

CORRIE TEN BOOM

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from many CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

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Introduction

In one of her books, Corrie tells how she and a missionary friend were travelling through a very poor area of Korea. Suddenly they heard the words of a familiar hymn. They stopped the car to listen. The Korean lady was singing, "Where Jesus is, 'tis Heaven there." She had little of this world's goods but her Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, was with her and that made all the difference.

The presence of the Lord made all the difference in Corrie's life too ...

- ◆ as she grew up in Holland;
- ◆ when she began to serve the Lord in Haarlem;
- ◆ when she was imprisoned in Ravensbrück;
- ◆ as she travelled all over the world in the service of her Lord.

Our prayer is that, through these lessons, boys and girls will come to know the Lord and experience the blessing of His presence with them every day. Real happiness does not depend on circumstances, but on our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord promises to all those who trust in Him: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Resource material

"The hiding place" - by Corrie ten Boom with John and Elizabeth Sherrill, published by Fleming H. Revell Company

"Tramp for the Lord" - by Corrie ten Boom with Jamie Buckingham, published by Christian Literature Crusade

"Marching orders for the end battle" - by Corrie ten Boom, published by Christian Literature Crusade

"Not good if detached" - by Corrie ten Boom, published by Christian Literature Crusade

"The five silent years" - by Pam Rosewell, published by Zondervan

Important dates in the life of Corrie ten Boom

1892	Born in Haarlem, Holland
1897	Saved at age five
1921	Corrie's mother died
1926-40	Worked with the girls' clubs
1940	German army invaded Holland
1942	Beginning of "God's underground"
1944	Taken prisoner; Corrie's father died, then her sister Betsie
1945	Liberation of Holland
1949	Corrie began travelling for the Lord
1983	Corrie died on her 91st birthday (April 15)

Practise using the visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the flashcards or PowerPoint slides and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Lesson 1

The Good Shepherd

Aim: To overcome one's fear in the power of the Lord.

Psalm 46:2 - "Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Lesson

Flashcard 1-1

"Look, Nollie! There's a scary animal at the corner of the window. I can see it quite clearly in the dark."

Of course there is no such scary animal, but a little four-year-old girl can easily imagine it's really there! Luckily for Corrie, her sister, Nollie (who was six years old) slept with her in the same bed.

"Can I hold on to your nightie, Nollie? Then I won't be afraid," said Corrie. But when Nollie wanted to turn over she couldn't, as Corrie's little hand still had a tight grip on her nightie. It is hard to sleep when that happens.

So the next night Nollie told her little sister, "It's not easy when you hold on to my nightie, Corrie. You'd better hold on to your doll's nightie. That helps too!"

And Nollie was right. It worked!

The next morning when Corrie woke up, the house was already full of life. Betsie, Corrie's other sister, helped her to get dressed. Mother was singing downstairs, and Willem (her older brother) was asking for clean sacks. The three aunts (who lived in the same house) could be heard chattering with each other. At breakfast mother poured the tea, while Aunt Anna sliced the bread. Father had already looked up the Psalm in the Bible that he wanted to read to the family later.

Little Corrie could not understand any more why she had been so afraid. Soon her brother and sisters went off to school and Corrie could help Aunt Anna in the house. Aunt Anna had come to live with them because mother was often ill, and then she could not look after the family as she wanted. Aunt Anna peeled the potatoes, and Corrie put them in water. She tried not to splash too much! Sometimes Auntie asked her to fetch something from downstairs. When Aunt Anna was baking something yummy, Corrie was allowed to lick the bowl clean. Of course, they talked a lot together, and Aunt Anna told stories about "the good old days".

PowerPoint 1-1

“When you were a little baby, you used to cry all the time. Then I would wrap you in my apron and carry you on my back. That would quieten you down right away.”

“I was **very** small at that time, wasn’t I, Auntie?”

“Yes, you were. I couldn’t put you on my back now. You are much too big!”

“Please tell me more about the good old days, Aunt Anna.”

Flashcard 1-2

Aunt Anna wasn’t the only one who could tell beautiful stories. Mother could too! What Corrie loved best was Bible stories.

Mother told her about the shepherd who had a hundred sheep and who took very good care of them. Those sheep and lambs really felt safe with the shepherd. They were never afraid, for they knew that he was protecting them. But, one day, one of the sheep wandered away. How frightened that little sheep was, all alone in the dark! Do you know what the shepherd did when he noticed that one sheep had disappeared? He went to look for that sheep and he did not stop until he had found it. How happy he was as he carried it home on his shoulders!

The Lord Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd.” He wants to take care of you, just like the shepherd took care of the sheep. He said, “The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.” He died on the cross and rose again for you. He took the punishment you deserve for the wrong things you have done. And because of that, God can forgive you all your sin. The Bible says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). The Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves you. If you turn to Him and ask Him to save you, He will forgive your sin and make you His child, His lamb.

Corrie just loved **that** story! Mother had to tell it over and over again.

It was when she was five years old that Corrie asked the Lord Jesus to forgive her sins and come into her life. She knew that Jesus was her Friend, and that He would always be with her, even in the dark. She was no longer afraid in bed at night. She no longer had to hold on to Nollie’s nightie nor to the doll’s nightie either. Instead, she began talking to the Lord Jesus when it was dark. She told Him everything. You cannot see the Lord Jesus, but He can see you and He hears everything you tell Him no matter how softly you speak.

Flashcard 1-3

There are so many needy people in the world. If you are a Christian, you should pray for them and try to help them.

PowerPoint 1-2

See John 10:11 and Matthew 18:12-13.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Quite close to their house was the Smedestraat (Blacksmith Street). In that street there were many drunks. Because of this they often quarrelled and started fighting. Corrie hated fighting. Every time she saw people fighting she ran home crying. When there was a big fight the policemen would come and take the men to the police station. One day Corrie saw the policemen taking some men away.

“Those people are put in a dark, cold cell,” she thought, “and perhaps they are very sad and lonely in prison.”

Was there **nothing** Corrie could do for these men?

Only God could change their lives. But Corrie could pray for them.

Before going to sleep at night she would talk to the Lord about what had happened that day. She would finish off her prayers with, “And, Lord, will You please save all the people in Smedestraat?”

Many years later, when Corrie grew up, she went camping with a group of girls. One night when Corrie had been talking to them about the Lord Jesus, one of the girls said to her, “Do you know that I’m almost your neighbour? I live one street down from your home, in Smedestraat!”

“And so do I!” said another girl.

“My mother used to live there,” said yet another.

Then the group of girls began talking, and do you know what? Either they lived in Smedestraat, or they had lived there, or their father or mother used to live there. And it was these girls that Corrie was teaching about the Lord Jesus. Many of the girls asked the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour. God had answered Corrie’s childhood prayer, “Lord, will you save the people in Smedestraat?”

Flashcard 1-4

Corrie walked home with her mother and Nollie, her face as white as a sheet.

“It’s terrible,” she thought, “it’s just awful.”

When they got home, she ran upstairs to her room and leaned against the cupboard. She felt sick. Tears welled up in her eyes. What had happened?

Together with her mother and Nollie, Corrie had gone to visit some very poor people that afternoon. They lived at the top of an old house, where they only had one room. In that room they had to sleep, eat, cook, do the laundry - everything. But that was not what made Corrie sick. No, there was something even worse. The little baby, that had been born in that house, had died. When Corrie and her mother and sister came into the room, they saw the little dead child lying in a cradle. The girls had touched the dead child for a brief moment, but when Corrie felt how cold the child was, she was

so shocked that she ran to her mother and hid her head in her lap. Suddenly Corrie had understood what death means, and also that one day everybody would die - Father, mother, Betsie, Willem, Nollie, the aunts. Just imagine if they would all die and she would be left behind all alone ...

“Corrie, the dinner’s ready! Come downstairs!” yelled Nollie.

Slowly Corrie walked down the stairs. She sat down at the oval table with the others. She did not feel like eating dinner.

“Corrie, dear, just eat a little, you haven’t eaten anything yet.”

Corrie slowly chewed her sandwich. She looked at the family around her and thought: “Just imagine that ...”

I think Corrie’s mother understood why she looked so pale, but Corrie did not dare say a word. Perhaps you’ve experienced the same as Corrie - something is bothering you, but you just can’t share how you feel with anybody.

Flashcard 1-5

PowerPoint 1-5

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

When the meal was over, father reached for his Bible. He began to read Psalm 46. In verse 2 it says, “Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.”

At that moment Corrie realised that, whatever happens, God is always with His children.

Very softly, so that only the Lord Jesus could hear it, she started to pray, “Jesus, I know that You will always be there. But please let my relatives stay with me for a long time yet. They will be in Heaven long enough - I cannot do without them.”

When Corrie was in bed that night, her father came to tuck her in. He did that every night. Now that she was alone with her father, she dared to tell him what she was so afraid of.

“Daddy, I’m so afraid that you will all die and that I will be left behind all by myself.”

Father stroked Corrie’s face comfortingly.

“Corrie,” he said, “when you take the train somewhere, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Is it two weeks in advance?”

“No, of course not. Just before I leave.”

“And our Father in Heaven does exactly the same with us. If mother or I or the aunts have to die, only then will God give you the strength to bear that sorrow. But since it has not happened yet, you don’t need to be afraid now.”

Corrie was reassured. Never, even when she was grown up, did she forget what her father had told her then.

Perhaps you are afraid about something terrible happening to you, even though you believe in the Lord Jesus. You may be afraid that someone you love will die, or that your home will be burgled, or that someone will hurt you on the way to school. Don't be ashamed of being afraid. Tell the Lord Jesus and He will help you. He will give you strength to face even the greatest difficulties you could imagine. But as long as this terrible thing has not yet happened, you need not be afraid of it.

Many children have real fears. As you teach this part of the story, you could talk to the children about their fears.

Flashcard 1-6

A little girl was standing on the stairs. She was wearing a clean dress, black stockings and high boots which were fastened with buttons. That's how girls were dressed in those days. But you could see from this girl's face that she was very afraid and angry. She had planted her feet firmly on the floor and held on to the banister with both hands, as tightly as she could.

"I don't want to go to school. I don't want to go to school. I want to stay at home!"

"But, Corrie, at school you learn how to read."

"I can read already!"

"And you can learn maths ..."

"Daddy can teach me maths!"

"But don't you want to play with other children?"

"No, I don't want to! I must help Aunt Anna, and take care of Casparina, the doll."

"What's the matter?" asked Daddy. He wanted to know what was going on.

"Corrie does not want to go to school."

"But all six-year-olds go to school. You need to learn!"

"I want to stay at home, I'm afraid to go to school."

"Oh, is that it? You're afraid of going to school all by yourself? Well, then the two of us will go together."

Mr Ten Boom put on his coat and hat and reached out to take Corrie's hand. But Corrie held on tightly to the banister with all ten fingers. However, her father's fingers were stronger, and he loosened each one of those ten little fingers from the banister. Then he grasped her hand firmly in his and took her off to school.

Can you see the two of them walking along the street? That tall well-dressed gentleman walked down the street, holding his little girl by the hand. Corrie's face was red and full of tears. She was crying,

PowerPoint 1-6

“I don’t want to, I don’t want to go to school.”

But her father was strong and determined. He brought her all the way to the classroom. Then he kissed her goodbye, saying, “Corrie, dear, when school is over at twelve o’clock, I’ll be waiting for you!”

That’s how it went for three days. But on the third day Corrie saw another father coming along with a crying boy in his arms.

“Oh, how pathetic!” Corrie thought. Then she realised, “I’m acting just like that myself!” Startled, she stopped crying.

Daddy no longer needed to drag her to school. She went to school with Nollie. And do you know, she discovered that school is not that bad after all! It is quite nice when you are able to do a difficult sum all by yourself, or when you know the answer to a difficult question and the teacher says to you, “Well done!”

Corrie’s cousin Dot was the same age as herself.

Together they played in the big church of Haarlem. Dot’s father was caretaker of that church, and didn’t mind if the girls played there. One late afternoon, as it was getting dark, Corrie looked at the pale evening light shining through the coloured windows. It reminded her that Jesus is the light of the world. And that made her feel very happy.

“Corrie, let’s go home, I am scared!” said Dot.

“Scared?” Corrie didn’t understand. “How could you be scared if the Lord Jesus is right here with you and me?”

Review questions

- 1 Name one thing of which Corrie was scared, when she was very young. (Scary animals, going to school, death.)
- 2 Which Bible story did Corrie like best? (The story of the Good Shepherd.)
- 3 Who is the Good Shepherd? (The Lord Jesus.)
- 4 How can you belong to the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus? (By turning to the Lord Jesus and asking Him to save you.)
- 5 What did Corrie do for the needy people in the Smedestraat? (She prayed for them.)
- 6 Why do we not have to be afraid about things that haven’t happened yet? (Because we can trust the Lord to give us strength to bear them, when the time comes.)
- 7 What did Corrie’s father do, when Corrie didn’t want to go to school? (He brought her.)
- 8 If we are Christians, what is it that makes us no longer need to be afraid? (To know that the Lord Jesus is always with us.)

Lesson 2

A happy family

Aim: To see the importance of serving the Lord from an early age.

Psalm 1:1,3 - "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly ... He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season."

It is good to bring out in the story that the Dutch word for tree is "boom". (He shall be like a "Boom".) The Ten Boom family took this verse as an encouragement from the Lord, when they received news that Betsie and Corrie had been transported to Ravensbrück.

Lesson

Flashcard 2-1

"Corrie, are you ready? Let's go!"

Corrie's father was a watch-maker. He repaired clocks and watches. He needed to go to Amsterdam to find parts.

Downstairs, Daddy was waiting for Corrie. Upstairs Betsie had washed Corrie's face and hands with soap. She'd also seen to it that Corrie put on a clean dress. For when you went with Daddy to Amsterdam, you had to be all dressed up.

"Corrie, dear, you're looking smart today!" said Daddy. "Give me your hand and we'll go."

They went by train. Corrie could have the window seat. There was so much to see! First the houses of the inner city, next the mansions of the rich people, and then the meadows with cows and sheep. After half an hour they could already see the houses of Amsterdam. Amsterdam's Central Station is situated on the waterside, called the Y. There you see many ships. On top of a steeple there was a long iron post, so that people on the ships could see it well. Two movable arms were positioned on that post. They pointed straight up, but exactly at twelve o'clock noon (and not a second later!) the arms moved down. If you were lucky to have a good spot at the Central Station, you could see it from there as well. Later on, when they'd finished visiting the special shops which sell watch parts, Corrie and her father went to look at it.

At the shops father bought all kinds of things that he needed to repair watches. Almost all the men who ran the shops were Jewish people and good friends of Corrie's father. They always had a sweet for Corrie. At home there was hardly ever money for sweets, so you can understand how much she appreciated such a treat.

PowerPoint 2-1

Corrie and her father made sure that they were back at Central Station by noon. At home, the Ten Boom family had a special clock which kept very good time. All the watches that Corrie's father repaired were set by it. But the clock in Amsterdam was even more accurate. The two arms went down exactly at twelve o'clock. Corrie's father stood on tiptoe so as not to miss it. Wham! Down they went! Father looked at his watch.

"Two seconds early," he wrote in his notebook.

On their return home, he would set their clock right to the second.

On their way home they chatted in the train. Corrie was able to ask her Daddy all kinds of things, since the aunts were not there. Her father never treated any of her questions as strange, and he always gave an honest answer. Sometimes her father thought Corrie was too young to know certain things. Then he would say something like this.

"Corrie, would you be able to carry that heavy suitcase full of watch parts?"

"No, Daddy," answered Corrie, "it's much too heavy for me."

"That's right, Corrie. As long as you're too small, I will carry that suitcase. In the same way, there are certain things in life you're too young to know now. It's enough that Daddy and Mummy know it."

Corrie loved her father very much. In fact, he reminded her a bit of another Father. He reminded her of God, the Father of the Lord Jesus, who was also her Father, because she belonged to the Lord Jesus. For Corrie believed in the Lord Jesus. She knew He had died and had risen again. She had asked Him to save her from her sins. Maybe your father is dead or he does not live with you anymore. Remember God wants to take care of you, to help and comfort you, when you're sad. He never laughs at you. If you belong to the Lord Jesus, God will always be with you to take care of you. He never lets you down.

Flashcard 2-2

When they arrived home, Aunt Anna always had a meal ready. She made it as nice and tasty as she could. That was not an easy thing to do for nine people (and sometimes even more) when you have just a pound of meat, a few vegetables, and some potatoes.

Aunt Anna did not work for the Ten Boom family completely for nothing. Every week father gave her a guilder. (That was the currency used in The Netherlands in those days.) That was quite a lot of money in those days in the early 1900s. It often happened that on Wednesday when the baker, the butcher and the greengrocer had to be paid,

there was no money left. Then father would go to Aunt Anna and whisper, “Anna, do you still have your guilder?”

That guilder was always there. I don’t think Aunt Anna ever spent that guilder on herself.

As I said, sometimes there were more than nine people in the house. Guests were always welcome at the ‘Ten Booms’. It was a special time. On the table stood a little tin where money was put for missions. Every time something special happened, Mrs Ten Boom put a one-cent coin in the little tin. She called it “the blessing box.” That evening there were two guests, and it was a good reason for putting a cent in the blessing box. Actually, Aunt Anna had not counted on having two extra guests, so she watered down the soup and peeled a few extra potatoes. The guests did not mind the watery soup and the little piece of meat they got.

PowerPoint 2-2

Flashcard 2-3

There were interesting discussions during the meal. They did not talk about other people or things that did not matter. It was a happy atmosphere where the guests felt at home. Most of all they noticed that the Lord Jesus was important to everyone in the home, and that He was present in every conversation. The two guests listened intently as father read some verses from the Bible at the end of the meal.

PowerPoint 2-3

One of the guests had a problem and wanted to talk about it with father alone.

“Just come along to the workshop,” said Mr Ten Boom.

After talking together, they prayed. Father knew that God was able to solve every problem. Hadn’t they experienced this often themselves? - if father didn’t know how to repair a broken watch; if mother was ill; and the time father had almost no money left, because somebody had cheated him. In times like these they learned that the Lord has the answer to problems, whether it was problems about money, or an illness, whether it was something sad which happened, or someone treated them badly. And not only that, the Lord gives joy, even when we go through many difficult problems.

Maybe you think that life is only nice when you have a lot of money and when you can wear expensive clothing, buy lovely toys and have long holidays in faraway places. These are wonderful things, but they cannot comfort you when you are sad. There can also come a time when you lose all of those things. They can never really make you happy. If your family does not have enough money to do the things that cost a lot of money, don’t be sad about it. God does not want you to be jealous of other boys and girls who can do such things. Be grateful for all that you have.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-4

The most important thing in life is that you belong to the Lord Jesus. On the cross He took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. He died, but He also came alive again and went back to Heaven. He wants to live in your heart and life. He wants to forgive your sins and to make you what He wants you to be, so that one day you can be with Him in Heaven forever. You can ask Him into your life right now. Tell Him, "Dear Lord Jesus, I have done wrong things. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Forgive my sins and take control of my life." He promises to come in, if we ask Him (Revelation 3:20). He will give you joy and peace, that no-one can take away.

Flashcard 2-4

As well as Aunt Anna, there were two other aunts in the house - Aunt Bet and Aunt Jans. The children didn't like Aunt Bet very much. She used to be a governess for children of rich families. Of course, those children were also naughty once in a while, just like other children, but Aunt Bet had forgotten all about that.

When Corrie or Betsie came late to the dinner table, Aunt Bet would say, "The Waller children never came late." When Corrie slid down the banister, it was something the Waller children would never do. They never seemed to have snivelling noses, dirty hands or dirty shoes. Do you believe that?

Actually, life had not been easy for Aunt Bet. The people in those rich families had not been very nice to her. That's why she became such a grumbler. Mrs Ten Boom always tried to be nice to Aunt Bet so that she would not feel like grumbling.

Aunt Jans had been married to a minister. Her husband had died before she was forty, so she moved in with the Ten Boom family too. She was a very happy person. She worked all day. She wrote books and poems, and started editing a monthly magazine for young women. Aunt Jans received a small widow's pension each month. She didn't keep it for herself. She bought clothes for the girls. It was nice to get new clothes once in a while. It was a pity, however, that Aunt Jans had such plain tastes when it came to clothes. Nollie and Betsie especially did not like it when Aunt Jans came home with yet another dull, grey dress, or with a hat that no other girl wore. (In those days all the girls wore hats.) The only one who did not mind it too much was Corrie, so Aunt Jans gave most of the hats and dresses to her.

Sometimes Aunt Jans would come home with something really nice - cakes, for instance, even though it wasn't anybody's birthday. That was special. Later, when Corrie grew up, she wrote about Aunt Jans, "I believe she's the richest person I've ever met, for she was someone who loved to give to others."

Flashcard 2-5

In Haarlem, in the Netherlands, there were army barracks, and also there were many soldiers in the town. One day, when Aunt Jans was walking down the street, she noticed that the soldiers just lazed about in their spare time.

“That’s not good,” she thought. “If those men are idle and bored, they will get into trouble. Something should be done about it. But what?”

All of a sudden Aunt Jans had an idea. Why not start a club for soldiers, so that they could go there in their spare time instead of feeling bored? Even better than that, they could hear about the Lord Jesus at that club.

When Aunt Jans had her mind set to do something, it wasn’t too long until something happened. Soon soldiers were coming to the room Aunt Jans had made ready. They liked to have something to do. One sergeant whom Aunt Jans had met in the tram, saw her little organ in a corner of the room and asked permission to play it.

“Of course,” she said, and soon the sound of organ music could be heard right through the house.

No-one in the Ten Boom family could play that well. Aunt Jans listened, full of admiration. When he had finished playing, she asked him, “Could you teach my two nieces Nollie and Corrie how to play the organ?”

“Of course,” said the sergeant.

Corrie and Nollie liked the idea very much, for they enjoyed music. Soon they could play so well that they could accompany someone singing.

Flashcard 2-6

Soon there were so many soldiers coming to Aunt Jans’ room, that it was much too small to hold them all. But Aunt Jans, as usual, had a solution. One day everyone helped to give the room a thorough cleaning, to polish Aunt Jans’ silver and to see to it that everything looked spic-and-span. That afternoon there would be no visiting soldiers, but aristocratic, rich ladies. Can you guess what they had to do with the soldiers?

The ladies climbed the narrow stairs to Aunt Jans’ room and had a cup of tea. Then Aunt Jans began her story. She told about the soldiers who were lazing about in Haarlem and who needed a place to go to, so as to spend their free time in a useful way. The room where they were now meeting was too small. Actually, a recreation centre was needed where they would feel at home.

PowerPoint 2-5

PowerPoint 2-6

The ladies liked the idea and gave money to build a centre for the servicemen. Once the centre was built, Aunt Jans went there twice a week to give a Bible study. Nollie or Corrie went with her to play the organ. They also sang for the soldiers. In that way they learned to do something for the Lord from an early age. Later in life Corrie was going to tell many people about the Lord Jesus. She did not know that yet, but God knew. And when she was young, the Lord guided, so that at the centre she was able to learn how to speak about the Saviour to groups of people.

God has a plan for your life too - for now, while you are still young, and for later when you're grown up. Just think how you can already begin to learn to do things for the Lord Jesus. Everything you do for the Lord now is also preparing you for what you can do for Him later.

This is a good opportunity to share ideas with the children, how they can already do something for the Lord Jesus. No work for the Lord is ever too small.

Review questions

- 1 What did Corrie do with her father in Amsterdam? (She went with him to special shops, to buy things needed to repair watches; she looked with him at the clock near the station.)
- 2 Why did Corrie like it so much, to travel with her father? (Because she could speak with him about all kinds of things.)
- 3 How do you know that the family was poor? (They were not able to pay Aunt Anna for her work; they had little money left to buy food.)
- 4 What was one way that the family showed God's love to others? (Guests were always welcome in their home.)
- 5 What did the people find special when they visited the Ten Booms? (They loved the Lord Jesus and He was present in their conversations.)
- 6 What did Aunt Jans do for the soldiers in Haarlem? (She had a room for them to meet and had Bible studies for them.)
- 7 How did Aunt Jans involve Corrie and Nollie in this work? (They played the organ and sang for the soldiers.)
- 8 What are some things you can do for the Lord right now? (Inviting a child to come over to your home to play with you, visiting a school friend who is sick, praying for missionaries, inviting other children to Good News Club®, etc.)

Lesson 3

In the school of God

Aim: To learn the lessons God teaches us through life.

Psalm 32:8 - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

Lesson

Would you be happy if you didn't have to go to school anymore? Wouldn't that be great? Then you could play all day long. But you wouldn't learn how to read and you would never be able to enjoy an exciting book. You wouldn't learn maths, so you couldn't even figure out how much money you already had saved up for a skateboard. Whether you like school or not, you learn things there that you need now and later on as well.

There is another "school" which all Christians are in, until they go to Heaven to be with the Lord Jesus. You are in that "school" if you have received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. God is our teacher in that "school". It is not the kind of school we usually think of - with a teacher standing in front of a class. The Lord teaches us through the Bible, through other Christians and through things which happen in our lives, whether they be nice or sad.

Flashcard 3-1

Corrie had also been in this "school of God". When she was a little girl, she learned that she need not be afraid in the dark, because the Lord Jesus was with her. She learned to love poor people and to pray for them. She also learned that everybody should hear about the Lord Jesus.

At the school of God, you learn most from the things that you've experienced yourself. When Corrie grew up, she became ill one day.

She went to see a doctor who examined her and said, "Corrie, you've got tuberculosis. Go home and stay in bed. Only rest can heal you."

At that time, tuberculosis was a very common and dangerous disease. The right medicine to treat it had not yet been discovered. Many people died from tuberculosis.

The news came as a big shock to Corrie. She went home and went straight to bed. At first many people came to visit her. However, when she remained ill for a long time, fewer and fewer people came. She just lay in bed. She did not understand why God had allowed her to be so lonely and so ill. She was angry with God. But God taught

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her to accept the fact that she was ill, even though she did not understand why. In that school of God Corrie learned to say “thank You, Lord”, even though she was sometimes sad and lonely.

One day Corrie had a pain in her stomach. The doctor was called and he discovered that she did not have tuberculosis - she had appendicitis. She went straight to the hospital. After the operation she was quite healthy again.

Flashcard 3-2

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Betsie, Corrie’s older sister, taught in a Sunday school. One day she made a suggestion.

“Corrie, why don’t you come along next time and tell the Bible story? It’s about the feeding of the five thousand.”

Corrie did not mind. She knew the story quite well, so she thought she could tell it to the children. The children listened well. But would Aunt Corrie be able to teach as well as Aunt Betsie? For when she told a story, it was as if you were part of the story yourself!

After five minutes Corrie had finished her story. The children were surprised. That was quick! Corrie looked helplessly at Betsie. She did not know what to say anymore. However Betsie took over from Corrie and told the whole story again.

“I’ll never do that again,” said Corrie when they came home.

“Come on,” said Betsie. “Don’t have such a bad opinion of yourself. It does not matter if it didn’t go so well the first time. You’ll learn in time.”

Fortunately, Corrie did not give up. One of her girlfriends was a teacher at a Christian school. Corrie asked her if she could tell a Bible story to the children in her class several times a week. The friend helped her. That’s how Corrie learned to teach so well that all the children liked listening to her. Corrie even got special permission to give religious education in schools. Before Corrie went to a school to teach, she asked God to show her what He wanted her to teach.

One of the schools Corrie visited was a school for children with learning disabilities. Some of them couldn’t remember what was taught in the other classes in school. But they did remember the Bible lessons which Corrie told, because they were about the Lord Jesus and they began to love the Lord Jesus. They could not do sums. They could not understand geography. But they did understand that God did not like the wrong things they had done, and that the Lord Jesus had died on the cross to make things right between God and them. Was that because Aunt Corrie could tell the stories so well? No! It was because they believed in the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit explained the difficult things of the Bible in their hearts. The Holy Spirit does the same for you, if you want to belong to the Lord Jesus.

Many of the things in the Bible are so difficult that even a clever professor cannot understand them. But if the Holy Spirit makes these things clear to us, then even a small child, or a child with learning difficulties, can understand.

Corrie also started church services on Sunday afternoons for people with learning disabilities. These people did not understand an ordinary church service, and they were too old for Sunday school classes. Many of these people came to know the Lord Jesus. And the people without disability were surprised at the way they loved the Lord Jesus.

Flashcard 3-3

Corrie wanted to do so many things. One day she said to her father, "I want to become a watchmaker."

"That's good," said her father. "I hope you become a better watchmaker than I am."

It was amazing that father said that! He was one of the best watchmakers in Holland. Corrie never became as good as her father. She worked hard and was awarded her watchmaker's certificate - the first lady watchmaker to receive the certificate in Holland.

Repairing watches was good preparation for working for the Lord. It is detailed work which needs a lot of patience and, if you want to work for the Lord, you have to be patient. Corrie learned that when repairing watches. Watch parts are very small. When repairing a watch your hand mustn't tremble even a bit. Then Corrie would pray, "Lord Jesus, will You put Your hand on mine?" And her hand did not tremble anymore.

The years passed by. Many things changed in the Ten Boom family. The three aunts had grown old and died. Mother had been ill for a long time and had also gone to live with the Lord Jesus. Nollie and Willem had married and had children of their own. Now there was only father, Betsie and Corrie living in the family house in Bartejorisstraat, in Haarlem.

But not for long! One evening Willem came to visit them. He told them about some missionaries who were going to Indonesia and who could not take their children with them because there were no schools for them there. So Hardy (the boy) and Puck and Hans (the two girls) came to live with the Ten Boom family. They just loved staying at the B.J. - the name they gave the Ten Boom house. They weren't the only ones. Other girls came to live with the Ten Boom family as well. Soon the house was full. It was one big happy family!

Flashcard 3-4

Betsie did the cooking and took care of the clothes. When she sewed a dress for one of the girls, she wrote a letter to their parents and

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enclosed a little piece of the material - to let them see what it was like.

The missionaries could not afford to pay for room and board for their children. The family trusted the Lord to take care of the needs. If they needed new clothes or shoes, they prayed for them. And the Lord met their needs. For instance, when Corrie came with news that she had sold an expensive watch, a cheer went up.

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“Now I’ll get my new dress!” one of them shouted.

“And I’ll get my new shoes,” the other one called out.

Grandad was very proud of the children in his house. “They’re so sweet and obedient,” he said one evening to a visitor. “They never quarrel.”

Corrie smiled. “Oh, Father, love is blind!” she said to herself. She had just sent Puck upstairs for saying, “I hate Tinie!” Tinie was one of the other girls staying in the house.

Late that evening Corrie went upstairs to have a talk with Puck.

“Puck, do you know that it’s very bad to hate someone? It’s just as bad as murder. The Lord Jesus tells us that we should love our enemies.”

“But I cannot love Tinie.”

“If you belong to the Lord Jesus, His love is in your heart. With His love you can love Tinie. Why don’t you give the Lord a chance to help you love Tinie?”

They prayed together. Puck told the Lord that she was sorry for hating Tinie. She asked the Lord to forgive her and to help her love Tinie. After that, Puck and Tinie became friends.

Many years later, when Puck was in Indonesia, she was held in a Japanese prison camp. The guards were very cruel. It was very difficult to love people like that. She certainly needed the Lord to help her. It was a good thing that Puck learned that already in the school of God in the B.J. Do you hate others? Have you learned to love and forgive?

Flashcard 3-5

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By now you’ll understand that no-one could be bored in a house with a person like Corrie. Corrie had founded the Haarlem Girls’ Club. There were all kinds of things to do, like music, handicrafts and gymnastics. But no matter which group the girls went to, they heard about the Lord Jesus. Many girls did not come to the clubs to hear about the Lord Jesus, but just to enjoy themselves.

One of them was Annie, who became a member of the singing, the English, and the gymnastics groups. Corrie was also at the gymnastics group, but not because she was very athletic. Sometimes she did not

manage to get out of the swinging rings and the girls had to help her get down.

Halfway through the club hour she would blow a whistle. All the girls came and sat around her. Then Corrie told them something about the Lord Jesus. After that, gym went on, as before. It was there that Annie heard about the Lord Jesus for the first time.

One day she was very angry with the gym teacher. As a punishment she sewed up his trouser legs and put water in his shoes. Corrie was so angry that she told Annie not to come back to the club for three weeks. However the following week she was back again. Corrie did not say anything.

During the summer they had camps for the girls. The children from the B.J. (the family house) went along to help. In that way they also had a holiday. They learned so much at the camps, that later they started clubs of their own. The girls certainly enjoyed themselves at the camps. Sometimes the girls misbehaved. One girl walked in her sleep. Corrie was very worried about that, and every time she carefully brought her back to bed. One morning, however, it turned out that the sleepwalker also had a good appetite, for that night she ate all the bars of chocolate.

Flashcard 3-6

At night, around the campfire, everybody was serious. They sang together and talked about God. Annie, the girl I just told you about, was also in one of those camps. She was very sad and depressed, for she had just broken off with her boyfriend.

One dark night, sitting in the light of the flames, Corrie said, “When you are in trouble and do not know the answer, tell the Lord about it. He has your past, your present and your future in His hands.”

Right then and there Annie trusted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. After that, when she was sad and depressed, she would always think back to what Corrie had said, and it helped her. Do you sometimes feel sad? Remember, if you have trusted in the Lord Jesus, He has your past, present and future in His hands.

In 1939 the Second World War broke out. Holland too was caught up in the War. Later on clubs, such as the ones Corrie had, were no longer allowed. In secret, Corrie met with a few girls just one more time. While singing the national anthem (the “Wilhelmus”), the girls started crying.

“Girls, we must not cry,” Corrie said. “We’ve had fun, but the most important thing is that we’ve heard about the Lord Jesus. He has our past, our present and our future in His hands, even in uncertain times, like during this war.”

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It was a very difficult time for Corrie and the girls, but they learned many lessons in the school of God.

God knows that there are some important lessons for life which we can only learn by going through trials and difficulties. It is at times like that we learn to trust Him more and obey His will. Have you been going through difficult times recently? Are you learning the important lessons God wants to teach you in His school? Listen to God's Word! Do what it says! Trust completely on the Lord!

Review questions

- 1 Why do boys and girls have to go to school? (To learn things they need in life, such as reading, maths and geography.)
- 2 Who is in the school of God? (Everyone who is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.)
- 3 What did Corrie learn in the school of God, when she was sick in bed for a long time? (To accept the fact that she was sick, without knowing why, and to say "thank You" to the Lord in all circumstances.)
- 4 What did Corrie discover when she taught the Bible to children with a learning disability? (That they were able to remember Bible lessons and to love the Lord Jesus.)
- 5 Who came to live in the Ten Boom's home, when only Father, Betsie and Corrie still lived there? (Children who couldn't stay with their own family.)
- 6 What did Puck - the girl who hated Tinie - learn in the school of God? (To love her enemies.)
- 7 Why did Corrie found the Haarlem Girl's Club? (To give girls an opportunity to hear about the Lord Jesus.)
- 8 Why does God allow us to go through trials and difficulties? (In those times we learn to trust Him more and to obey His will.)

Lesson 4

Jesus is Victor

Aim: To realise that the Lord is with His children, no matter where we go.

Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities ... nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Lesson

Flashcard 4-1

Corrie and her father were walking along the street. Suddenly Mr Ten Boom led Corrie across to a shop window. They looked at the little sign inside the window and tears welled up in their eyes. The sign said: "No selling to Jews." (The Jews are the descendants of Abraham - the people God chose for a special task).

"Oh, Corrie," said her father. "How awful this is, and it's even happening here in Haarlem!"

Everywhere in Haarlem, and also in the rest of Holland you could see such signs. It was no longer allowed for Jews to ride on a tram, to go to the theatre, to visit parks. Jewish people had to wear a big yellow star on their coats on which the word "Jew" was written, so that everyone could tell right away who was a Jew.

How could such things ever happen? In Germany an evil man had come to power, Adolf Hitler. He talked the German people into invading all of Europe with soldiers - Austria, Poland, Denmark, Norway, and many other countries, including Holland, where Corrie and her family lived. The Nazis, as the followers of Hitler were called, did a lot of wrong things. The worst of all was to massacre God's chosen people, the Jews.

The Ten Boom family loved the Jewish people very much. They had read about these people in the Bible. The Lord Jesus Himself was born into a Jewish family. It was God who put love for His people into the hearts of the Ten Boom family.

A little while later, they watched with tears in their eyes as a group of yelling German soldiers forced people to climb into a police-van. Were those people criminals? No, it was simply because they were Jews. Later on, these people would be taken to camps in Germany and Poland and be killed there.

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“Corrie,” father said. “I’m afraid God is going to punish those people for what they have done. They have touched the apple of God’s eye.”

The apple of your eye, that’s the most delicate part of your body. If someone touches it, it hurts terribly.

Corrie prayed, “Lord, I want to do anything I can to save your people.”

Flashcard 4-2

Something very strange was going on. Many people had been visiting the home of the Ten Boom’s (the B.J.). It seemed that everyone had to have his watch repaired at the Ten Boom’s. You could have seen many teenagers going there. Did they really have enough money to buy a watch? Corrie stood behind the counter. The man who was next took a lady’s watch from his pocket.

“My wife wants to know if this watch can be repaired. It keeps stopping.”

This was a special code. The message meant that there was a Jewish person who needed help to escape.

Wham! The shop-door slammed. The previous customer had left. Now there were only the two of them in the shop.

“It’s a young woman,” he whispered.

“We have a place in Groningen,” Corrie whispered back. “Tell her to be ready at the garden house.”

They whispered together and arranged what exactly this lady had to do. Then they bowed their heads and Corrie prayed, “Lord Jesus, will You bless this plan to save this woman of Your people? Amen.”

When the man left, he put the watch back into his pocket.

Later on the telephone rang. The person said, “Just send that man’s watch to the factory. It can be repaired there.”

Do you know what that meant? It meant: we have found an address where a Jew can be hidden.

Now you understand why so many people came to the home of the Ten Booms (the B.J.). Many men and women, and even teenagers, helped Corrie to hide Jews in other people’s houses. As this had to be done in secret, it was called “working for the underground.” Corrie called all the people who helped her “God’s underground.” They did it because they loved the Lord Jesus and His people so much.

Flashcard 4-3

“Dinner is ready!” called Betsie.

The table was set for nine people. They came from everywhere - Corrie from the shop, father from the workshop, and the six people

who lived in the house in secret. Those people were called “people in hiding.” Three of them were boys who did not want to be taken by the secret police to work in Germany in a war factory and three of the people were “watches” (Jewish people) - two ladies, Mary and Thea, and a man, Eusi.

They were chatting away happily while eating their meal. Every once in a while they all burst out laughing because of Eusi’s funny jokes. Then all of a sudden ...

“Buzz” - the sound of the buzzer was heard throughout the house. That meant danger. Everybody jumped up. The “people in hiding” grabbed everything that was theirs and ran upstairs to Corrie’s room. In the wall of her room there was a hidden hatch. They crawled on their knees through the hatch into the secret room. That little room was almost a metre wide. They sat there quite still, their hearts pounding. They dared not even cough or sneeze.

“Are you coming downstairs again?” a voice called after a few minutes.

Fortunately that was Corrie’s voice. It was not a real raid by the Gestapo, as the secret police was called. It was just a practice. Corrie helped Mary crawl out of the hatch. Eusi was already making jokes again.

“I was thinking that we hadn’t had cream puffs for quite a while!”

“I hope it will never be for real,” sighed Thea.

Yes, that was what those drills were for. If the Gestapo raided the house, everyone had to hide as quickly as possible. The house must look as if only an old man and his two unmarried daughters lived there. As these drills were not much fun and happened at the strangest times, Betsie treated them to cream puffs after every drill.

“Congratulations!” Corrie said cheerfully with the stopwatch in her hand, “You’ve broken your record. Ten seconds faster than last time.”

Still panting and somewhat shaky, they continued eating.

After the meal father fetched the Bible.

“Today we’ll read Psalm 91,” he said. “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty ... For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (verses 1 and 11).

“Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are our real secret place,” Corrie prayed in her heart.

Eusi thought for a moment of his wife and baby who were hiding somewhere else. He did not know where. There were angels around the B.J. (the house of the Ten Booms). He prayed that God would place angels around his wife and child too.

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Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Another time the buzzer sounded again through the house. But this time it was not a drill. Somebody had discovered that Corrie hid Jews in the house and had told this to the Gestapo. Just in time, the six “people in hiding” were able to get into the secret room. They had to remain there for four days. The Dutch police made it possible for them to escape and to be taken to other places of hiding. Everybody else in the house at the time was arrested - including the Ten Booms. The Gestapo searched the whole place for the secret room, but could not find it. Everyone was taken to the police station and the next day to the Scheveningen prison.

Ten days after his arrest, Mr Ten Boom died. He went to be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven. Nobody knows sorrow in Heaven. There you will find the people who believed in the Lord Jesus and that He was punished on the cross for the evil things they had done. Mr Ten Boom believed in the Lord Jesus. He loved the Saviour so much that he talked about Him to everybody. For Mr Ten Boom it was an honour to save Jews out of the hands of the Gestapo. God also allowed him to suffer for the sake of Jewish people, the apple of God’s eye.

It is an honour when God chooses you and me to suffer for the sake of Christ. For example, when you tell others at school that you are a Christian and they make fun of you. Or, you go to church on Sunday instead of going to play with your football team, and the trainer isn’t happy.

We may not like the suffering, but God allows it in our lives to help us to become more like the Lord Jesus. It makes us sad for the moment, but when we get to Heaven we’ll realise that the little suffering we had on Earth is so little compared to the glory of being with Jesus.

Flashcard 4-4

Almost everybody who was arrested was released after two months, except Betsie and Corrie. If the Lord Jesus had not been with them, I wonder whether they would have made it, for with thousands of other women they were packed into cattle carriages and taken to Germany.

After a horrible trip of a few days they arrived at the women’s prison camp in Ravensbrück. They were only able to take a few things along from the Netherlands, but they were very important to them - a blue woollen cardigan that Betsie was wearing because she was so ill, a bottle of vitamin drops and, most precious, a little Bible.

However, when entering the building where they had to register, they noticed to their dismay that they had to hand over everything, literally everything.

But what about their bottle of vitamins, their woollen cardigan, and their Bible?

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“Oh, Lord Jesus,” Corrie softly prayed, “we so badly need Your Word in these horrible surroundings, for ourselves and for all those other women as well. Will You allow us to keep it?”

Betsie’s face was distorted with pain.

“Corrie, I really have to go to the bathroom.”

“Sir,” Corrie asked a guard, as politely as she could. “My sister cannot stand it any longer.”

The man did not say a word, but pointed to a door. Corrie opened the door, but did not see any toilets.

“Can you tell me where the toilets are, Sir?” she asked another guard.

“Use the drain!” he snarled at her, and banged the door behind them.

Now the two of them were together in the shower-room, just the two of them. All of a sudden Corrie understood that they would be back here later, together with at least a hundred other women, to take a shower and put on a prison dress that was already waiting for them in a batch.

“Betsie,” she whispered. “Take off your cardigan! Quickly!”

Corrie rapidly wrapped up the vitamin drops and the little Bible in the cardigan and hid it under a bench. Then the two of them returned to the room to be registered.

God never leaves you alone. Later, when Corrie and Betsie left the shower room, each of them was wearing just a thin prison dress and a pair of shoes. However, Corrie had a small bump on her back: that was the Bible and the vitamin drops in a little bag hanging from her neck. She also had a bump around her waist: that was Betsie’s blue cardigan. All the women were checked three times to make sure they had not taken something along in secret. Betsie was checked, but Corrie was missed out every time.

Maybe Corrie thought of the time when she was a little girl and said to her father, “Daddy, I am so scared that you will all die.”

“Corrie,” her father had said at the time, “when you have to go by train, when do I give you the money for the ticket?”

“Just before I leave, of course,” Corrie had answered.

“Corrie,” Daddy then said, “if our Heavenly Father permits bad things to happen to us, He will give us the power to endure it at that moment. But we need not be afraid of it before that time.”

In that terrible camp the Lord Jesus helped them to endure many great trials and difficulties. He even allowed them to see miracles happen. They had already experienced one miracle (when the guards did not take away the Bible, the cardigan and the vitamin drops) but other things were still to come.

Flashcard 4-5

“Barracks 28” was the barracks where Corrie and Betsie were packed together with at least 1,400 other women. It was the dirtiest barracks you could imagine. When they arrived there for the first time, they noticed that the place was swarming with fleas. For a brief moment, Corrie thought of their home, the B.J., where Betsie had kept everything so neat and clean.

Corrie spoke up: “Betsie, we cannot put up with all these dirty bugs!” So Betsie prayed, “Lord, show us what we should do.” Then she knew. “Corrie, remember what we read this morning? ‘In everything give thanks.’ We must thank the Lord for the fleas.”

“Betsie, I want to thank God for everything, but not for these fleas.” “Corrie, in the Bible it is written, ‘In everything give thanks.’ That’s not just for the nice things, but also for things that are not so nice.”

Then they thanked God together, that they were allowed to stay together and that they could tell the Gospel to so many women. Betsie even thanked God for all the fleas. However, Corrie did not agree with Betsie about giving thanks for the fleas.

If you are a Christian, have you learned to give thanks in every situation? It is wonderful that the Lord is with us all the time. The Bible says that “all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28) - even the most difficult things. That’s why we can give thanks in every situation.

One evening they were sitting in the corner of the barracks under the only little lamp that was on. Corrie read from the Bible. Around them were the women. All day long they had worked like slaves and had been hounded by the female guards. They listened intently, as Corrie read from the Bible.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Romans 8:35.)

It seemed as if the words were written specially for Ravensbrück. These women experienced daily the things Corrie had read to them.

Corrie continued to read. “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life ... nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:37-39).

The women’s faces lit up with joy. In the midst of all the misery they experienced a little bit of Heaven. Softly the women began to sing, oh just very softly - for if a guard was to hear them, she would come to see what they were doing and there would be trouble! In this camp the guards called the Bible a book of lies. Each prisoner who was

See 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

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Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

caught with a Bible was severely punished. It seemed strange that no female guards had ever entered the dormitory, when usually they were all over the place. Once, for some reason, a prisoner went to fetch a guard, but the guard refused to come to Barracks 28.

“Barracks 28!” she said with a dark frown, “I won’t go there; the place is swarming with fleas!”

That was why they were able to read the Bible and talk about it so freely. Now even Corrie could thank God for the fleas.

Flashcard 4-6

One night Betsie woke up Corrie.

“Why don’t you let me sleep? You know how tired I am!” Corrie muttered. She was quite annoyed.

“No, Corrie, God has shown me something and I must tell it to you at once, otherwise I’ll forget it.”

Corrie was sorry for what she had said. They tucked their heads under the coat they used as a blanket and Betsie started to talk.

“Corrie, this camp is made to destroy people. After the war we must try to get such a camp and renovate it completely with beautiful colours and many flowers. Then it can be used by people who have lost their home during the war. There’s a very beautiful house in the Netherlands. We must use that house to take in the people who have suffered so much in the concentration camps, so that their minds and hearts can be healed from all those terrible things they have experienced.”

“And are we also going to live in that house?” Corrie asked. It would be wonderful to live in a beautiful house with a garden full of beautiful flowers, after living in this drab, dirty concentration camp.

“Just for a short time, Corrie. Then we must go all over the world to tell people everywhere that, however great the misery is, the Lord Jesus Christ is always greater. They will believe us, for we have experienced it ourselves.”

Corrie wanted to talk more, but Betsie had already fallen asleep.

Betsie never did live in that beautiful house. She died just a few days later. The Lord Jesus took her to an even more beautiful house, the home of His Father in Heaven.

And Corrie? Somebody in the concentration camp office made a mistake. Accidentally he released a woman who should not have been released at all. But when they found out, the woman was already in Haarlem. That woman was ... Corrie. If she had stayed in the camp, she would have died. But God did not want her to die. God wanted Corrie to do what He told Betsie. God’s will would be done. What a difficult time it was for Corrie and Betsie in that concentration camp.

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Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Yet the Lord was with them and that made all the difference. Isn't it wonderful to know that the Lord promises to be with His children, wherever they are? He has said, "Lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

Review questions

- 1 What was the worst thing the Nazis did? (They massacred God's chosen people, the Jews.)
- 2 To which people did the Lord Jesus belong? (The Jewish people.)
- 3 How did Corrie and her family help the Jews? (They hid Jews in their home and other homes to help them escape from the Nazis.)
- 4 What did "the people in hiding" have to do, when a buzz sounded throughout the house? (Hide themselves as quickly as possible in the secret room.)
- 5 Do you know the main reason why the enemy didn't find the secret room, when they searched the whole place? (The Lord Jesus was protecting "the people in hiding".)
- 6 Why does God permit suffering in our lives? (To make us more like the Lord Jesus.)
- 7 What miracle did the Lord do, when Corrie and Betsie entered the prison camp? (He made it possible for Corrie to take with her the Bible, the cardigan and the bottle of vitamin drops.)
- 8 How were Betsie and Corrie freed from the prison camp? (God took Betsie to Heaven and had Corrie released through someone's "mistake".)

Lesson 5

A tramp for the Lord

Aim: To teach children how important it is to follow God's leading.

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Lesson

Flashcard 5-1

"Miss, can you give me a ticket for the following cities - Hong Kong, Sydney, Auckland, and back to Sydney. From there straight to Capetown, then to Tel Aviv, and finally Amsterdam?"

The girl at the travel agency in Taiwan looked in amazement at the old lady in front of her, who had just ordered tickets to go to all these cities. Was it because she wanted to visit her grandchildren?

"Can you tell me your final destination?" the girl asked politely.

"My final destination is Heaven," the old lady replied.

"Excuse me, madam, can you spell that for me please?"

"H.E.A.V.E.N.," the old lady spelled slowly.

When the girl noticed what she had written down, she started to smile. "But that's not what I meant," she said.

"But I do," the old lady smiled back. "But you don't have to write it down; I already have a ticket to Heaven."

"A ticket to Heaven?" The girl was now very curious.

The old lady saw that and was ready to explain what she meant. "About two thousand years ago Somebody paid the price for me so that I will go to Heaven. His name is Jesus and He paid the price when He died for my sins on the cross."

"That lady is right," a man's voice interrupted. It was a Chinese office-clerk who had come into the travel agency just then.

The old lady turned round, and asked him, "Do you have a ticket to Heaven?"

"Yes, I do," he laughed. "When I was still a child and lived in China, I received Jesus as my Saviour from sin."

"Listen now," said Corrie (for it was she) speaking to the girl behind the desk. "Make sure you also have a ticket to Heaven. If you try to

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board a plane without a ticket, you are in trouble. But if you want to go to Heaven without a valid ticket, you are in even greater trouble. Talk to this young man about it. He knows the way to Heaven.”

Corrie said goodbye and returned to her hotel.

Are you ready to go to Heaven one day, to be with the Lord Jesus? There is only one way. You need to turn to Christ and ask Him to save you from your sin. He died and rose again for sinners, like you and me. The Bible says that whoever believes in Him will have forgiveness of sins (see Acts 10:43). Will you trust Him to save you?

Perhaps you are wondering, “How did Corrie get all the way to Taiwan? How did she manage to have enough money to pay for such an expensive trip?”

That is a very long story.

Flashcard 5-2

PowerPoint 5-2

You remember from last time how Corrie and her sister Betsie were in that terrible prison camp. One night God showed Betsie what to do to help the other prisoners. She woke Corrie up to tell her all about it. When they would be freed from the camp and the war would be over, they would have to look for a house to take care of people who had suffered in the prison camps like they had.

After that, the two of them should go everywhere and tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, that would cost a lot of money, but they did not need to worry about that, for God was their Heavenly Father and the cattle upon a thousand hills were His (Psalm 50:10). So if they needed money, their Heavenly Father would just need to sell one of the cows. Corrie always had enough money for her big task. Christians gave money to Corrie without her asking for it.

Betsie thought she would soon be released, so she said, “Before the new year we will both be freed.”

That had happened in a way which Betsie had not imagined. God freed Betsie by taking her to Heaven. There she would not be ill any more; there she would have no more pain; there she would be always with the Lord Jesus, about Whom she had told so many others.

Corrie was released from the prison camp. The people may have thought it was an accident, but God was guiding in all of this.

Corrie went home from Ravensbrück in an ordinary train. On her way she made a promise to God. She promised that her life would be totally His, from now on. And Corrie, or “Aunt Corrie” as so many people called her, kept her word. With the help of friends she rented a house, and very soon after the war the whole house was filled with people who had suffered so much in the prison camps. They were helped there to face ordinary life again. That was not easy.

Do you know what was the most difficult thing to learn there? To forgive the people who had done all those terrible things to them. I think that it's difficult for all of us to forgive, but the Lord Jesus wants to help us. Have you learned to forgive others who have done things to you - like that boy or girl at school who hurt you so much?

Flashcard 5-3

When there were people who could take over the leading of the house from Corrie, she started to travel to other places for the Lord. She called herself "a tramp for the Lord".

First she went to the United States. She spoke in churches and told the people that money and a beautiful house are things you can lose. But you never lose the Lord Jesus, once you have asked Him into your heart. However great the problem or difficulty you are facing, you can know that God still holds you in His everlasting arms. She had experienced that when she was in Ravensbrück. That truth was important for the American Christians. It is also important for you and me.

Another time Corrie was in Havana, Cuba. This was before the Communists took over there. She was the guest of a very strict boarding school for girls. Even the guests had to keep to those strict rules. One morning when she had breakfast with the girls, she got a cup of hot water.

"Should I drink that water?" Corrie thought.

Then she realised why she only had hot water. A tea bag was passed round and each person could hold the bag in her cup for three seconds. Corrie was the last one to get it, so she could keep it in her cup for longer. You can imagine how weak the tea was - it tasted like dishwater!

That evening Aunt Corrie was allowed to speak to the girls for exactly five minutes.

She asked the lady principal, "May I speak for a little longer? I have something very important to tell the girls."

"No, it is not possible," the lady principal replied. "The girls have too much homework. I cannot permit you to speak for more than five minutes. Afterwards they have something important to do."

So Corrie settled for five minutes. She told about children who had helped her during the war to hide Jewish babies. After she had spoken for four minutes, there was a sudden power failure. The room was plunged into complete darkness.

"Keep on talking," the principal said to Corrie. "The girls cannot do their homework in the dark anyway."

Corrie went on to tell about her travels and about the children she had met in far-away countries. She told them about her experiences -

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both the happy and the sad ones. She also told them about the great Friend of children, the Lord Jesus, Who wanted to live in their hearts and lives.

The girls listened with tears in their eyes, while outside, men were busy trying to repair the power failure as quickly as possible. After an hour the electric power came on again. The girls had to go and do their homework, but one girl put her arms around Corrie's neck and whispered in her ear, before she left, "I believe the Lord Jesus made the electric power fail, so that you could tell us about Him."

Corrie was travelling all over the world, but there was one place where it was difficult for her to return. It was the country where she had been in prison - in Ravensbrück.

Flashcard 1-6

PowerPoint 1-6

Do you remember how Corrie, as a six-year-old girl, had held on tightly to the banister because she did not want to go to school? What did her father do? He loosened her fingers one by one and took her to school. Now her Heavenly Father was saying to her, "Corrie, I want you to go to Germany."

Flashcard 5-4

PowerPoint 5-4

The German people received her with much love and kindness. She spoke in churches, in a former prison-camp that had been rebuilt into a refugee camp, and at many other places. She spoke about God's love being like an ocean into which He throws all our sins, and then God places a little sign, "No fishing". She meant that once God forgives us, then those things cannot be brought against us any more.

Once she was invited to speak in a church in Mönich and a man came up to her after the service. Corrie recognised him immediately; at first she was scared. This man had been one of the most cruel guards at Ravensbrück and he was coming straight towards her. She could not pretend to miss seeing him. He did not recognise her; there had been so many women there.

"Miss Ten Boom," he started. "I have received the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. You spoke about the ocean of God's love, and that my sins are in it as well. I would like to ask forgiveness from someone who was in that camp." He extended his hand, saying, "Will you forgive me, Miss Ten Boom?"

At first Corrie could not shake hands with him. How could she forgive him? But the Bible says if we do not forgive others, then God will not forgive us either.

"Lord Jesus," she prayed in her heart, "help me to forgive this terrible man."

Right then a miracle happened. The love of the Lord Jesus flowed through her. She grabbed his outstretched hand, shook it and said, really meaning it, “I forgive you, brother.”

After that she often returned to Germany. She even looked forward to it.

You and I haven’t been beaten by prison guards and nearly starved to death. We can ask the Lord to help us to forgive others who have hurt us, and even to love the ones we dislike the most.

Corrie travelled to Africa, America, Russia, India, Korea, and many other countries. She went to Taiwan, the country where our story started today.

Flashcard 5-5

Corrie prayed and asked the Lord to lead to the places where He wanted her to go. Sometimes He led her to a prison to talk about Him. A prison is never a nice place. However, one prison in Rwanda was the worst Corrie had ever seen. There were so many prisoners that not all of them could stay inside. So at night half of them slept inside and the other half outside.

When Corrie came there, together with a missionary, the rain had been coming down in torrents. Prisoners were sitting outside, in mud up to their knees. They looked at Corrie with angry faces. Corrie could hardly believe her eyes. How could she bring the Good News to these poor people? She couldn’t in her own strength, but the Holy Spirit could enable her to do it.

In her heart she prayed, “Lord, please give me an ocean of your gladness to share with these poor men.” And the Lord answered her prayer.

She told the men about the Lord Jesus Who loves us so much, that He never lets us down. The men were probably thinking, “It’s easy for her to talk that way. She may leave the prison in a few minutes, but we will have to stay here.”

Then Corrie told them, “I myself have been in a prison which was worse than this one. Ninety-five thousand women died there. One of them was my sister. But in that hell on Earth, we learned that Jesus never lets you down.”

As she spoke to these men, the Lord filled her heart with peace and gladness. But she was not the only one.

“The Lord Jesus wants to come and live in your hearts and lives as well. He says, ‘I stand at the door and knock.’ Who of you wants the Lord Jesus to enter into his life?”

And then ... all the men, and also the guards, raised their hands. The same faces that had looked so angry at first, now beamed with joy.

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See Revelation 3:30.

At long last, it was time for Corrie and the missionary to leave. When they walked to the car, the prisoners and guards accompanied them, even beyond the gates. Nobody thought of running away.

They stood around the car and with one voice they called, “Old woman, come back and tell us more about Jesus.”

Aunt Corrie could not return, but the missionary who was with her, could. From then on, she went there every week.

Later she wrote a letter to Corrie saying, “The feast (the blessing) goes on. Every time other people come to faith.”

New prisoners too were coming to know the Saviour.

Flashcard 5-6

For more than thirty years Corrie travelled around the world. She called herself “a tramp for the Lord.” She also wrote books, which have been translated into many languages.

Finally Corrie became too old to travel for the Lord. God gave her a house in the United States. She named it “Shalom”, which means “Peace”. She lived there with Pamela, a lady who stayed with her during her final years. Corrie enjoyed the lovely garden, which was full of beautiful flowers in different colours that she liked so much.

Corrie became ill. She was so ill that she could not speak anymore. At the end of her life she could not even get out of bed. But what she could still do, was to love the Lord Jesus and to love others. When Corrie was 91 years of age, she made her final journey. It was the journey to her final destination, to Heaven. She could enter there because she was ready. She had her “ticket to Heaven”. The Lord Jesus had paid the price, when He died for her on the cross.

Are you ready for Heaven? Do you believe that the Lord Jesus has paid the price for you? Are you willing to turn from your sin and to trust the Lord Jesus? The Bible says, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life” (John 3:36).

Note for the teacher

Be ready to explain the way of salvation to the children. You can use the Wordless Book or another simple Gospel presentation. Be prepared to counsel children who need help about how to come to Christ.

Review questions

- 1 What did Corrie mean when she said that she had her “ticket to Heaven”? (That the Lord had forgiven her sin and made her ready to go to Heaven.)
- 2 What did Betsie tell Corrie before she died in the prison camp? (That they were to take care of people who had suffered in prison camps and that they had to travel over the world to tell others about the Lord Jesus.)

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Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

The Wordless Book is produced by Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Europe and is available from your CEF® National Office.

If you need an address, contact the European Headquarters (address at the front of this book).

- 3 How did the Lord make it possible for Corrie to speak for more than five minutes in the boarding school for girls in Cuba? (There was a power failure and the room was plunged into complete darkness.)
- 4 To which country did Corrie not want to go? (Germany.)
- 5 Why did she finally go? (The Lord wanted her to go.)
- 6 What happened, when she met in Germany an old guard from Ravensbrück? (He asked her to forgive him, and the Lord helped her to do that.)
- 7 What happened in the prison in Rwanda, when Corrie visited it? (The Holy Spirit helped her to speak to those prisoners, and all the prisoners and guards trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.)
- 8 What was Corrie always able to do, even when she was not able to speak and to get out of bed? (She was able to love the Lord Jesus and to love others.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).