

Issue 5

June 2025

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation

TABLE Talks



VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

FOCUS ON BIBLES • MISSION (IM)POSSIBLE MAZE • ALONG THE WAY

Along the Way

The following story has been adapted for this "Table Talks" issue with permission from the Bible Society.

Many years ago, residing within a small stone cottage located in a quiet Welsh countryside, was nine-year-old Mary Jones and her widowed mother. Mary's father, a textile weaver who worked hard to support his family, sadly died when Mary was just a young child.

Every Sunday, Mary would walk about two miles so she could attend the little chapel in their village. The minister there would open a large, black leather-bound Bible. As he read from its pages, Mary marvelled over the wonderful words he spoke and stored them up in her heart. After one of the services, she recalls looking at the impressive Bible with fascination and thinking: "Oh, how I wish I could read this Book for myself, or even have one of my own!"

Then, one Sunday morning, the minister announced that a school was opening in the village. "Now I can learn to read," she said excitedly, "and make sense of those strange marks in the Book at the chapel!" Mary worked extra hard to finish her chores so she could go to her teacher's house and learn to read.

Months had passed until, at last, Mary was asked to read from the chapel Bible one Sunday morning. Afterwards, she rushed up to her mother and cried, "I must have a Bible!" The attentive mother gently placed her hand on Mary's shoulder and reminded the pleading child how expensive Bibles can be to buy. "That's why I am going to save up for one," Mary replied. "And I don't care how long it takes me."

For six long years, Mary saved all she could until there was finally enough money collected to purchase her own Bible. She remembered her teacher speaking about a man named Mr. Charles who lived in a town called Bala. He had several new Bibles available. Mary, by now 15 years of age, told

her mother that she was going to walk to Bala. Her mother exclaimed, "That's nearly 25 miles away!" But there was no changing Mary's mind.

The journey to Bala seemed endless. As her weariness grew, she muttered words of encouragement to herself. "Come on, Mary, not much further now..." she thought. Eventually, as dusk was falling, she came to the top of a hill. While standing there, Mary could see the edge of a town. Her heart pounded with excitement.

When she finally arrived at Mr. Charles' house, Mary eagerly expressed her request: "I've walked 25 miles to get here, and I've saved up for six years to buy a Bible. I've got the money here. You can count it if you like. Please, can I have a Bible?" Mr. Charles was taken aback. "You had better come in and tell me all about it," he replied. "But first, you must have something to eat. You must be famished."

Mr. Charles, having been moved by Mary's story, held out a new Bible and offered it to her. Mary stared at the presented item for a long moment before reaching up with both hands to receive it – all the while, expressing her heartfelt thanks. Afterwards, Mary said goodbye to Mr. Charles and started on her way home. When she arrived at the homestead, her mother, the chapel minister, as well as her schoolteacher, all wanted to see the new Bible. As she happily held up the special Book to show them, she murmured a few quiet words of gratitude: "Thank You, Jesus – and thank you, Mr. Charles."

What would you do if you didn't have access to a Bible?

During the 1700s, there were many families like Mary's that did not have their own published copies of God's Word because each Bible could cost the equivalent of several

weeks' worth of paid wages for a skilled worker. Even today, there are many Christian families in various countries around the world that don't have access to the Scriptures.

In some of these countries, Bibles are considered illegal and, therefore, can be dangerous to own. In other places, Christian families without jobs cannot afford to purchase them. Additionally, there are children in these areas of the world who have never been given the opportunity to learn literacy skills, making it difficult for them to read. Thankfully, Bible apps and audio Bibles are now providing alternative ways for Christians from anywhere around the globe to gain access to God's Word.



Reading Between the Lines

How well did you understand the story? Select answer **a** or **b** for each question:

1. What is the main idea of the story?

- a) Nine-year-old Mary understands that the Bible is worth any cost.
- b) A poor girl from a Welsh village believes leather books are valuable.

2. How far did Mary have to travel to get back home from Mr. Charles' house?

- a) 25 miles
- b) 50 miles

Bonus Question: How many kilometres is that?

3. How many years did Mary save her money so she could afford a Bible?

- a) Three years
- b) Six years



Learning Words

Write each word from the list below in its corresponding word-shaped box:

Bible

Minister

Expensive

Dusk

Cottage

Chapel

Wonderful

B i b l e

Word-shaped box for 'Bible' (7 letters).

Word-shaped box for 'Minister' (8 letters).

Word-shaped box for 'Expensive' (9 letters).

Word-shaped box for 'Dusk' (5 letters).

Word-shaped box for 'Cottage' (7 letters).

Word-shaped box for 'Chapel' (6 letters).

Along the Way

Further Discussion

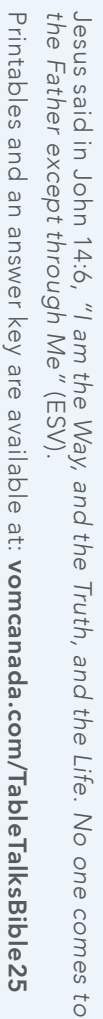
What would you do if you didn't have access to a Bible?

During the 1700s, there were many families like Mary's that did not have their own published copies of God's Word because each Bible could cost the equivalent of several weeks' worth of paid wages for a skilled worker. Even today, there are many Christian families in various countries around the world that don't have access to the Scriptures. In some of these countries, Bibles are considered illegal and, therefore, can be dangerous to own. In other places, Christian families without jobs cannot afford to purchase them. Additionally, there are children in these areas of the world who have never been given the opportunity to learn literacy skills, making it difficult for them to read. Thankfully, Bible apps and audio Bibles are now providing alternative ways for Christians from anywhere around the globe to gain access to God's Word.

NOTES:

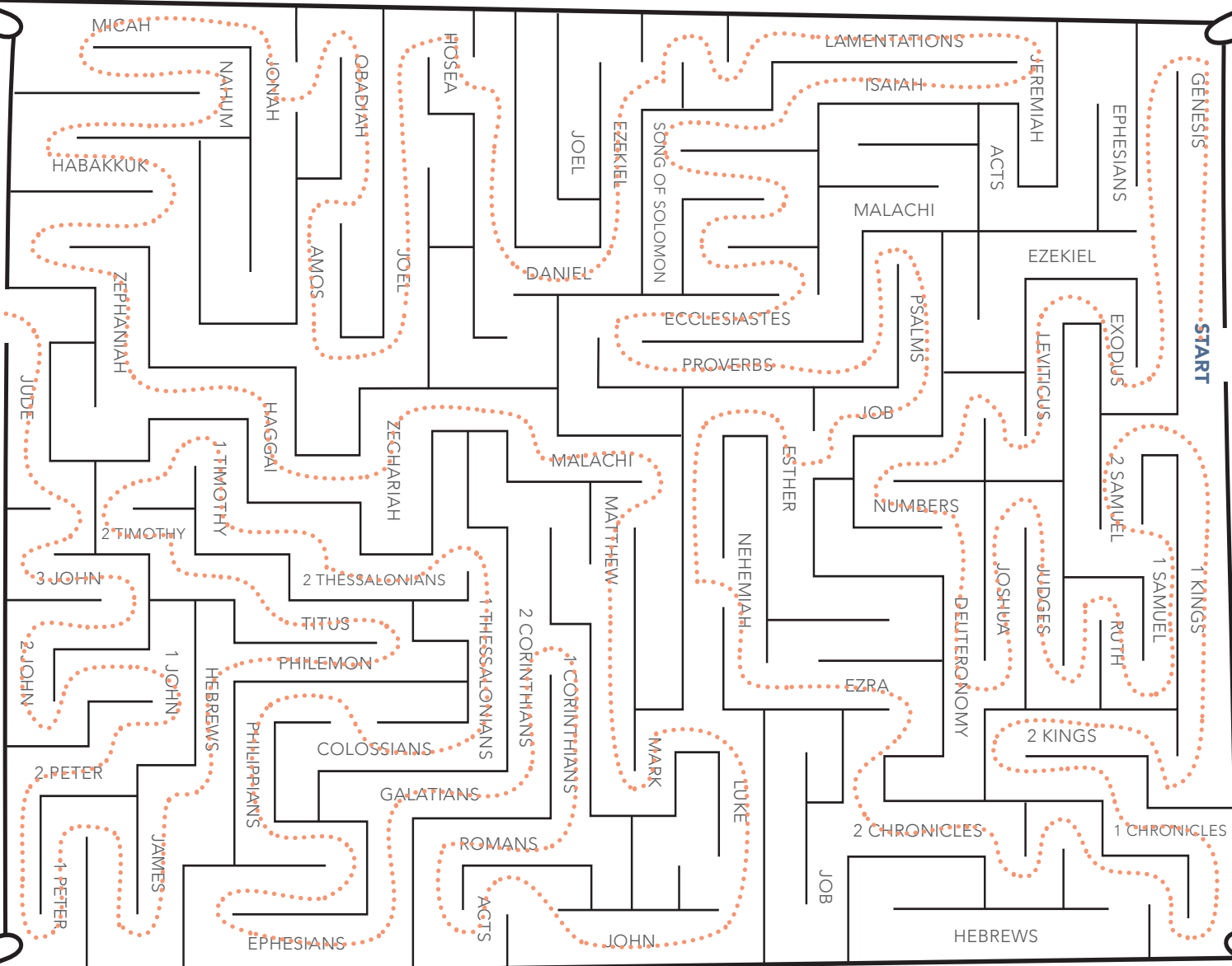
Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (ESV).

Printables and an answer key are available at: vomcanada.com/TableTalksBible25



Mission (Im)Possible Maze With Solution

Complete the maze by following the correct order of the books in the Bible. You will find that there are other paths you can take to get through this maze. However, just as in life we are tempted to do things our own way, avoiding the way that God has planned for us can lead to wrong paths. Resist! Your mission in this maze is to follow the way that God strategically laid out through His Word. All 66 books of the Bible are key to the successful completion of the maze.



AND... REVELATION!

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Weigh In

Weighing the facts about the Bible

1.

Note these three facts about the Bible that even non-Christian historians do not dispute: 1) there were numerous eyewitnesses of Christ's earthly ministry; 2) although the witnesses had different points of view, their stories were consistent; 3) evidence proves that a large number of nearly perfect written copies exist.

2.

In a university textbook, the Chinese government twisted the wording of John 8:3-11 so it would read that Jesus decided to stone the woman caught in adultery after admitting that He too was a sinner.

3.

Taking Scripture out of context is a common error in Bible interpretation. For example, Muslims deny that Jesus was killed on the cross.

4.

The Bible is banned, illegal or severely restricted in 52 countries of the world.



Corresponding Question Points:

(1) How do the first three facts provide assurance that the Bible we have today is the accurate, unchanged Word of God?

(2) How does the Communists' distortion of Scripture align with their ideas about God? What do their attempts to hide the truth of His deity say about their view of God's Word and His power?

(3) (Biology question for teens) Were the three hours that Jesus suffered on the cross enough to end His life? Research these three points to decide: 1) what were the "cat o' nine tails" lashings? 2) how does crucifixion affect a person's lungs? 3) why did fluid flow from Jesus' side when it was pierced (John 19:34)?

(4) Visit vomcanada.com/prayermap and discuss what percentage of the world's countries have restrictions and limited access to Bibles versus those that don't.

One Way



Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

These days, people think it's not nice to say that one religion is "better" than another. Yet, the Bible tells us that Jesus is the only Way to God (John 14:6). Talking about this truth can sometimes bring about negative responses from non-Christians, so it's important to know the basis of our faith and whether what we believe stands up to the test of truth. It's simple to see that all religions can't be true because they make different claims. But with so many different religious books, how can we be sure which one is correct and, therefore, represents the truth? Let's do a brief review to check them out...

The Quran: According to the Islamic faith, the Quran was given to the prophet Mohammed by an angel 600 years after the Bible was completed. The Quran claims to be the true Word of God. Muslims often use four main arguments to support this: fulfilled prophecies, mathematical patterns, scientific truths and the unchanged nature of the text. But when we look closely at these arguments, they don't hold up well. For a more detailed exploration, read the book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, by Nabeel Qureshi.

The Book of Mormon: Joseph Smith said he translated the golden plates (the source of the Book of Mormon) letter-by-letter using God's power. Even though Joseph claimed that it's the most accurate book on earth, over 4,000 changes and corrections have been made in a short period of time. There were no witnesses to support the events recorded in the Book of Mormon, plus no archeological, scientific or language-based evidence to prove even its geographical claims.

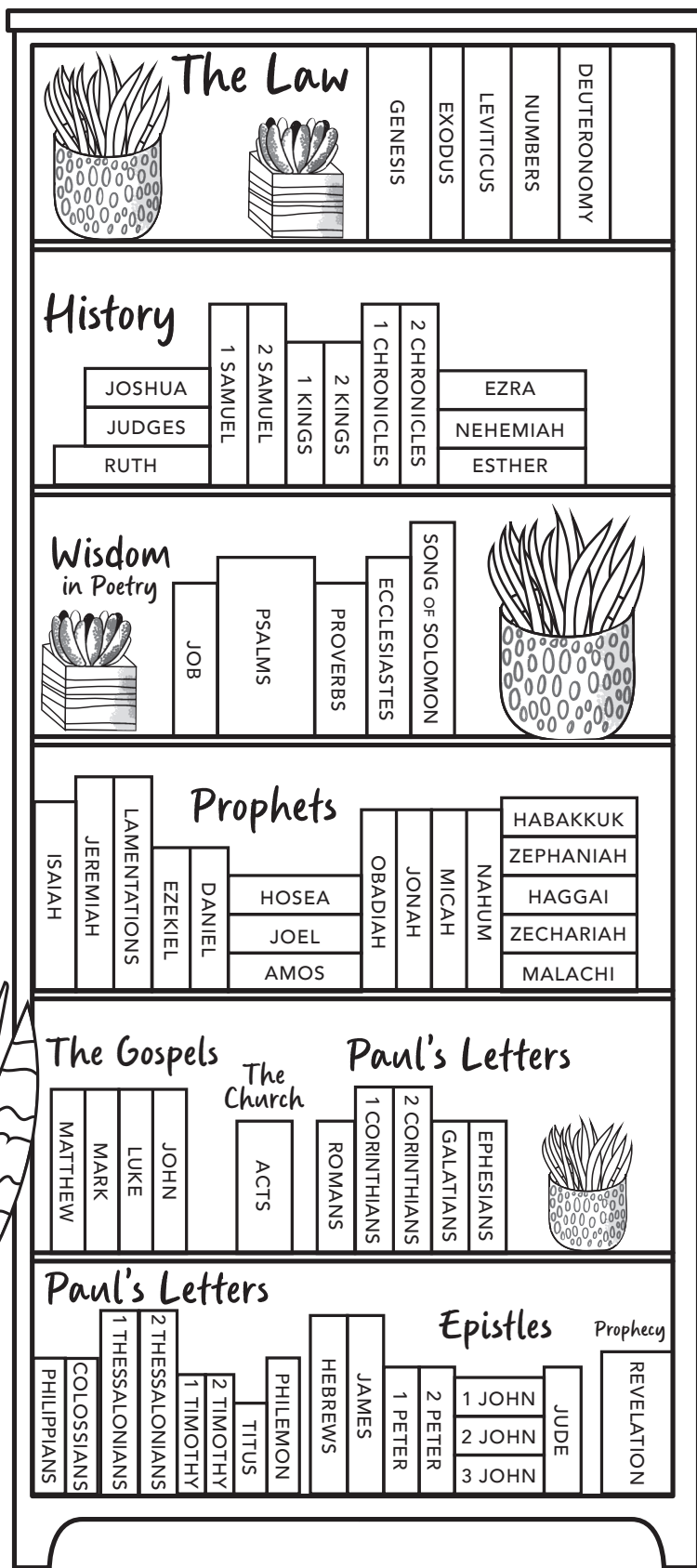
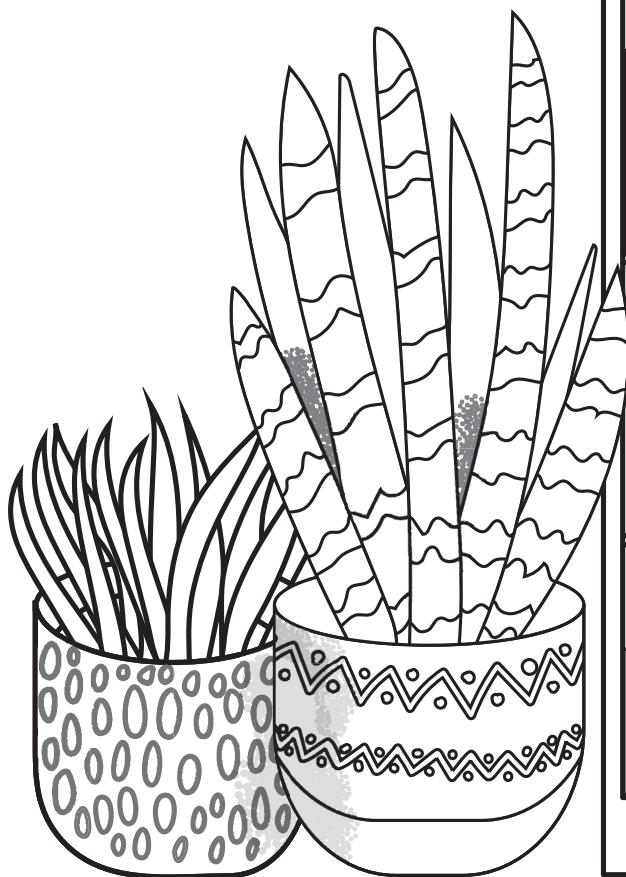
The Holy Texts of Hinduism: Ancient Hinduism started as a culture and grew to include many different religious practices and beliefs. These were shared by word of mouth for almost one thousand years before the first book was written by unknown priests during times of deep meditation. However, there is limited reliable historical data about the origin of the Hindu texts. Hindus believe in a supreme deity called Brahman (whom they claim is the essence of the world and everything in it), as well as lesser gods referred to as "avatars." This word is familiar to Canadian ears because it has been introduced to our culture through video games and movies.

The Christian Bible: The Bible is made up of 66 books, all of which were inspired by God. Imagine 45 different authors from across three continents writing these books over a span of 1,600 years – and they all tell one main story! There is a lot of cool archeological evidence demonstrating that what was written back then is the same Bible we have today. Many people personally witnessed Jesus' burial, death and resurrection; and all four Gospels of the New Testament detail His life and death. Evidence from various archeological findings and historical records also confirm the events of the Bible and prove that Jesus really existed. If you would like to learn more in an investigative and straightforward way, check out *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel.

Colouring: Book by Book

Books of the Bible: Colour this page with your favourite colours, while learning the books of the Bible!

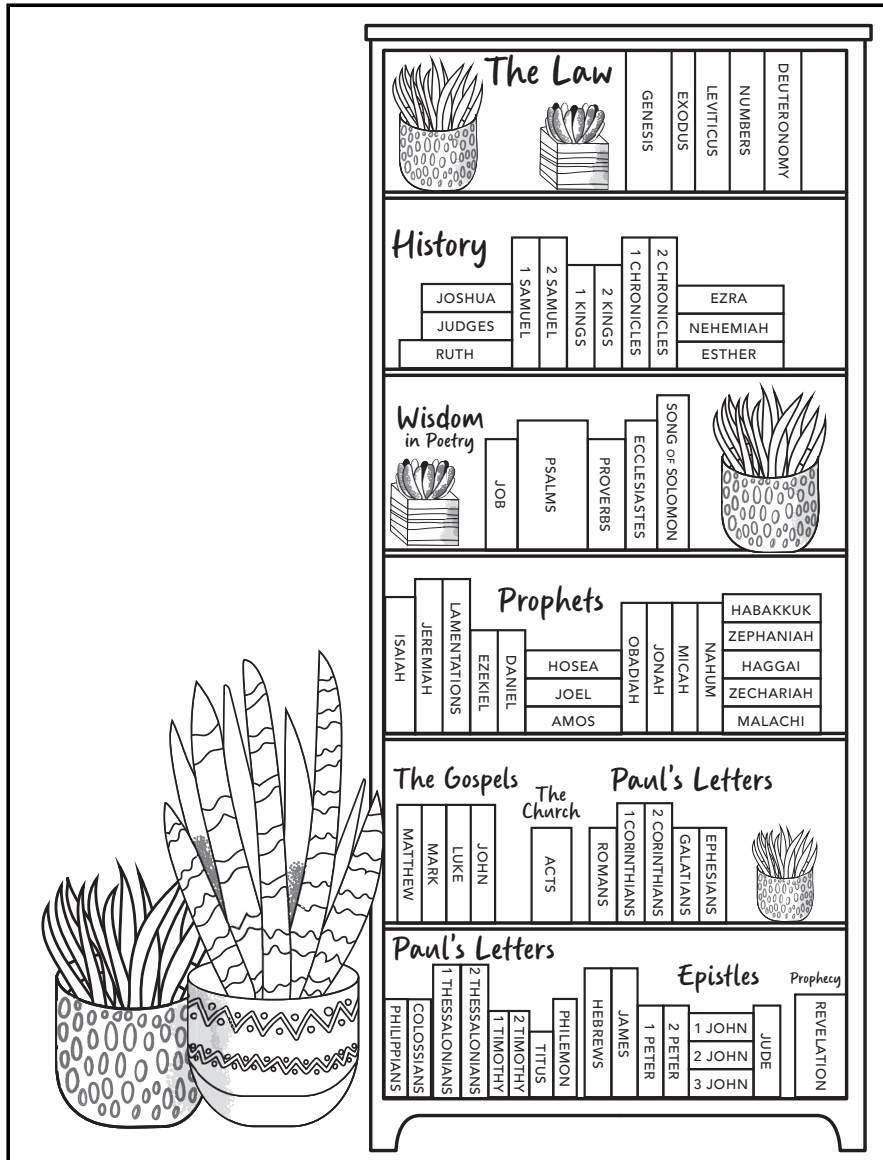
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." - John 1:1



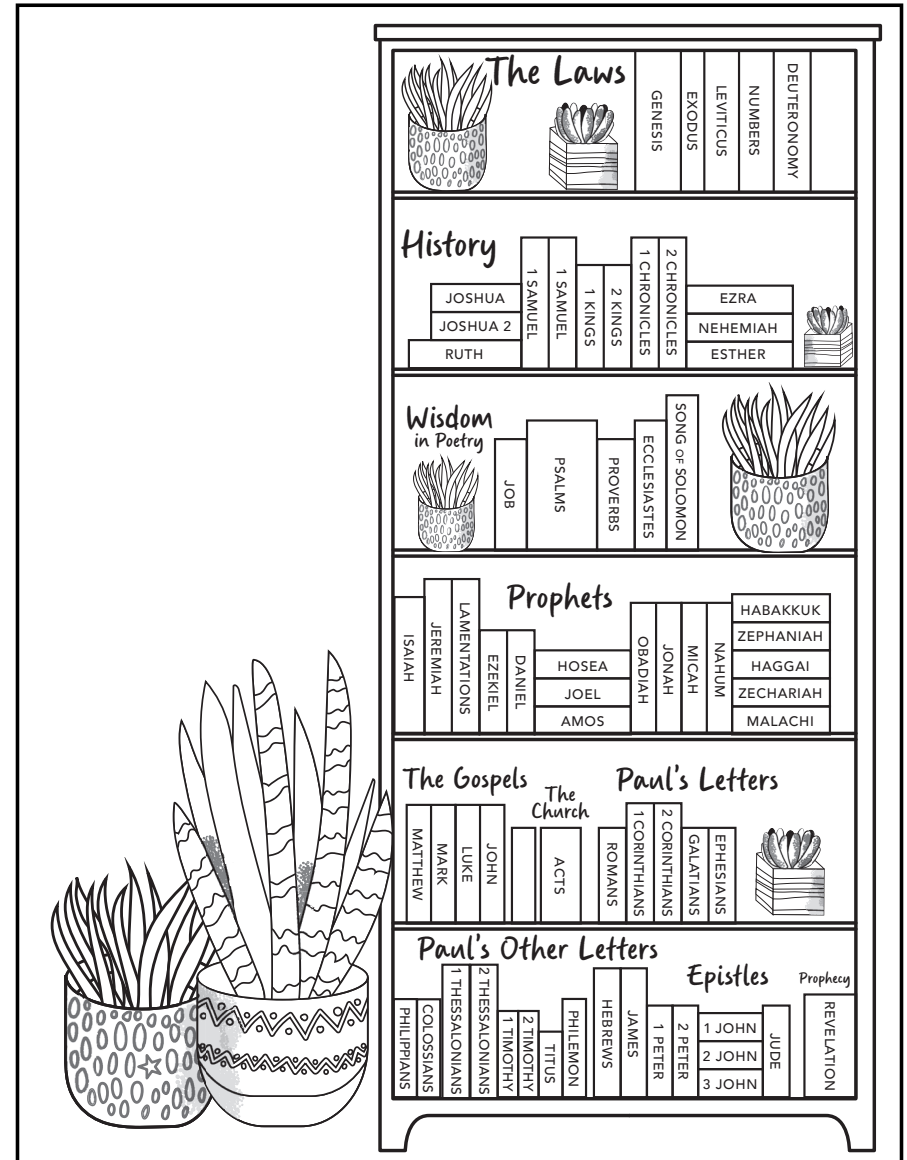
Spot the Difference

Instructions:

Sometimes it can be difficult to distinguish between things that initially seem similar. Find the differences between the original and the "fake" illustrations below. Use your detective skills to identify the ten differences between the two pictures and see if you can find them all!



Original



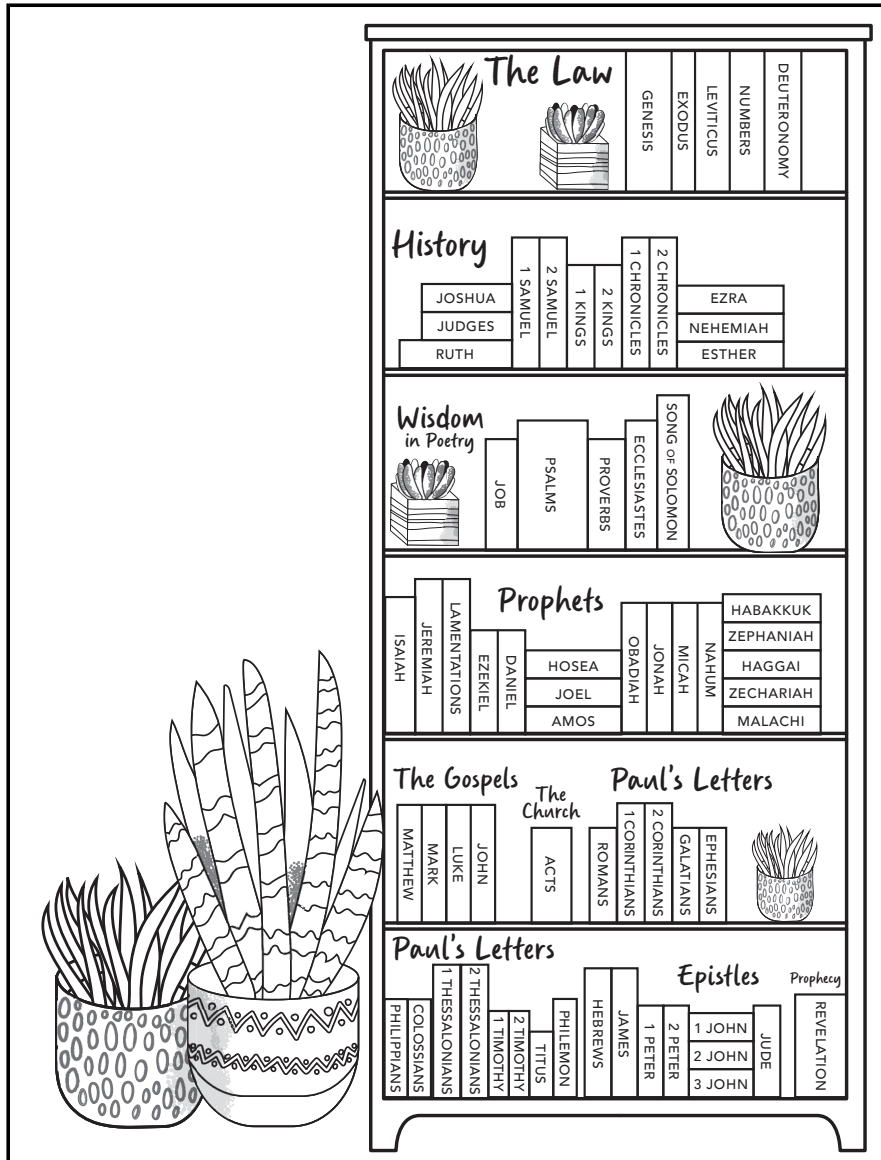
Spot the Difference!

Spot the Difference

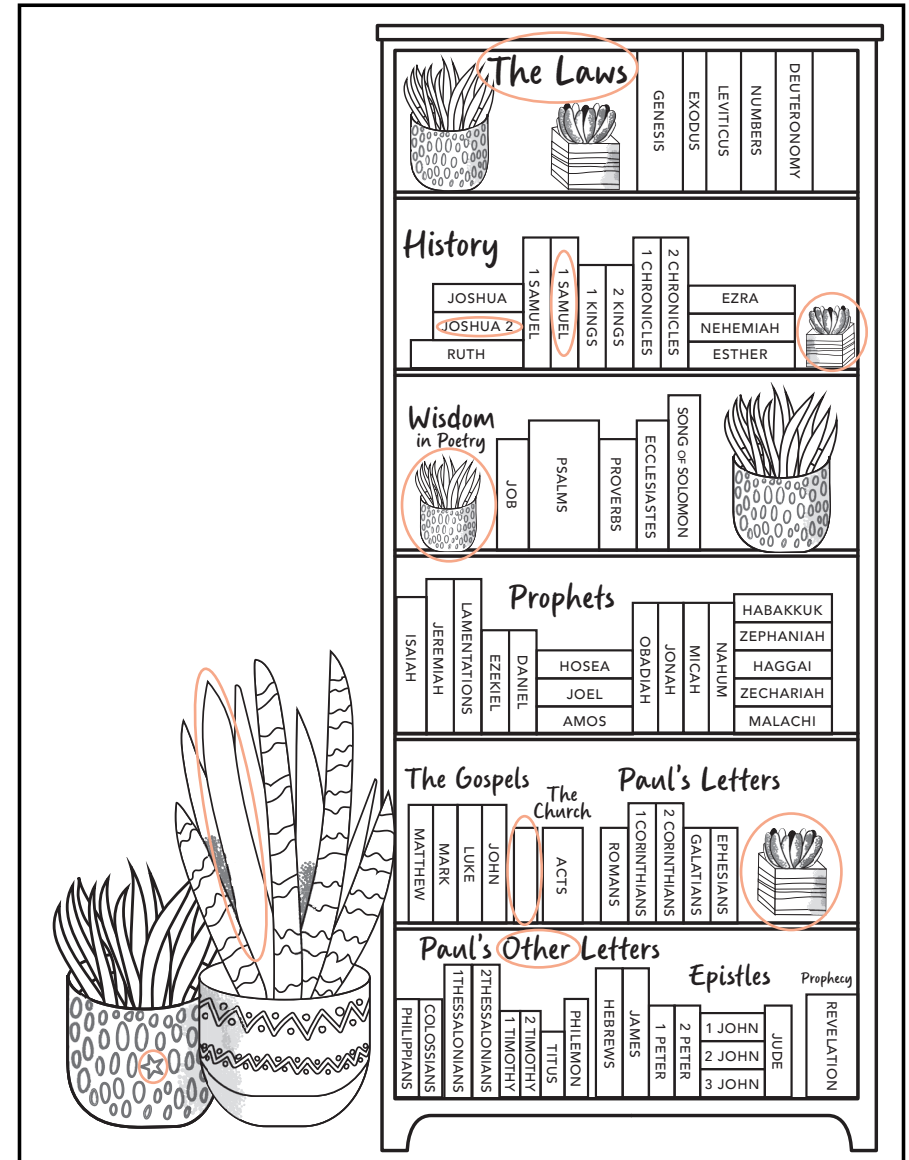
With Solution

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Original



Spot the Difference!

Divine Detectives



Instructions:

"Who is God?" The way that Christians answer this question can sometimes put their lives in danger. Around the world, Christians are often persecuted because of their belief that Jesus is the *only* way, the *only* truth and the *only* path to eternal life (John 14:6).

The term "**theism**" refers to the belief in a God or multiple gods. Many religions differ in their beliefs about who God is or how many gods there are. In the following activity, match the belief about God to the correct definition. (Hint: Look closely at the bolded word in each definition to determine its corresponding belief system.) Lastly, using the Word Bank below, write the name of the religions, belief systems and worldviews under the correct category.



Word Bank:

Hinduism, Hinduism*, Judaism, Greek Mythology, Not Religious, Tribal Religions, Buddhism, Islam, Marxism, New Age, Christianity, Secularism.

*Note: Hinduism will be used TWICE.

Part 1:

Monotheism

The doctrine that **all** is God.

Polytheism

The belief that there is **no** God.

Atheism

The belief that there are **many** gods.

Pantheism

The belief that there is **one** God.

Part 2:

Monotheism (Example)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Pantheism

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Polytheism

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Atheism

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Divine Detectives With Solutions



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The doctrine that **all** is God.

Polytheism

The belief that there is **no** God.

Atheism

The belief that there are **many** gods.

Pantheism

The belief that there is **one** God.

Part 2:

Monotheism (Example)

1. Christianity
2. Judaism
3. Islam

Pantheism

1. Hinduism
2. Buddhism
3. New Age

Polytheism

1. Tribal Religions
2. Hinduism
3. Greek mythology

Atheism

1. Not religious
2. Marxism
3. Secularism



Special Online Summer Edition!

This summer we have something special planned! There are a myriad of different ideas promoted as “truths” in today’s world that can easily go undetected by many of us. It is increasingly important to teach our young people how to spot the “lies” that don’t align with Scripture. Through the *Looking for the Lies in Literature* activity, VOMC is preparing to engage youth to be Mission (Im)Possible Agents who can recognize the untruths portrayed within stories and movies from around the world. As participants collect clues through the assignments, they will be sleuthing towards entry to an “Underground Church Meeting” – a party they will have the opportunity to host. This party will be filled with fun obstacles (activities) which will be peppered with informative clues about what it means to be Agents for Christ in the field.



DOWNLOAD IN JULY!

VOMC'S RECOMMENDED READS

PRETEEN BOOKS



Wang Mingdao:
*Christian Biographies
for Young Readers*

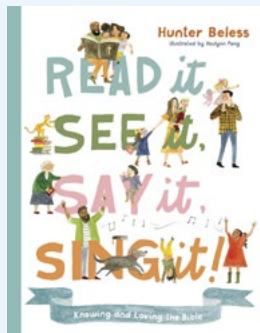
by Simonetta Carr
(ages 8-12)



SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER

On behalf of the VOMC ministry team, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ruth, who was able to raise \$270 for the Chinese underground church using the fundraiser idea featured in our March *Table Talks* issue. We thank all who participated for their dedicated fundraising efforts! Please stay tuned for future opportunities to help raise support for our global family in Christ.

BOOKS FOR LITTLE ONES



*Read It, See It,
Say It, Sing It:
Knowing and
Loving the Bible*

by Hunter Beless
(ages 2-6)

* Not available at VOMC's online store, but available elsewhere.

For more resources, including those that are free, visit our online store!

vomcanada.com/store



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SPECIAL EDITION: THE MISSION (IM)POSSIBLE SUMMER ADVENTURE