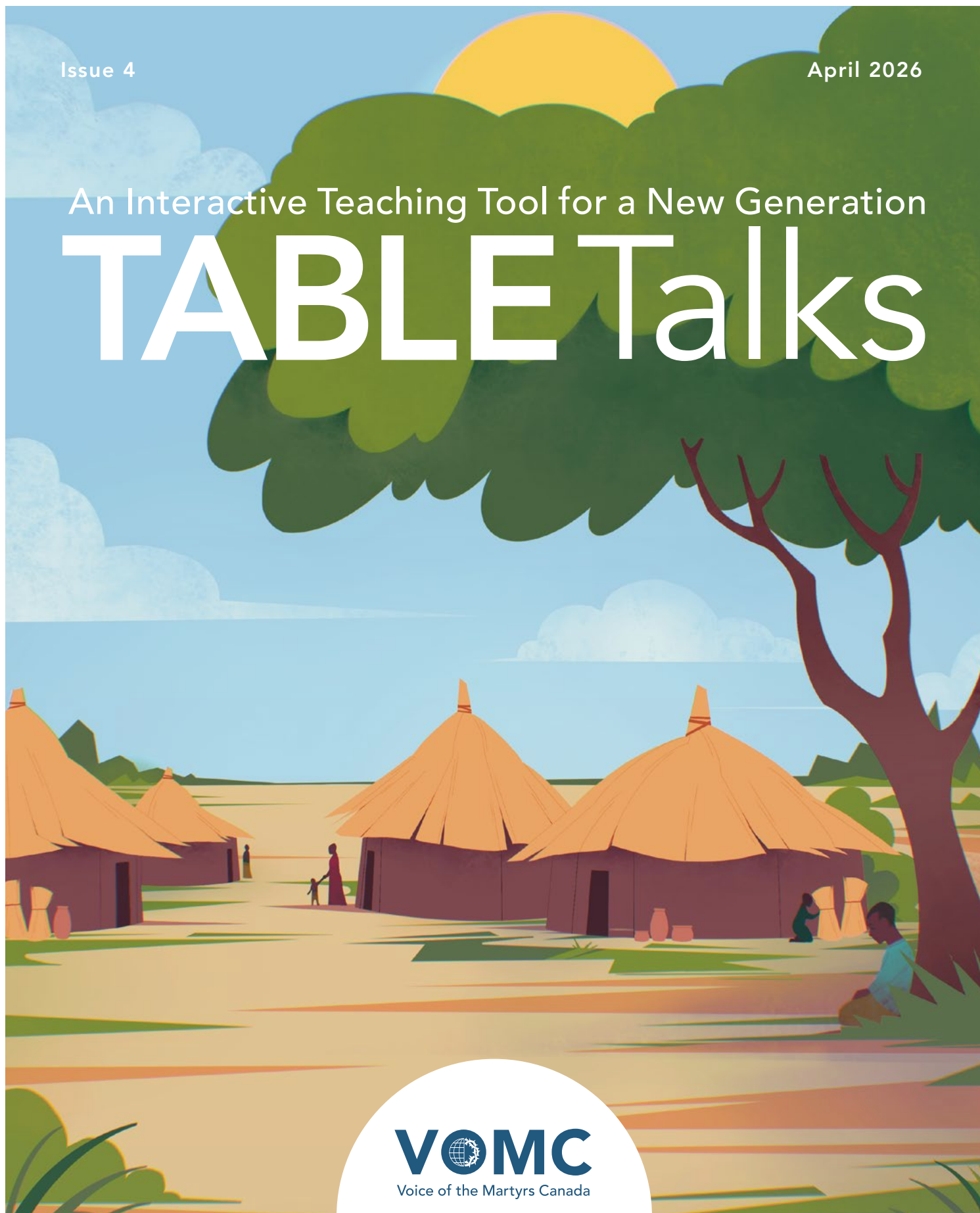


Issue 4

April 2026

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation

TABLETalks



VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

ALONG THE WAY • INVESTIGATING THE STORY • FIND THE FACE

Along the Way

Marcel Siadau couldn't have been more surprised. Did he really hear his dad right?

Seeing his son's bewildered look, his father said, "Yes, we're moving!"

"Where? And why?" Marcel did not like change.

Marcel's 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 gently 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.

"I'll be like a farmer, Marcel," his dad grinned, "sowing Gospel seeds. Then together we will pray for God to make those seeds grow."

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 or 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. This caused Marcel concern, too.

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. Curiously he asked his dad, "Will we be safe?"

"We must trust God no matter what," his dad encouraged his son. "Even if it is scary, we are always best following God's directions instead of trying to reason what is best. God wants people in Burkina Faso to know about Him." Those words stuck in Marcel's mind.

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

*"I'll be like a farmer...sowing
Gospel seeds. Then we will pray for
God to make those seeds grow."*

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 dangerous groups 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 Prompts

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 afraid.

_ r _ y:

2. To speak to God.

_ o _ e:

3. To take action or go to another place.

_ e _ _ s:

4. Plant them, and they will grow.

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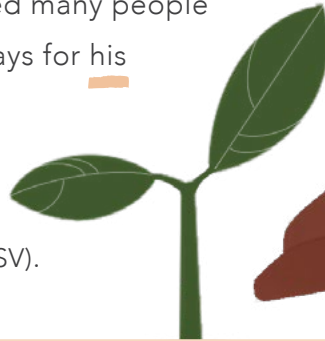
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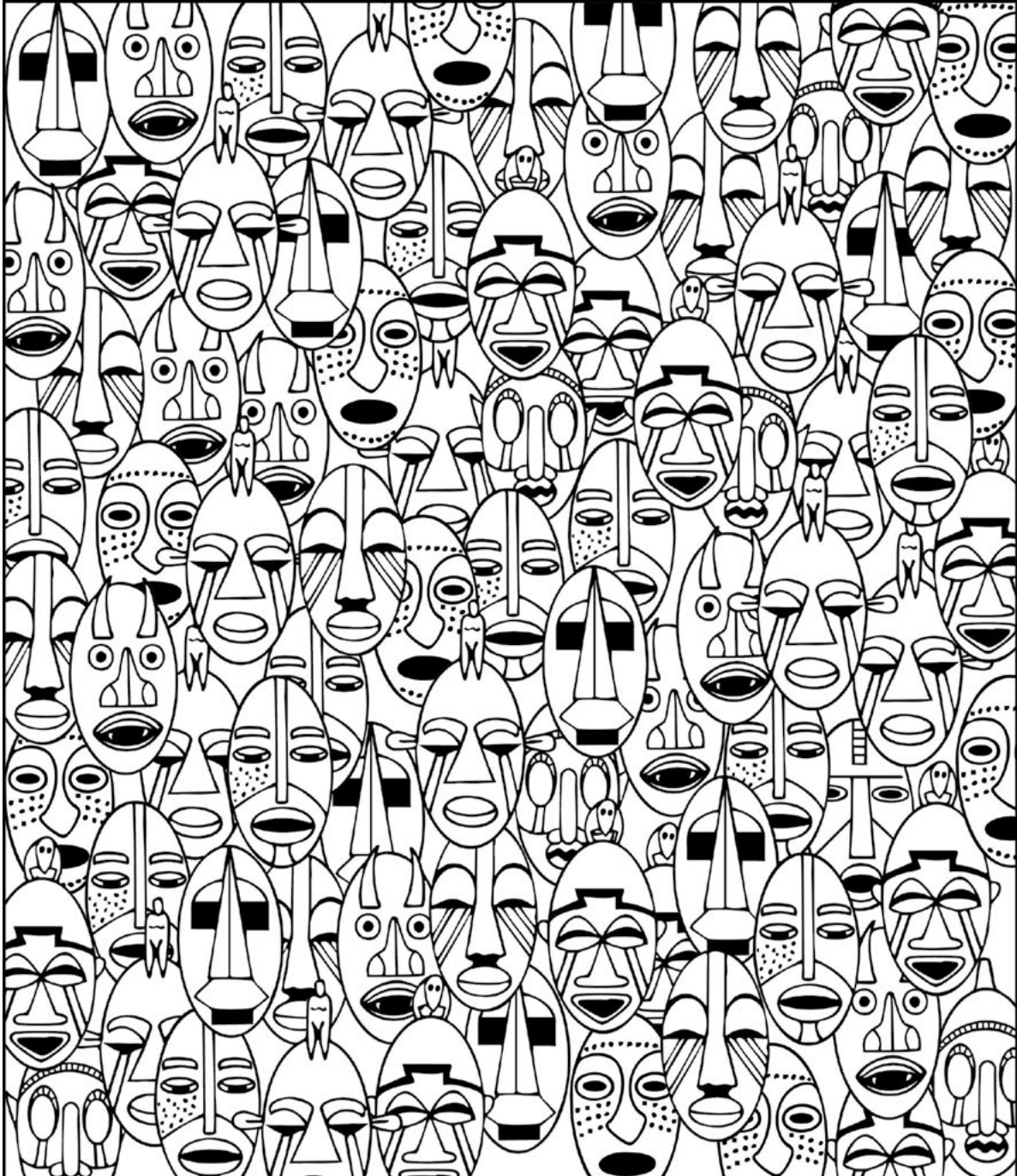
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Find the Face

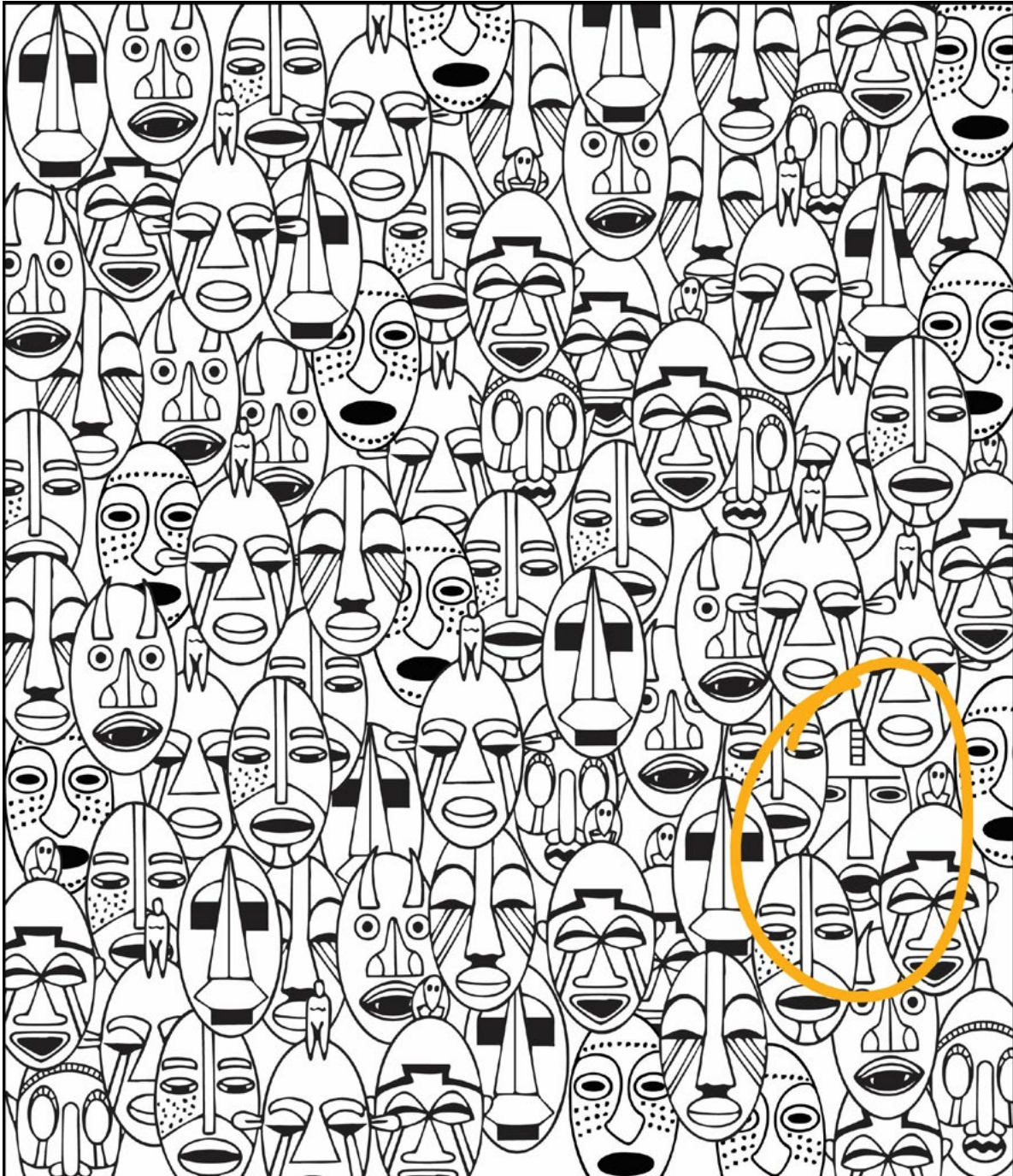
Find and colour the one unique "Bwa mask" hidden in the picture below. An answer key and printables are available at vomcanada.com/TableTalksBurkinaFaso26.



We are all created in the image of God, even those who don't recognize and believe in the God who created them.

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Weigh In

Weighing the facts
about Burkina Faso

1.

Only 33.7 percent of all women, and less than 41 percent of the total population, can read and write in Burkina Faso.

2.

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world. Only 19.5 percent of the population has access to electricity.

3.

In areas where militant groups are active, hundreds of churches have been forced to close due to the ongoing risk of violent attacks.

4.

Those who convert from Islam to Christianity often face intense pressure from family members to renounce their new Christian faith.

Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/burkina-faso/>

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/burkina-faso/>

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/FESTIMA>

Corresponding Question Points:

1. Since many people in Burkina Faso cannot read or write, spreading the Gospel and distributing Bibles can be challenging. What are some ways God's Word can be shared without relying on the ability to read?
2. No access to electricity means a very different way of life compared to ours. What changes to your daily routine would you need to make? For example, how would you cook your food?
3. Worshipping with other believers is a precious gift not everyone is able to enjoy due to local dangers. What would you miss most if you couldn't go to church? What could believers do instead to worship together?
4. When experiencing ridicule, discouragement or even physical abuse from people because of our faith in Jesus, what should we practise in order to not give up? Look up Isaiah 40:3. Practically, is it always easy? Explain your answer.

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

God has instilled a desire in every heart to know Him, yet many people attempt to fulfill this longing in other ways. As a result, several religions are practised in Burkina Faso, including animism and Islam.

The animistic worldview believes that objects, places, animals and plants possess souls. During rituals, followers of this religion use masks to express their beliefs. However, most people living in Burkina Faso practise the religion of Islam. They identify as being Muslim and believe that Allah is the one and only true God. The Quran (the Islamic holy book) teaches that anyone who does not honour Allah by following the teaching of the Quran dishonours God. This is the unforgivable sin in Islam. Those who do not honour Allah are believed to be practising idolatry.

The Bible says there is only one God (Yahweh) who exists in three persons – Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. The first of the Ten

Commandments that God gave to Moses is this: *“I am the Lord your God...you shall have no other gods before Me”* (Exodus 20:2-3 ESV).

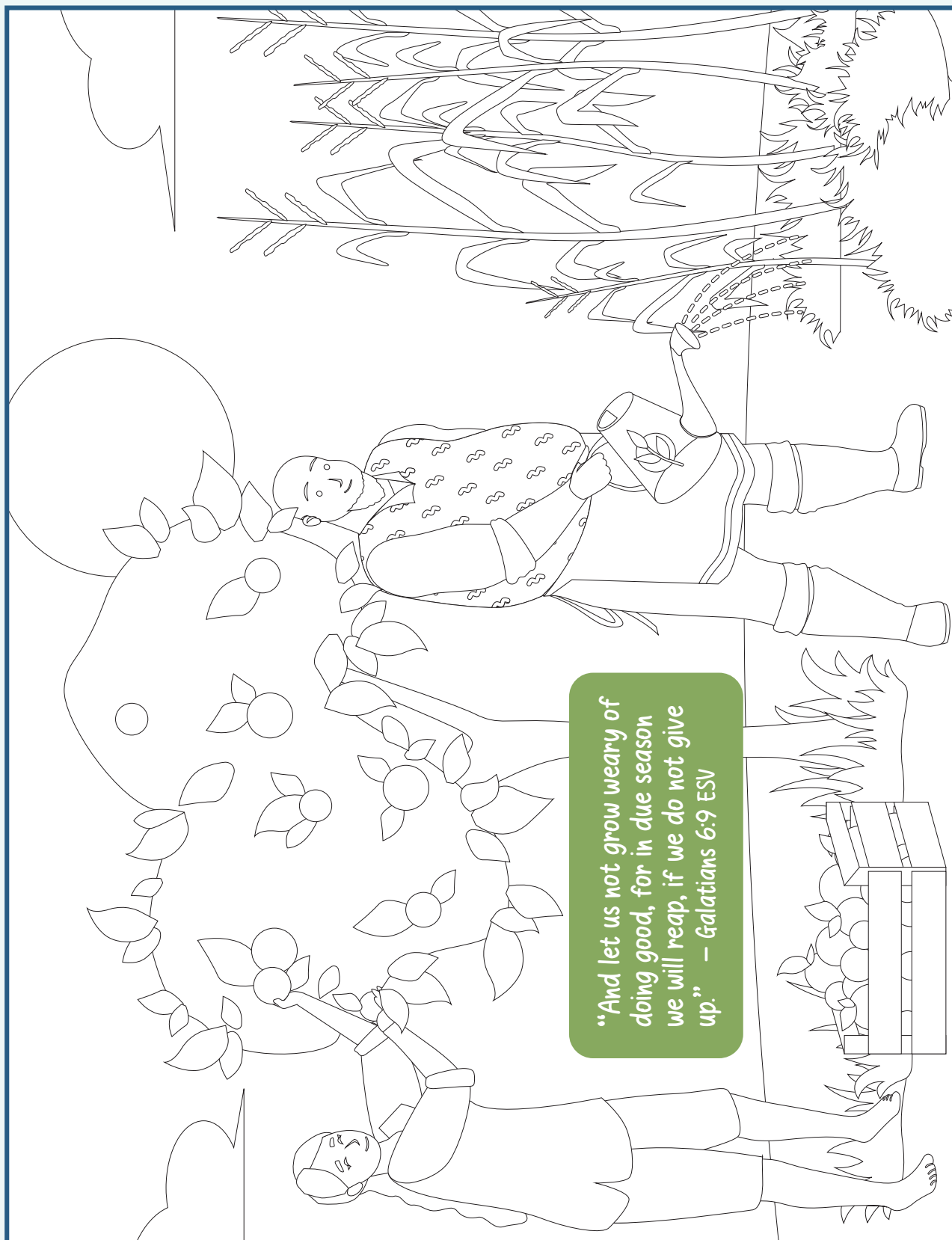
Both Islam and Christianity require absolute dedication to one God. Some people mistakenly believe that both religions refer to the same God, just with different names. However, Yahweh and Allah are not the same God. Yahweh is a loving God and has a personal relationship with all who believe in Him: *“But to all who...believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...”* (John 1:12 ESV). Islam teaches that Allah does not consider his followers as sons and daughters, but as his creations and servants.

The Bible teaches that God calls His children to treat everyone with love and respect, no matter what they believe, because each person is made in His image (Genesis 1:27). Jesus’ last command to His followers while He was on earth was to go and share the message of the Gospel with love, gentleness and humility to everyone (Mark 16:15).

Like Marcel and his family, Christians are called to sow seeds of faith, then allow people the freedom to choose Jesus on their own. It’s a personal decision that must take place in one’s own heart. The Bible instructs believers to show love to their enemies and those who have not yet accepted Christ, sharing the Gospel with compassion, while allowing individuals the freedom to choose. This approach reflects what it means to walk in the Christian way – living out faith with grace, truth and love.



Colouring Connection!



Seeds in the Shadows

A Visual Parable of
Evangelism and the
Persecuted Church

Christians in Burkina Faso sow seeds of truth with unwavering faith, trusting that the Word of God will not return void – even when they cannot see the changes in those who hear it (Isaiah 55:11).

Let's make a visual reminder to help us pray that the persecuted church will keep sowing in faith.

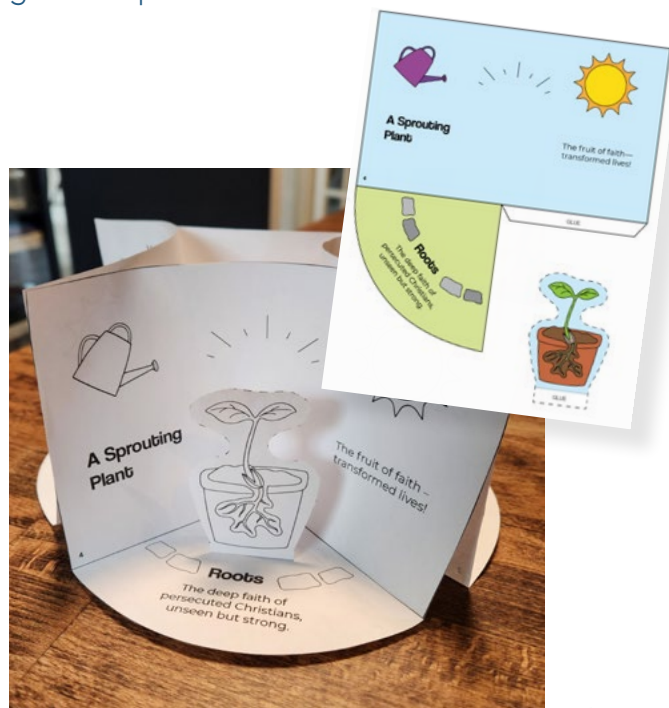
Use any container as a planting pot. Its boundaries will be a reminder of the confined, often hostile environments where believers live. Despite its restrictions, it has great opportunity to be used.

Fill the pot with soil. Soil is dark like the persecution that believers face. Though it appears it may smother righteousness, it is what God uses to bring forth growth.

Plant seeds in the soil. A single seed seems small and insignificant when being planted. Persecuted believers could also be tempted to think the same about themselves. However, like a seed, believers' strength comes from what lives within.

Support the seed by watering it. As you do, remember the impact that prayer support and encouragement have on the global church. Just as water seeps through dark soil to find the hidden seed, prayers and encouragement reach into the darkest corners of the persecuted church, bringing hope to God's people.

When a sprouting plant is discovered, **rejoice!** Praise God for what He does even through darkness and persecution. The unseen roots of the plant grow deep, just as the faith of persecuted Christians grow deeper still.



Consider partnering with VOMC to meet this need!

To donate to the *Bibles for Burkina Faso* project, please scan the QR code below, or visit <https://store.vomcanada.org/category/donations/bible-fund> and make a note indicated "Bibles for Burkina Faso."



Find the printable activity pages both in black and white and colour below!

The Pot

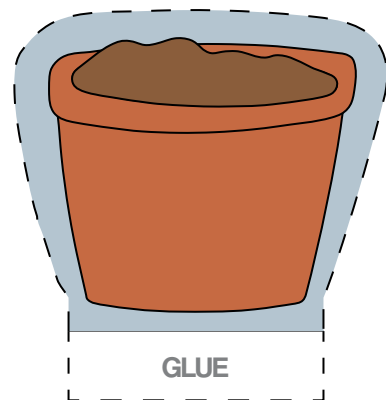
Confined, often hostile space: fertile spiritual ground.

The Soil

Spiritual depth and suffering. It's dark, but it's where growth begins.

1

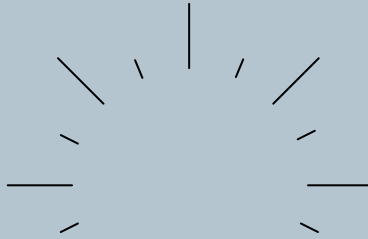
GLUE



The Seed

A believer or a
Gospel message –

small, seemingly
insignificant, but
full of life.



2

GLUE

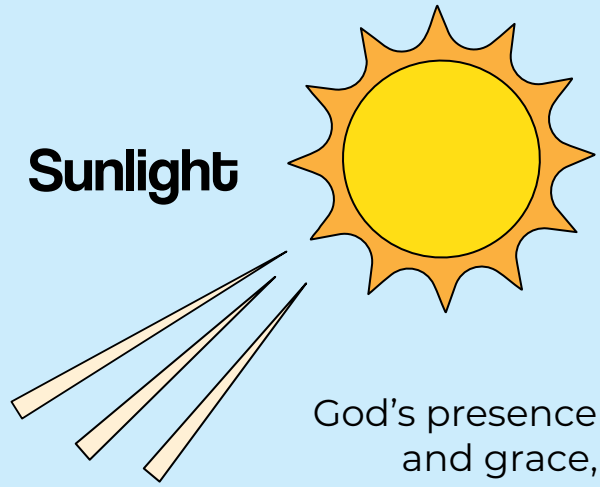


Watering



Prayer, support, and encouragement from the global church.

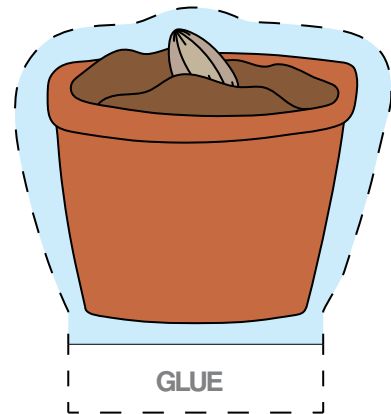
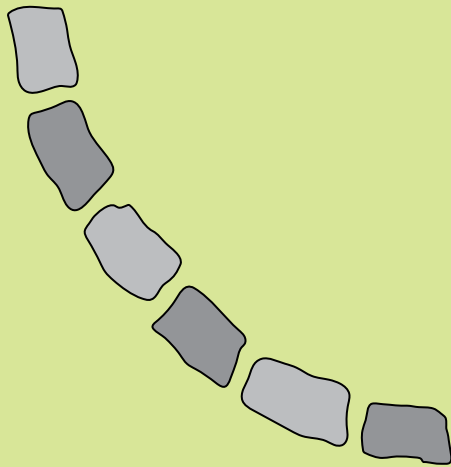
Sunlight

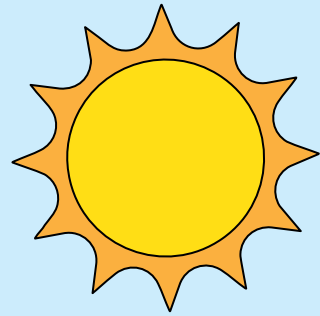
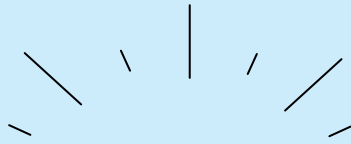
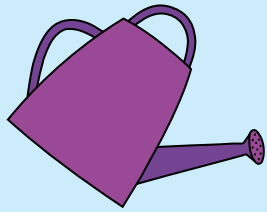


God's presence and grace, reaching even the darkest corners.

3

GLUE





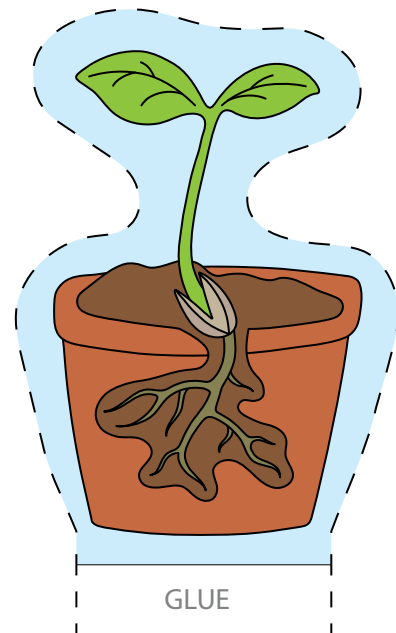
A Sprouting Plant

The fruit of faith – transformed lives!

4

GLUE

Roots
The deep faith of
persecuted Christians,
unseen but strong.



The Pot

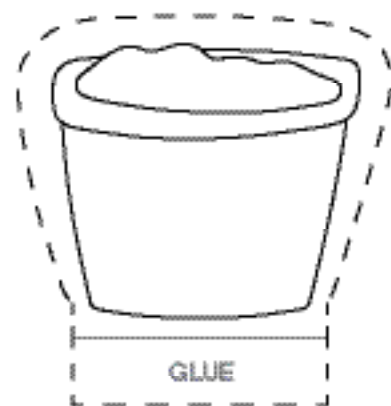
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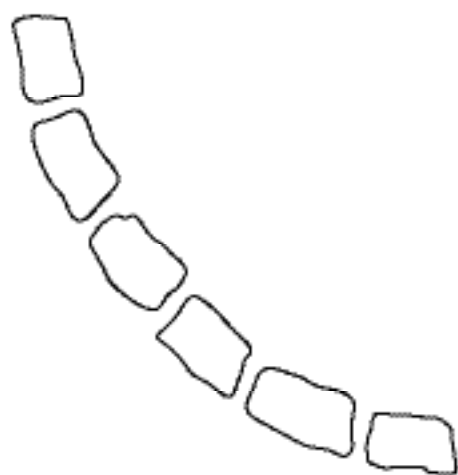
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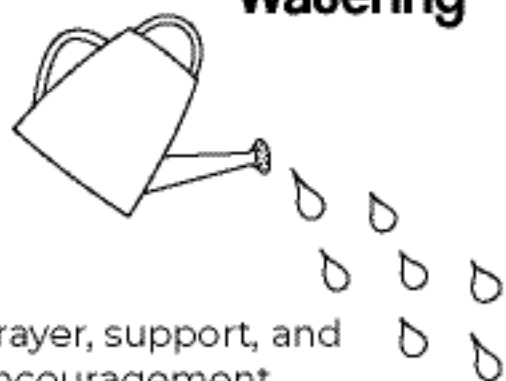


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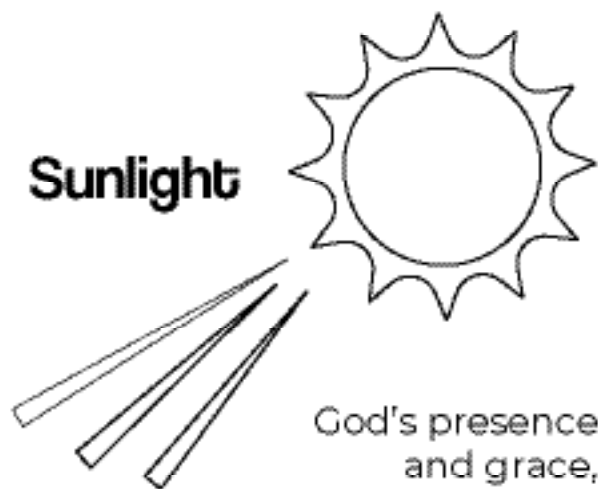


Watering



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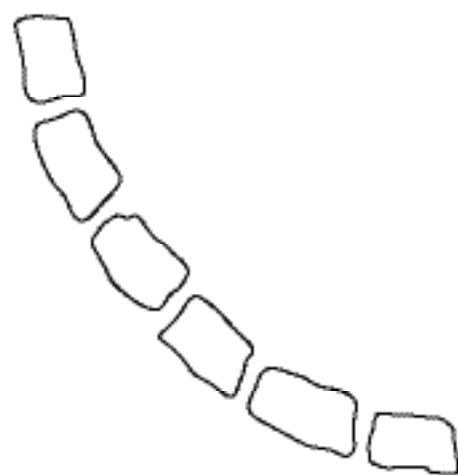
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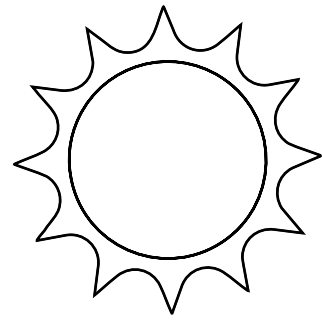
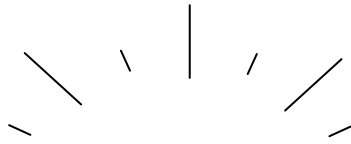
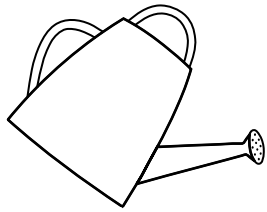


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