

STARTER WORLD

Around the world, there are lots of countries where it's difficult to be a Christian.

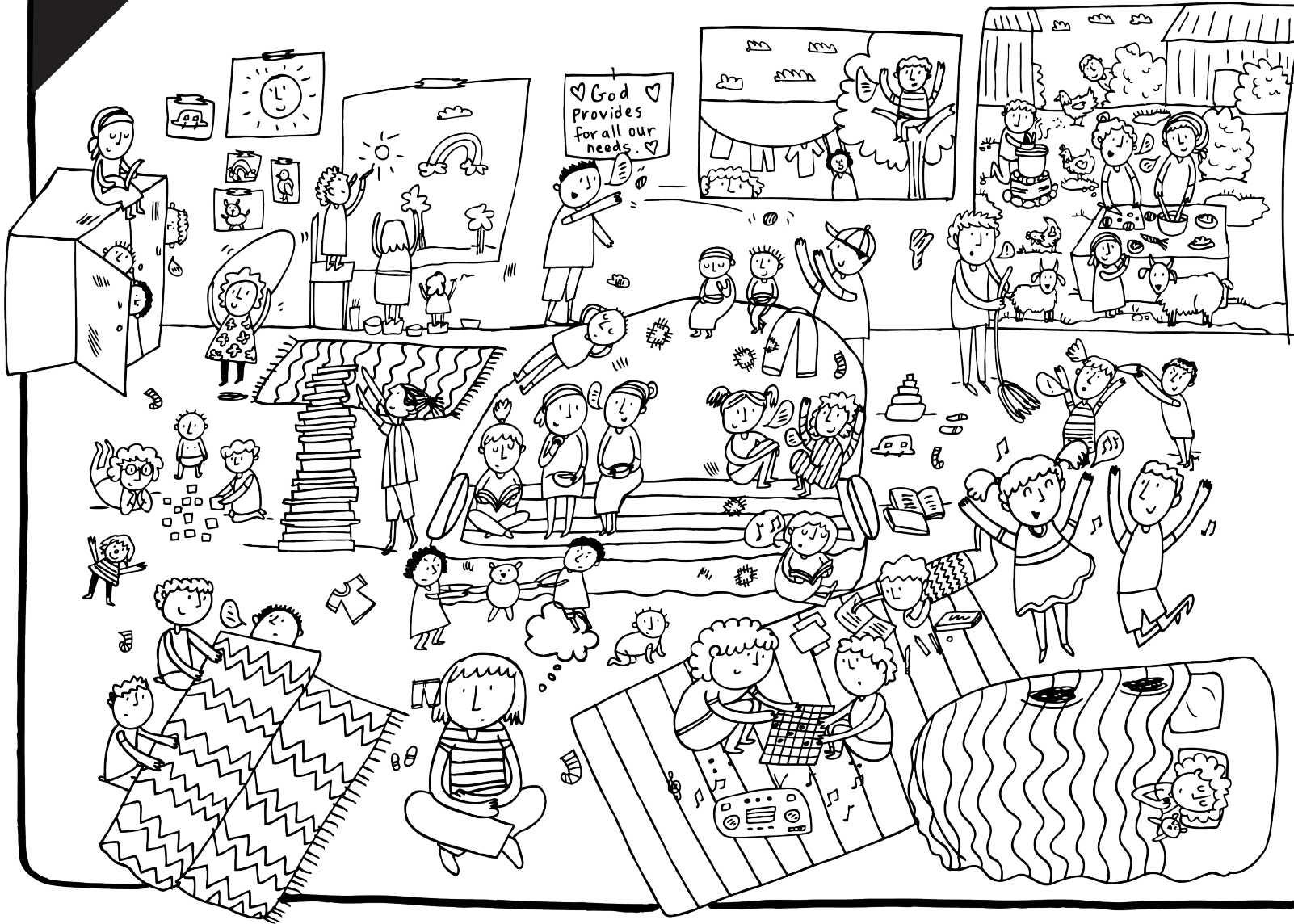
The Open Doors *World Watch List* shows the top 50.

The man on the bike is a Colombian church leader, a dangerous job in this country. He's not popular with some people. Rebel soldiers tell him to close his church. They threaten his life.

This happens to lots of church leaders in Colombia. That's why they and their families meet in secret to encourage one another. There are lots of tears and prayers – but also lots of fun. It's good to relax for a few days and be part of a bigger family that cares for one another.

Prayer Thank you, Lord, that I am part of a huge family around the world that loves you. Please let your children in Colombia know they are not forgotten.

Question: How can you help children and families who are being persecuted?



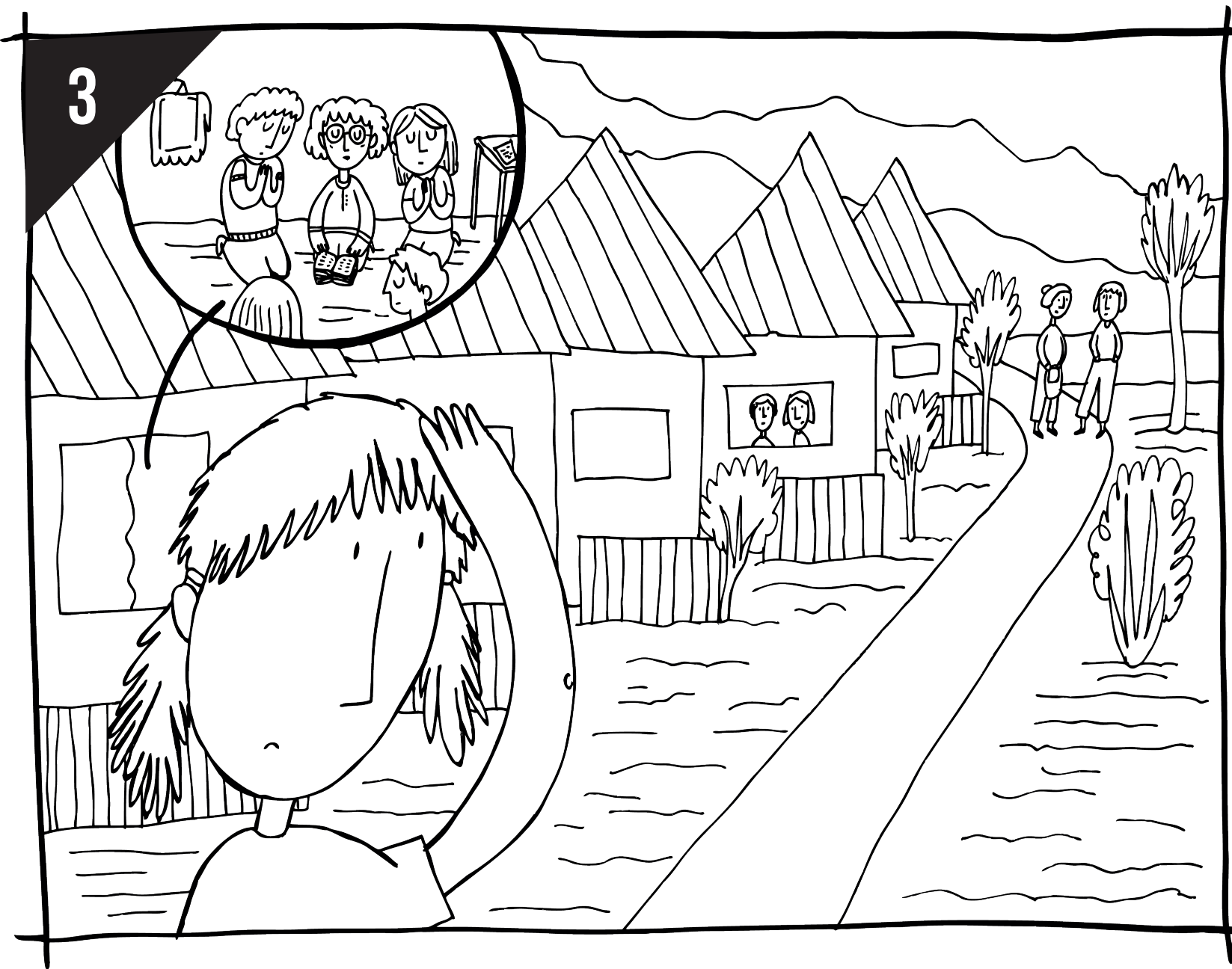
FIRST COURSE NIGERIA

In parts of central and northern Nigeria, many Christian villages and towns have been attacked and destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of families have been displaced and are now living in camps. Thousands of children have lost their mothers and fathers.

The good news is that people are helping orphans. In a town called Gulak, 14 families from a church are now looking after 300 orphans who were found wandering in a nearby forest. One family took in 45 children! That's a lot of mouths to feed. But with the help of God's family around the world, all of them have food to eat.

Question: How can you show kindness to orphans and widows?

Prayer Lord, thank you for my food and family. Please help your children in Nigeria to grow stronger and stronger every day.



SECOND COURSE NORTH KOREA

North Korea is a land of silence, where you don't disobey the leaders, and you don't tell anyone if you believe in God. Not the neighbours, not the police. No-one. Often parents don't even tell their children. Meetings between Christians are held in secret – in their homes, behind closed curtains, singing in whispers. Bibles are buried in the garden, or somewhere safe.

Christians say their lives are like candles: one wrong word and your life is blown out. Almost one in five Christians in North Korea have been arrested and put in prison camps.

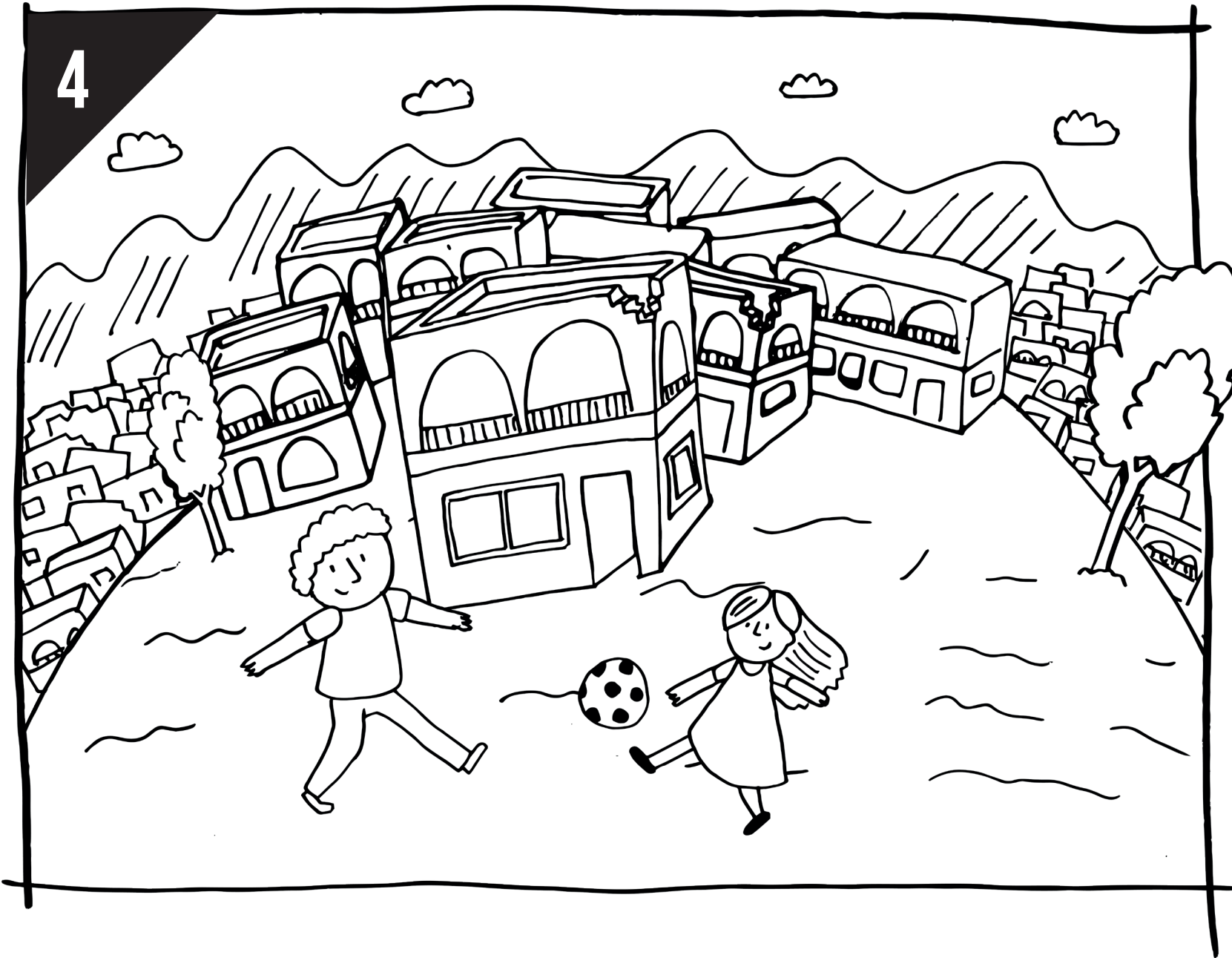
Through people in this country and around the world, Open Doors supports Christians in North Korea with food, medicine, clothes and in other ways.

Question: What helps you calm down when you get worried?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that it's safe for me to go to church and worship you. Please protect your people in North Korea.

Bible: Psalm 23:4

Even if I walk through a valley as dark as the grave, I will not be afraid of any danger, because you are with me.



THIRD COURSE SYRIA

The war in Syria has made the country a lot less safe for Christians. They have been attacked, kidnapped and many have lost their homes, forcing them to move far away. Thousands of families are still living in refugee camps. A lot of children haven't been to school for years – and with no jobs, parents find it difficult to afford food for their families.

But because lots of people have given money to help, 12,000 displaced families in Syria have been supported through churches like Pastor Edward's in Damascus, with a food parcel each month – as well as blankets, coats and medicines. In some cases, families are beginning to return to their villages, having received help from Open Doors to rebuild their homes. Things are looking up.

Question: Could you live without your favourite things?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for food to eat. Please look after your people in Syria and give them hope.

Bible: Philippians 4:12-13

I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation—when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing. Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do.



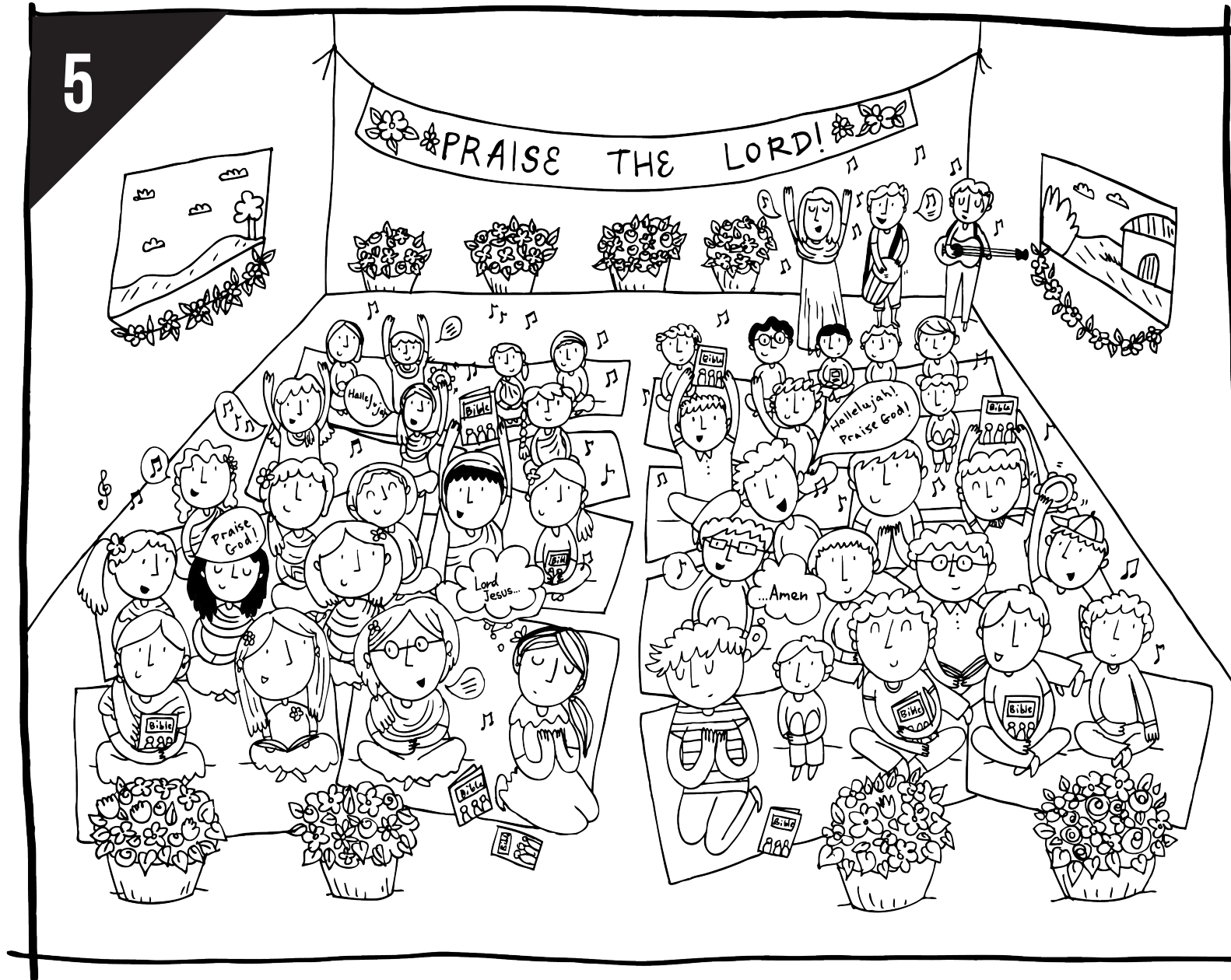
FOURTH COURSE INDIA

Who are your heroes? Are they rich and famous - or poor and powerless? There are many heroes of the faith in India where being a follower of Jesus can get you in to big trouble. Trouble for church leaders, who get attacked. Trouble for believers, who are chased out of their homes by angry mobs. Trouble for children, when their families aren't happy about them following Jesus.

When things are like this, it takes courage to be a Christian. The special event pictured here brought persecuted Christian children together so that they could share their problems and encourage one another. They did this by reading the Bible, singing and praying.

Question: Do you think Jesus is a hero?

Prayer: Lord, I have some very brave brothers and sisters around the world. Please protect them and give them strength to follow you.



Bible: Hebrews 12: 2

We must never stop looking to Jesus. He is the leader of our faith, and he is the one who makes our faith complete.

FIFTH COURSE CENTRAL ASIA

Brother Viktor* in Central Asia

Choosing to be a Christian in Central Asia makes you very much the odd one out. More than that, it can be dangerous – as Brother Viktor discovered.

Brother Viktor was a taxi driver who loved listening to Christian CDs in his car and talking to his customers about Jesus. Sometimes it led to some interesting chats, but it also got him into trouble. One day, he got beaten up. He was badly hurt and couldn't go back to his job. He had to find a new way of earning money to feed his family – but it wasn't easy. So he prayed.

After talking to his church leader and getting some help from Open Doors, he's now doing something completely different: raising quails and selling their eggs!

Question: Have you ever called on God? Did you get an answer?

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers. Please look after Christians in Central Asia who are in danger because they tell others about your love.





SIXTH COURSE IRAQ

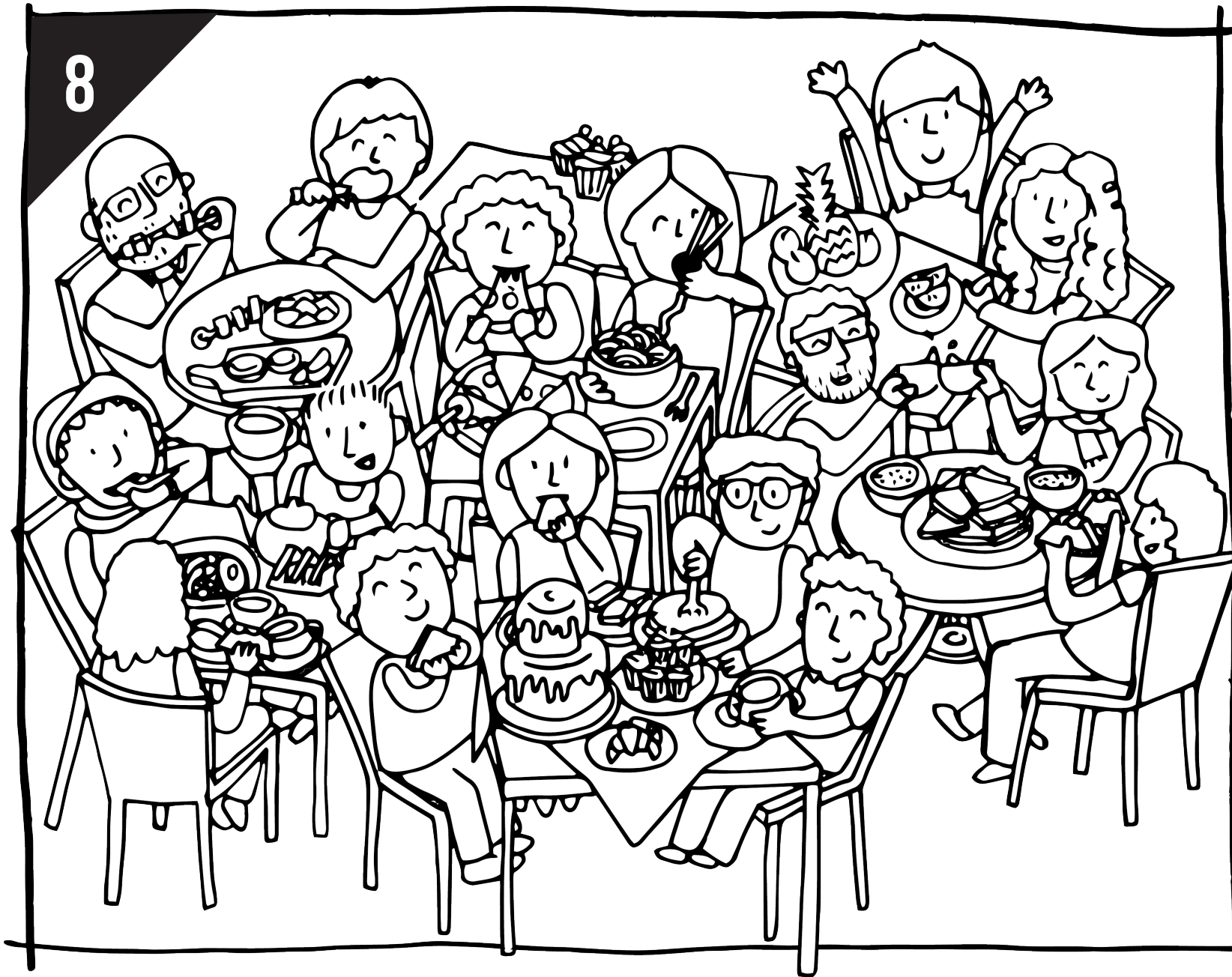
When Islamic State fighters took over Mosul in 2014, thousands fled to Erbil – in a safer part of Iraq.

People from Karamles, a Christian village, fled together and now live in a set of apartments they call 'Little Karamles'. Martin and Thabet, their church leaders, went with them. They have carried on leading the usual church activities – just in a different place.

When the fighters were at last forced out of Karamles, and it was safe to visit, Martin and Thabet went back to take a look. They saw the damage in their church and village, but they also planted a huge cross on a nearby hill, as a sign to everyone that Karamles will one day be full of people once again.

Question: What's so special about the cross?

Prayer: Help me to put you first and love you more than anything else. Please give strength to your people in Iraq as they try to rebuild their homes and lives.



BREAKFAST

Three days after His death, Jesus came back to life. He miraculously appeared to Peter, John and His other friends who were hiding behind locked doors, offering them peace, courage, confidence and the power to forgive.

This fact has changed millions of people's lives throughout history – and around the world. It means that death is not the end. It means Jesus is the Lord of life. It means people can trust Him and believe in His words. It means people who thought they were scared – like Peter – can become brave, transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Open Doors stands with Christians today, who like Peter before them, are persecuted for following Jesus. To the east, west, north and south, Open Doors supports Jesus' followers with whatever help they need most: food, water, friendship, learning, prayer. We do this knowing that one day we will all sit down together in God's kingdom.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we pray that you will be with all those who are in danger or who are not allowed to worship openly today. Be with them we pray. Help them to know that you are there. Help them to be brave. And keep them safe. Amen.

