


BE A **Sign of Hope** FOR CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA

In 2013, Jina's husband Rober was kidnapped by IS militants because he was a Christian. Every day since then, Jina has prayed with her son, Abraham, for his return. Why not make Christmas more meaningful for your family this year by choosing a day to walk and pray with them?


First thing in the morning, Jina wakes up and prays to Jesus: "Thank you for giving me a new beautiful day." Then she kneels down and prays for her husband. Jina doesn't know if Rober is still alive, but she hasn't given up hope. "My faith in God is very big. I say to Him, 'May Your will be done, O Lord. I just ask you to return my husband safe and sound.'" Abraham kneels next to Jina, repeating her words.

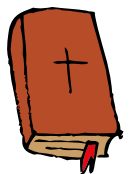


 **Kneel with your family and thank God for one another. Pray for God's protection over Jina and Abraham and ask for Rober's safe return.**




Jina reads the Bible. When seven-year-old Abraham asks her about it, she explains what she has been reading to him. "I want to raise him righteously, so that he knows what is in the Bible, and teach him to live as a Christian."

 **Read the Christmas story together and make a nativity scene with toy figures. Pray that Jesus will give Jina and Abraham hope this Christmas.**



After Rober was kidnapped, Jina and Abraham moved in with Rober's parents in Aleppo. They stayed there for three years. Now, young Abraham thinks of his grandfather (also called Abraham) as his father. The family receive food packages and money for fuel from the Alliance Church's Centre of Hope which is supported by Open Doors.



 **Watch a video of Jina and Abraham at www.opendoorsuk.org/signsofhope and learn more about how Christians in Syria are surviving. Pray that God will supply all their needs and give them faith for the future.**





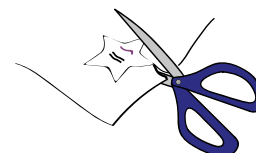
Jina is well supported by the church. On Fridays, which is a day off in Syria, she takes Abraham to the children's meeting. "He often asks me 'When will it be Friday?' When I ask him 'Why?' he says 'To know about Jesus.' He enjoys being there. He loves singing with actions. When he comes back home, he tells me what verse they learned from the Bible."

★ Watch Abraham and his friends singing a Syrian carol at www.opendoorsuk.org/signsofhope. Go carol-singing with friends, using the *Signs of Hope* carol sheet.



Abraham stopped talking completely when his father was first kidnapped. For the next three years, he needed speech therapy. But he's worked hard and is doing well, says Jina: "At school, he is one of the best, praise God! I am very happy, very, very, very, very happy. I am just missing my husband next to me. Every day, I expect him to knock at our door."

★ Cut out the star from the *Signs of Hope* carol sheet and write a prayer or message of encouragement to share with Syrian Christians. Take a photo of it and share with Christians in the Middle East by sending it to inspire@opendoorsuk.org



At night, Jina and Abraham say the Lord's prayer together, in Arabic and Armenian. Jina says: "Abraham always says, 'Mama, I'll go to sleep. Do you need anything from me?' When I say 'No,' he says, 'Goodnight, I love you so much, but don't leave me. Tomorrow morning I will wake up and you will wake up with me, too, and you will kiss me'. Then he prays 'Our Father' in Arabic and Armenian and sleeps."

★ Listen to the Lord's prayer in Arabic and Armenian at www.opendoorsuk.org/signsofhope and say the Lord's prayer together at the end of the day.



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