAVE
FAITH CHALLENGES**



WEEK THREE

**BRAVE
CHANGE**



BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGE:

1. Change it up. Like Pablo, Open Doors is passionate about making sure people have access to God's Word. Just \$10 can buy, send and deliver a Bible to a young Christian facing persecution. Could you change something in your life for two weeks to save up \$10 and help send a Bible? Make a change and stop buying drinks, snacks or that new game and instead get God's Word into the hands of someone who would totally treasure it! More at opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith.

2. Choose to change. Look at the answer you wrote down at the start of this reflection. Can you make that change alone? Do you need help from someone you trust? Do you need to take some concrete action to help you change? A simple meeting with Jesus transformed Zacchaeus' life, but Zacchaeus still had to act. Jesus didn't force him or tell him to do anything, Zacchaeus made a change as a reaction to knowing God's acceptance and love. Can you make a brave choice to reach out to someone you know and trust now to help you make a change?

PRAYER:

God, thank You for believers like Pablo and others like him who have had their world turned upside down. Thank You for his brave faith and I pray that You will keep believers strong in their faith as they follow where You lead. Thank You for the story of when Zacchaeus met You and how that transformed him. Help me open up to You today. Help me to spot things You want to do in me. Help me make brave changes to be more like You! Amen.

COULD YOU MAKE A CHANGE?



WHAT COULD YOU GIVE UP FOR A FEW WEEKS TO SAVE \$10 TO SEND A BIBLE?

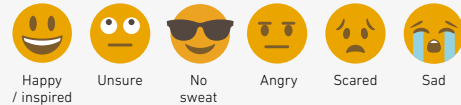
- Pause a Netflix or Spotify subscription
- Avoid buying candy or snacks
- Skip a trip to the movie theatre
- Give up some of my allowance
- Other ideas. Write here.

Write them down here:

.....

.....

How do you feel about sacrificing these things? (Circle one)



Sending a Bible will definitely bless and encourage the person who receives it - thank you for taking on the challenge!

WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW CAN YOU CHANGE?



ZACCHAEUS CHANGED AFTER SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS. SO SPEND TIME LOOKING AT HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT YOU.

Look up the passages and rank the ones that mean the most to you (1=means a lot, 5=not so relevant)*

- Ephesians 1:5
- Romans 5:8
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- Psalm 31:7
- Galatians 5:22-23

Pray through your fave two verses now.

**You can put a 1 in every box if you can't decide!*



Scan this or head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith to watch WEEK THREE: BRAVE CHANGE bonus video content and be encouraged along your journey.



“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

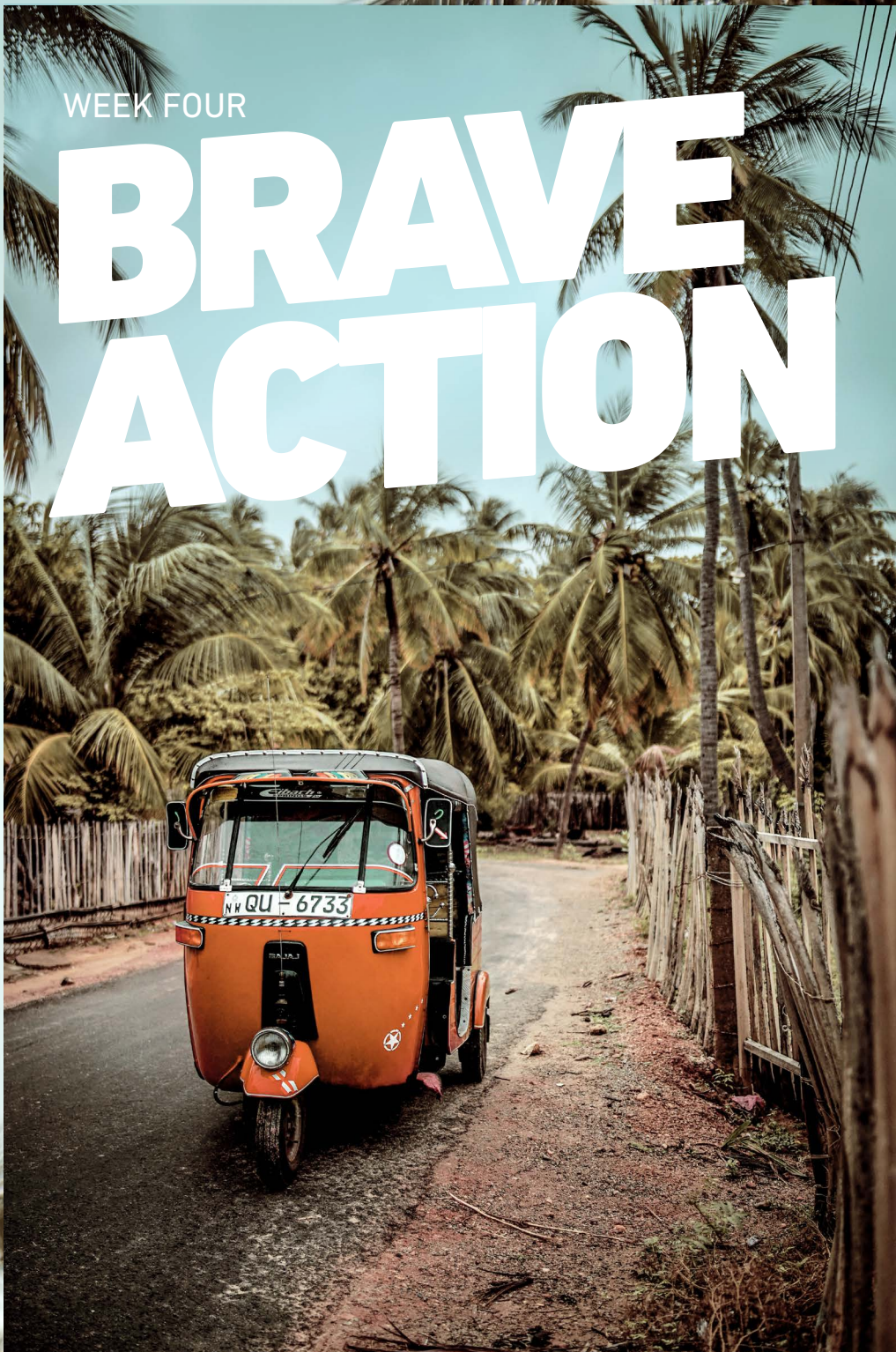
EZEKIEL 36:26

GOD CAN HELP US TO CHANGE!



WEEK FOUR

BRAVE ACTION



EVER DONE A BUNGEE OR PARACHUTE JUMP? EVER STOOD UP FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS BEING BULLIED? EVER BROKEN UP A FIGHT?



What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

Write it in here...

Often we think that being brave is about physical strength. But, if we follow Jesus' example, we know that true bravery is about love. When we love God and love others, then brave actions follow.

This is something Pastor Shiyanth* from Sri Lanka knows well. For the last few years his church has faced strong opposition from its local community. Most people in the area are devout Hindus and don't want a church in their area. Some more extreme Hindus had repeatedly tried to shut down the church and when their initial efforts failed, they just got more angry. A member of the church was violently attacked as he walked home, and when four other Christians tried to stop them, they were also beaten, had rocks thrown at them and were pelted with garbage.

Understandably, the church was in shock, and more bad news was to come. Not long after, Covid-19 hit, and the country was put under lockdown. Without work, people had no means of providing for their families. Pastor Shiyanth, seeing this great need, stepped in, and with help from Open Doors his church was able to provide supplies for the entire village.

Over 100 families received help – even those who had tried to close the church and had carried out the attack. They said: "The church could have just helped their own believers. They didn't have to help us, but they did. Why did we do so much against them?"

This was love. This was brave. The church could have kept quiet and tried to avoid any further violence from the community. But instead they acted, bravely serving those that hated them. As a result, the church has been able to share God's love with more and more people!

BIBLE:

Read this passage: Matthew 5:38-42

- What do you think of this passage? Is Jesus just telling people to be nice in the face of injustice?

Jesus is encouraging His followers to realize that, in the midst of conflict and threats, they have a choice. They can escalate the situation, or they can choose another way. Some theologians point to old first-century customs to argue that Jesus' ideal responses (turning the other cheek etc.) are about shaming those who start conflict - with a dignified defiance, they turn the situation entirely on its head.

- How do these examples relate to Pastor Shiyanth's church? How are they living out this message?
- Can you think of times in your life where someone has wronged you? How did you respond? How would you like to have responded? Reading Jesus' words, would you respond differently now?
- How is living out the words of Jesus in this passage an example of brave faith?

**TURN OVER FOR
THIS WEEK'S BRAVE
FAITH CHALLENGES**





BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGE:

1. Choose to encourage brave faith in others.

Open Doors regularly organizes letter-writing campaigns for persecuted Christians to let them know they are not alone. Visit opendoorscanada.org/write to find out who you could write to this week. Read the stories, pray for the people involved and write a message that will raise brave faith in your persecuted family.

2. Go the extra mile. If someone asks you to do something like tidy your room, clear up a classroom or help out with cleaning up, do it. Challenge yourself to not complain, but take what is asked of you and do it. Then, take it further – go beyond the minimum expected of you – go the extra mile! Don't just stack the dishwasher, empty it too; don't just tidy your room, give it a vacuum as well. As you choose to do these (maybe) slightly annoying tasks, your different attitude could well get some great reactions from others!

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You that You love me even when I do wrong. Thank You that You show us we can forgive and not have to enter into a cycle of anger or violence. Be with Pastor Shiyanth and his church in Sri Lanka. Thank You for their example, and help me follow Jesus just like they are, living out their faith in ways that bring change and restoration. I pray for that community in Sri Lanka and that the church would continue to show Your love so many more come to know You. Amen.

WHO WILL YOU WRITE TO?

HEAD TO [OPENDOORSCANADA.ORG/WRITE](https://opendoorscanada.org/write) AND CHOOSE SOMEONE TO WRITE TO.

What is their name? _____

Where are they from? _____

Why do they need encouragement? _____

Find a Bible verse to encourage them, and write it below. (If you're struggling, look back at the verses listed at the bottom of page 12.)

Write it down here: _____

Write a short prayer for them based on that verse and what you know from their story:

Write it down here: _____

Use the passage and your prayer now to write a message of hope. Details of how and where to send the message are at opendoorscanada.org/write

REFLECT ON GOING THE EXTRA MILE

How did you feel about going the extra mile?



Happy / inspired Got questions Nervy Angry Scared Sad

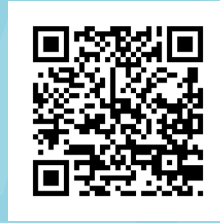
How did other people respond to your actions?



Happy / inspired Got questions Shocked Angry Scared Sad

Would you do it again?

No way Yeah, sure Depends



Scan this or head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith to watch WEEK FOUR: BRAVE ACTION bonus video content and be encouraged along your journey.

“They didn’t have to help us, but they did. Why did we do so much against them?”

RESPONSE OF THOSE PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS WHEN THE CHURCH STEPPED IN TO HELP THE COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

WEEK FIVE

BRAVE LIFE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE BRAVELY? WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO PUSH YOUR LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES – TO TAKE RISKS AND BELIEVE THAT GOD COULD USE YOU IN AMAZING WAYS?



Write down one way you've taken a risk for God in the past...

Write it in here...



Write down one way you'd like to take a risk for God in the future...

Write it in here...

"MY PASTOR TAUGHT ME THAT WHENEVER I SEE SOMEONE WHO IS SICK, I SHOULD PRAY FOR THEM IN FAITH AND THEY WILL BE HEALED. SO I PRAYED FOR MANY SICK PEOPLE. THEY EXPERIENCED HEALING. SEEING SO MANY MIRACLES, MORE PEOPLE STARTED COMING TO ME, WANTING ME TO PRAY FOR THEM."

Subhash, India

Subhash* knows all about living bravely for Jesus. He became a Christian when his wife was healed through a prayer. Because he'd seen prayer answered, he began praying for lots of other people. Before long, he was holding packed out prayer meetings.

But all this attention angered some local people who believed that all Indians should be Hindus, not Christians. False charges were brought against Subhash. He was arrested and put in prison. Locked in his cell, he was pretty angry, but he remembered stories of others who had been imprisoned for their faith. He followed their example and started to pray. He didn't just pray for a few minutes, he prayed for five days and nights non-stop. After that, things changed:

"GOD USED ME INSIDE THE PRISON. I SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH TWELVE OTHER INMATES. ELEVEN OF THEM BELIEVED, SO I TAUGHT THEM HOW TO PRAY".

As Subhash shows, living bravely starts small. Subhash was inspired to pray, so he kept praying. Each small prayer was a risk - praying for those from other faiths, praying for the sick, praying for the rich and powerful. And that's what living bravely is; staying the course, gradually taking bigger risks for Jesus. Subhash kept going, kept taking risks and in the end, even prison couldn't stop him!

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Read this passage: Luke 5:1-11

- When the first disciples chose to follow Jesus, they made one simple decision. They had no idea where it would lead, but like Subhash, they chose to embrace that first risky step.
- Why did Simon leave his life as a fisherman? What do you think he saw in Jesus?

*Name changed for security reasons

- Simon was scared. He knew Jesus was responsible for this massive catch of fish. He knew this man was holy, different and even special. And he knew this interaction would change his life. He was right to be a little scared. Be honest, do you worry about where following Jesus could lead?
- Jesus sees this worry in Simon. He says 'don't be afraid' and gives him a new direction - a new journey with Jesus at the lead. Jesus says the same to us - "Don't worry; follow Me." While Simon's life changed, 2,000 years on, we still know about him - not bad for an uneducated fisherman!

BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGE:

1. Choose to lose: Take part in the 'Choose to Lose Challenge' and get sponsored to make a change and give up something you love for a short time to raise money and prayer for people like Subhash who have given everything for Jesus. Gaming, TV, Netflix, music, chocolate, your bed, fast food, fizzy drinks... whatever it is, choose how long to give it up for, set a fundraising target and make a brave choice to live different! Sign up at opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith

2. Live out your prayers: Remember the three people you listed and prayed for in week two? How are they doing now? Live out your prayers and offer to pray for one or all of them this week. Nervous? Remember Jesus' words to Simon, "Don't worry; follow Me". Offer to pray for them over text - if they say yes, send a text with your prayer on it! Whatever they say, keep praying for them, and ask them if there's stuff they'd like you to keep praying for.

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for Subhash and many others like him who are willing to be used by You no matter what the cost. Let there be many more like Subhash bringing Your love and hope to those they meet. Help me have the same attitude as Subhash. Give me courage to pray for others, help me be sensitive to what You are saying and how people are feeling. Holy Spirit, help me live brave! Amen.

PREPARE TO CHOOSE TO LOSE

WHAT COULD YOU GIVE UP FOR A SHORT TIME?

Write it in here...

For how long could you give it up for?

- A day A weekend
- A week A month
- Other: Write how long

When will this be?

Write it in here...

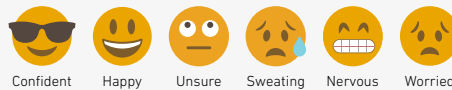
Make sure you sign up for the challenge at opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith and we'll send you an awesome fundraising pack. Don't forget to get your friends and youth/small group involved too!

PREPARE TO PRAY FOR OTHERS

Has anything changed since you started praying for your friends?

Write out a quick text here...

How do you feel about texting your friends about praying for them? Circle one:



Ask God to make you brave and give you the opportunity to offer prayer for your friends. Now, think practically. What could you write?

Write out a quick text here...

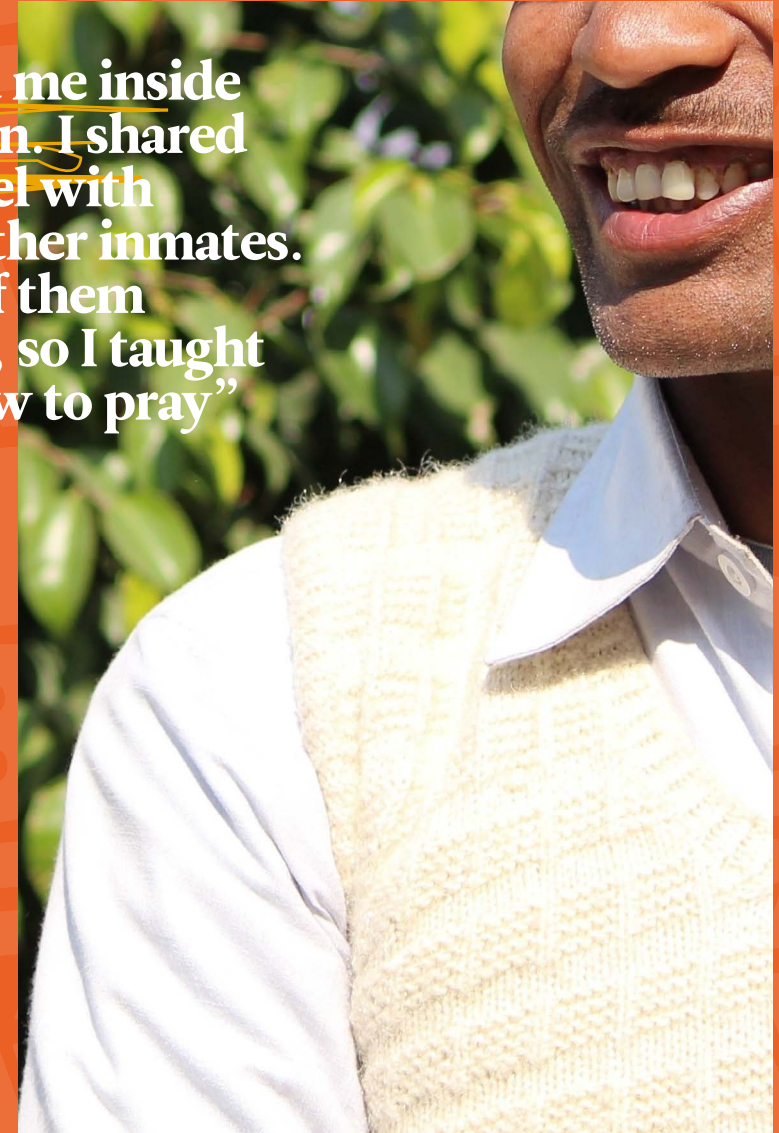
Now, text them. Go on, you'll be ok!



Scan this or head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith to watch WEEK FIVE: BRAVE LIFE bonus video content and be encouraged along your journey.

“God used me inside the prison. I shared the gospel with twelve other inmates. Eleven of them believed, so I taught them how to pray”

SUBHASH, INDIA



WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR FUTURE TO LOOK LIKE? SUCCESS, FAME, MONEY? FAMILY, SECURITY, PEACE?

Write a couple of sentences describing your ideal future life:



WRITE IT IN HERE...

Did you list anything about risk, rejection and exclusion? What about friends turning their backs on you or losing your money, career and reputation? These don't sound like things anyone would really choose, but when Berhane in Ethiopia became a Christian, she knew her future would instantly change. She didn't plan on becoming a Christian; her family followed a traditional religion and she even used to pick on the Christian girls at school.

But that changed when Berhane heard her Christian neighbours singing. The noise would annoy her, but the words from the songs stuck in her head. She even found herself singing them. Finally, she went to a Christian girl at school – a girl she had always teased – and told her that she wanted to follow Jesus.

That's when her future went in a totally different direction. Her parents quickly found out and they made her leave the house. Her family wouldn't go near her, they thought she was 'unclean'.

"ON THE ODD OCCASION THAT I MADE IT INTO MY PARENTS' COMPOUND, THEY WOULD SHOUT FOR ME TO LEAVE. I WAS CRYING BECAUSE I MISSED THEM... THEY KEPT THEMSELVES FAR FROM ME."

But despite facing a future as an outcast, Berhane embraced what was ahead. It must have been hard, but that journey has made her who she is today; an evangelist who shares about Jesus in some incredibly risky places. Berhane has helped plant nine churches, and one of them is thriving in an extremely hostile area! And that's not all. Inspired by seeing how God was protecting her daughter, Berhane's mother also became a Christian. Amazingly, around 100 members of Berhane's extended family have now chosen to follow Jesus too.

Where the future looked bleak, Berhane chose to see a brave new path, one where God is walking with and leading her. So, what does your future hold? Choose to follow, keep saying 'Yes' to God like Brother Andrew, and you'll never know where you'll end up!

"I GO PLACES WHERE NO ONE ELSE DARES TO GO. EVEN CHURCH MINISTERS DO NOT DARE TO GO THERE AND START UP WORK... BUT GOD IS MY SHEPHERD. HE IS THE ONE WALKING WITH ME."

Berhane, Ethiopia

BIBLE:

Read: Mark 14:17-26

Jesus knew His future was dark, but He chose it anyway. Scan through the rest of Mark and you'll see that He's betrayed, denied by His closest friend, subjected to all kinds of lies and taunts, and tortured, humiliated and publicly executed. Like many of us, when faced with a harsh, horrible future, He asks why God isn't there (Mark 15:34).

- How do you respond when bad things start unfolding in your life?
- What did Jesus do? Did He try and change the plan, or trust in God's direction?
- Jesus persevered through pain and even death. What was the outcome?

WEEK SIX

BRAVE FUTURE



BRAVE FAITH CHALLENGE:

1. Write it down. Take a few minutes to pray and write down where you feel God is leading you in the next year and how you can be more connected to your persecuted family. Set a reminder on your phone to come back in 6 months or a year to see how you've taken steps with God this year.

2. Bravely share. Berhane passionately shares her faith in Jesus and, as a result, many people have become Christians. Could you share about Jesus or some stories of brave faith to inspire and challenge others about what Christianity is all about? Try these:

- Share one of the stories from this guide on social media
- Ask your friends what they think about the fact you go to church
- Adapt the description on your social profiles to include 'Follower of Jesus'

Be brave and honest - don't force your beliefs on other people, but don't hide from the fact you are a Christian. Be inspired by your persecuted family to grow in brave faith!

PRAYER:

Father God, help me be brave like Berhane. Help me put You before what others think of me. Help me know Your love more and more, and help me be passionate about sharing it with others. Be with Berhane as she continues to risk her safety to tell people about You. Be with me as I try and follow her example. Help me choose a brave future, following You wherever You lead. Amen.

PREPARE
TO SHARE



WHAT STORY FROM THIS GUIDE COULD YOU SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

- Week One: Kabil / North Africa
- Week Two: Meeting Jesus / North Africa
- Week Three: Pablo / Colombia
- Week Four: Pastor Shiyanth / Sri Lanka
- Week Five: Subhash / India
- Week Six: Berhane / Ethiopia

NOW THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN FAITH. Why is it important to you?

Write here...
.....
.....

Are there some times where your faith has mattered more, or been more real?

Write here...
.....
.....

Have you felt God speak or direct you?

Write here...
.....
.....

Was is it about Jesus that inspires you?

Write here...
.....
.....

Look through your answers. Could you use them to explain why you are a Christian and what that means to you? Look at the question below and see if you can write an answer.

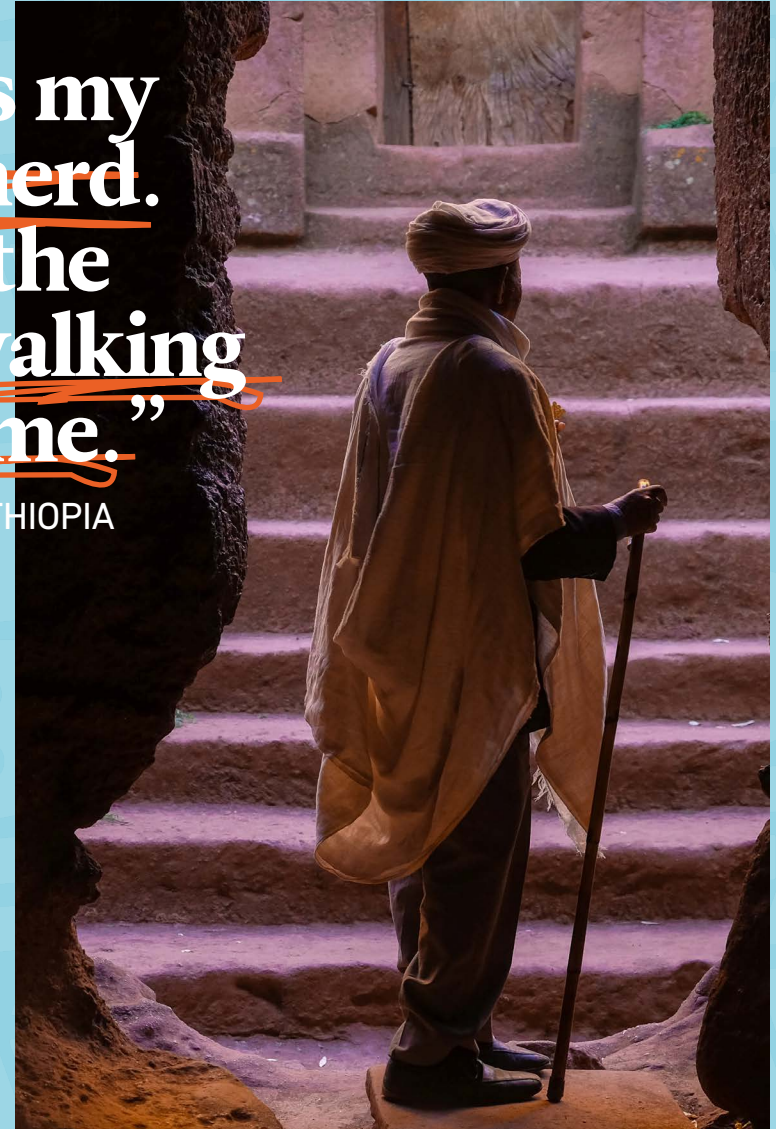
I am a Christian because...

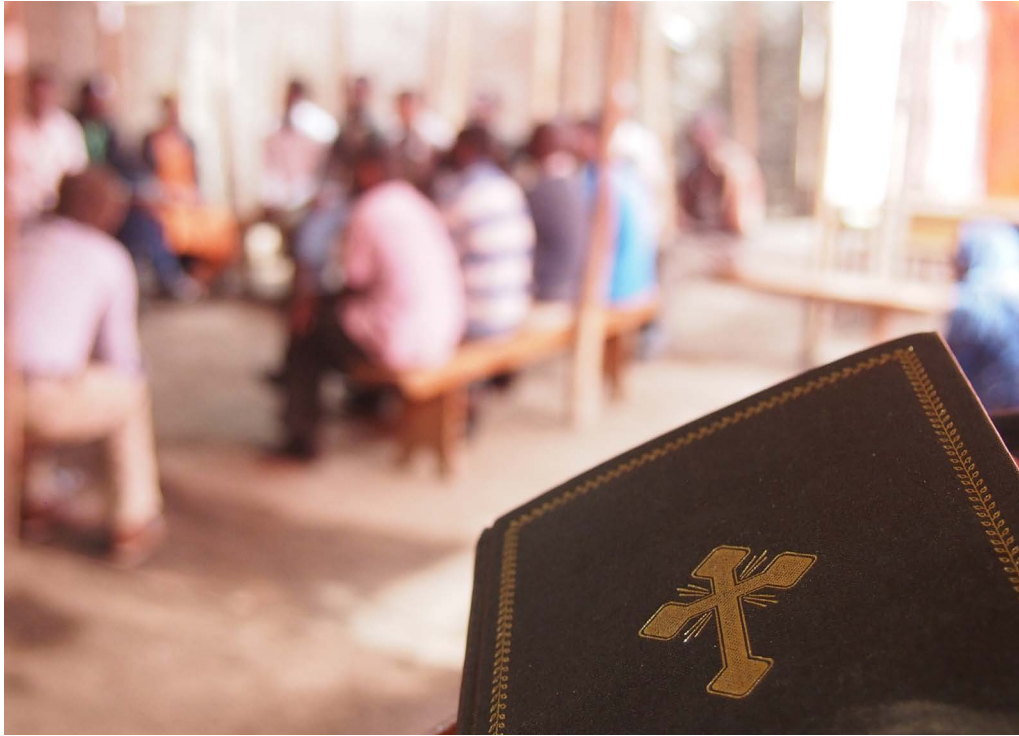
Write a few sentences here...
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



Scan this or head to opendoorscanada.org/bravefaith to watch WEEK SIX: BRAVE FUTURE bonus video content and be encouraged along your journey.

“God is my shepherd.
He is the one walking with me.”
BERHANE, ETHIOPIA





HOW DID YOU GROW IN BRAVE FAITH?

We'd love to know what you thought of the resource and how you've grown taking on the challenges, reading the stories, praying and thinking through the Bible. Drop us a line to let us know how you've changed, if God has spoken and what you've learned. Connect with us on Instagram @opendoorscanada or via email at youth@odcan.org.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS?

Check out the Open Doors World Watch List to learn about persecution in the 50 most dangerous countries to live in as a Christian. Download your copy of the World Watch List prayer guide to keep praying for your persecuted family. We challenge you to pray for one country every week for the next year.

Scan the QR code or visit www.opendoorscanada.org/worldwatchlist to download your free copy.



WHAT NOW?

Your brave faith journey is just beginning - if you've been inspired and challenged, then this is just the start of a lifetime of growing a deeper brave faith. We'd love to keep helping you on that journey. If you haven't already, sign up to receive our monthly emails by visiting www.opendoorscanada.org to get more stories of brave faith and ways to support your persecuted church family. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram too - we post regular incredible stories of those following Jesus, no matter what the cost. Head to @opendoorscanada and give us a like and a follow.

Top image: A group of secret believers from a Muslim background worship together.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9



Jennifer from Nigeria lost her dad to illness, and just weeks after her village was attacked and set on fire by Islamic extremists. She had to flee her home. Open Doors partners have supported her family as they rebuild their home and lives.

WITH FAITH
BE BRAVE
WITH FAITH
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BE BRAVE

OpenDoors
YOUTH

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Open Doors works with Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith. We are committed to smuggling hope by providing Bibles, training, literacy and livelihood programs, and advocacy support for people who know the true cost of following Jesus.