

# Along the Way

Marcel Siadau couldn't have been more surprised when he heard his parents say they were moving. His father, a former cook, had been studying at Bible school to become a pastor. Since then, it was like his dad was on a daily adventure with God.

His parents shared with Marcel how they felt God calling them to leave their home in

Ouagadougou, the busy capital of Burkina Faso, and move to a small village in the north.

There they would share the Gospel message with those who had never heard it before.

Now, northern Burkina Faso isn't a safe place to live. Dangerous local groups try to prevent villagers from learning about the Bible or following Jesus. These groups sometimes attack towns without warning, looking for pastors, church leaders and anyone talking about God.

Just before moving, Marcel's aunts and uncles heard of the dangers and were very concerned. They tried to discourage the young boy's father from following the call of God. Marcel wondered if his parents would change their minds and cancel the move, but his father continued to trust the Lord. "He always told [us] that he must go to fulfill what God called him to do," Marcel recalls.

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As life began in their new home, they made friends with the people who lived around them. Marcel and his parents did whatever

they could to show their neighbours the love of Jesus, sowing seeds of truth in their lives and praying that God would make them grow. These new friends noticed something different about the Christian family and would quietly ask them more about their God.

One day, Marcel's village was suddenly attacked. Armed men from a dangerous group in the area

rushed into town, firing their guns as villagers ran for cover. Amid the chaos, Marcel's father was tragically killed. While it is still very hard to understand, the young boy finds comfort knowing that his dad is safe with Jesus in heaven.

Today, Marcel studies at Bible school and is determined to follow in his father's footsteps. He and his mother continue sowing Gospel seeds in Burkina Faso, where they have led many people to faith in Jesus. Marcel even prays for his father's killers, following Jesus' command in Matthew 5:44 to *"love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"* (ESV).



## Reflection Prompt

1. What does it mean to be brave for God?
2. Draw a picture of Marcel's family sharing God's love.

## Reading Between the Lines

### Word Search

Find and underline the following sight words in the story.

he      is      to      the  
they    says   his   with

### Did You Know?

*"Sight words" are common words that we learn to read by sight. They can be recognized instantly without sounding them out!*

### Let's Write!

Fill in the missing letters.

- |            |                                              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------|
| _ r _ _ e: | 1. To be bold even when you feel<br>afraid.  |
| _ r _ y:   | 2. To speak to God.                          |
| _ o _ e:   | 3. To take action or go to another<br>place. |
| _ e _ _ s: | 4. Plant them, and they will grow.           |