

Issue 4

May 2025

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation

TABLETalks



VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

FOCUS ON DRC • JUNGLE JOURNEY • READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Along *the Way*

The day this little boy and his family were forced to flee their home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will always be a memory he'll never forget. Sometimes he talks to his mother, Kimboti, about what happened. Yet, at the tender age of six, other times he can only cry, overwhelmed by fear.

One summer afternoon in 2022, a group of Islamic terrorists attacked the family's village. The young boy was at home with his mother and seven siblings while his father was away working in the fields. When the attack began, the frightened child and his family ran for their lives but were captured before they could reach cover.

As the militants bound their victims' hands and marched them into the jungle, the boy heard his mother begin to pray. She continued to pray with him and his siblings as they walked. All the while, he noticed that his mother was at peace despite the terrifying situation.

Deep in the jungle, the family was confined to a grass hut guarded by men with guns and machetes. During their captivity, they were deprived of food and water, and there was no way of knowing if the children's father had survived the attack.

The boy soon overheard the militants arguing with raised voices. They were deciding what to do with their captives. When one guard mentioned that he

was hesitant about harming the children, the others sneered at him and threatened his life instead.

As the family sat on the floor of the hut, the boy listened to his mother pray for their captors. Near the end of their second day in captivity, her prayers were suddenly answered when a guard secretly came to release the boy and his family. He showed them a path that would lead to a refugee camp and told them to run. The boy's mother knew that, through her prayers, God had changed the other guard's heart. As they fled, she prayed special blessings over the man, asking the Lord to watch over his life.

The boy then heard the militants shouting as they chased them through the jungle for hours. Exhausted from lack of food and water, the family finally stumbled upon the refugee camp, where they were

"The boy heard his mother begin to pray. She continued to pray with him and his siblings as they walked. All the while, he noticed that his mother was at peace despite the terrifying situation."

warmly welcomed with blankets and clothes. Shortly after, the boy and his siblings were reunited with their father, who had fled to the camp in search of his family.

Despite the harrowing escape, the boy noticed that his mother, Kimboti, was full of joy. She had been invited to join a group of Christian refugees who survived similar attacks. As the believers met to pray and learn from God's Word, the Lord helped Kimboti heal from the traumatic experience. The young mother is hopeful that, in time, God will likewise help her children to recover from the attack.

In the meanwhile, she continues to praise the Lord and teach her children about His great love for them. "God has watched over us," she often reminds them. "His love has been demonstrated to us." They are all very grateful for the Lord's loving care and guidance, and also for the fact that He safely reunited them as a family at the refugee camp.

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) Islamic terrorists capturing women and children.
- b) God's faithfulness during a horrifying incident.

2. Why did one of their captors choose to let them go?

- a) God told the guard to release them.
- b) The militant's heart was changed, and he had mercy on them.

3. When did Kimboti's children stop being afraid?

- a) When they escaped.
- b) They haven't yet, for the children are still coping with the traumatic ordeal.

"Which Way?" Teaching Tips: Learn about words

Check out the expanded "Learn About Words" literacy resource to support you and your family's teaching time. More **free** resources are available at our website:

vomcanada.com/TableTalksDRC25

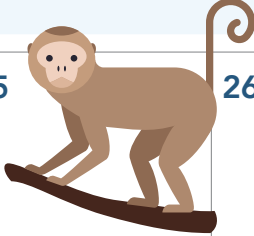
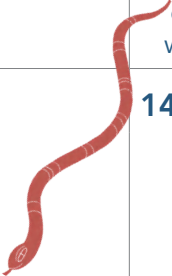
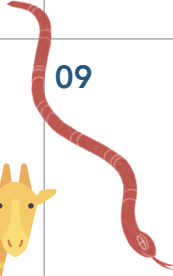
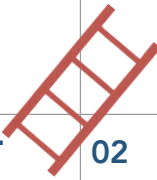
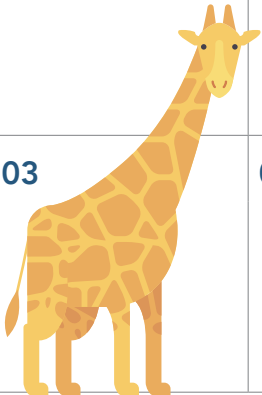
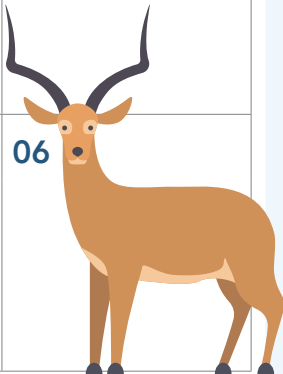


Jungle Journey

Tools Required: Dice

Instructions: Navigate the rainforest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by playing a game of *Snakes and Ladders*. Your journey begins at the “Start” square. Each player takes a turn rolling a pair of dice and moving their character. If you land on a square with a ladder, and then answer the question correctly, move your character up the ladder. However, if you answer incorrectly, you must stay put.

Should you land on a square where there is the tail of a snake, and then answer the question incorrectly, slip down to where the creature’s head is located. On the other hand, a correct answer will keep you safe on the present square. The first person to make it to the “Finish” marker wins! Answers to the questions are listed at the bottom of the page. You may visit our website for printables: vomcanada.com/TableTalksDRC25

25 	26	27	28	29	30 FINISH
24	23 True or False? There are two countries in Africa containing the word “Congo.”	22 	21	20	19 
13 	14	15 True or False? Approximately 85 percent of the DRC’s territory is covered by rainforest.	16	17	18
12	11	10	09 	08 	07
01 START 	02	03 	04	05	06 
True or False? The Congo River is the deepest river in the world.				True or False? The national symbol of the DRC is a bald eagle.	

Weigh In

Weighing the facts about the Democratic Republic of Congo

1.

There is an average of nearly six children per household in the DRC, showing that Congolese citizens tend to have large families.

2.

Only 21.5 percent of the DRC's population has access to electricity. The Congolese have adapted their lifestyles so their dependence on electricity is minimal.

3.

An "internally displaced person" (IDP) refers to an individual who has been forced to leave their home, though they remain within their native country. In the DRC, an estimated 5.5 million people are internally displaced.

4.

Christians in eastern DRC encounter heavy persecution from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) – a dangerous group of Islamic terrorists. The militants' goal is to cause terror in these communities.

Corresponding Question Points:

(1) In your opinion, why do you think the people of this culture value large families? Could it be related to their vocations, cultural heritage or something else? What are the pros and cons of having a large family?

(2) Personal Challenge: Either individually or as a family, try going one full day without the use of electricity. Afterwards, write about your experiences. Did you encounter any unexpected challenges? What were the best and worst parts of the experience? Could you adapt to this challenge for the long term?

(3) Imagine you were quickly forced to move to another province, leaving with only the clothes on your back.

What challenges would you face? Think about how other factors (such as the weather and climate, language, local traditions, food, etc.) would contribute to these challenges. How does this information help you to pray for believers in the DRC who have been forced to flee?

(4) Christians have a choice between letting fear dictate their actions or opting to trust in God when determining their steps. Is it possible to be fearful but still walk by faith? Share some examples from Scripture and your own life experiences to support your answer. Ask God to help you discuss your answer with someone else this week, using it as an opportunity to share your testimony.

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

Syncretic religion is a blending of two or more religious belief systems to create a new one. In the DRC, various occultic tribal practices have been merged with Christianity. Culturally, these traditions are considered normal. Although they are linked to an individual's tribal identity, Biblically, these practices do not line up with Jesus' teaching.

The New Age worldview, which has gained popularity in Canadian culture, is a syncretic element that has influenced a large number of Christians in the West. New Age practices – including the

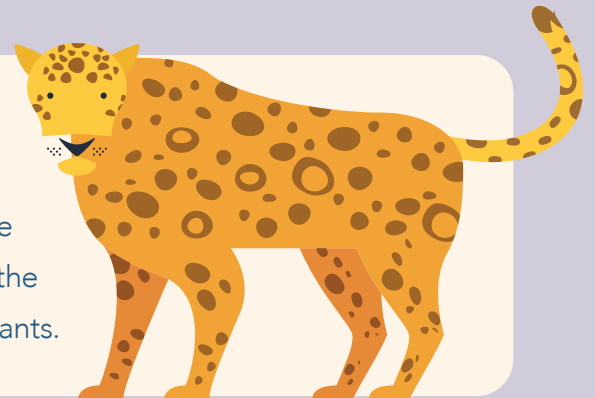
use of astrology, crystal energy, meditation, spirit healing, yoga, and consultations with psychics – are considered forms of witchcraft in the Bible.*

Christians worldwide are commanded to live as the Bible teaches. This includes the avoidance of all harmful occult practices (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). The Apostle Paul gives a strong warning in Galatians 5:19-21 to those who practise the occult. Therefore, we must follow the principles outlined in God's Word when determining how we are to live, rather than follow values that are culturally acceptable.

If one of the above-mentioned practices is causing a feeling of defensiveness to rise up within you, be honest about that feeling. Then consider bravely taking this recommended challenge: Open your computer's browser and enter the words "spiritual origin/roots of _____" (adding the name of the practice you're feeling defensive about). Does this practice represent a Biblical worldview or that of another source?

Fun Facts:

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has the second-largest rainforest in the world. Many special animals live there, like chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, okapi and leopards. Five of the country's national parks are listed as World Heritage Sites. It is the African country with the most diverse species of animals and plants.



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

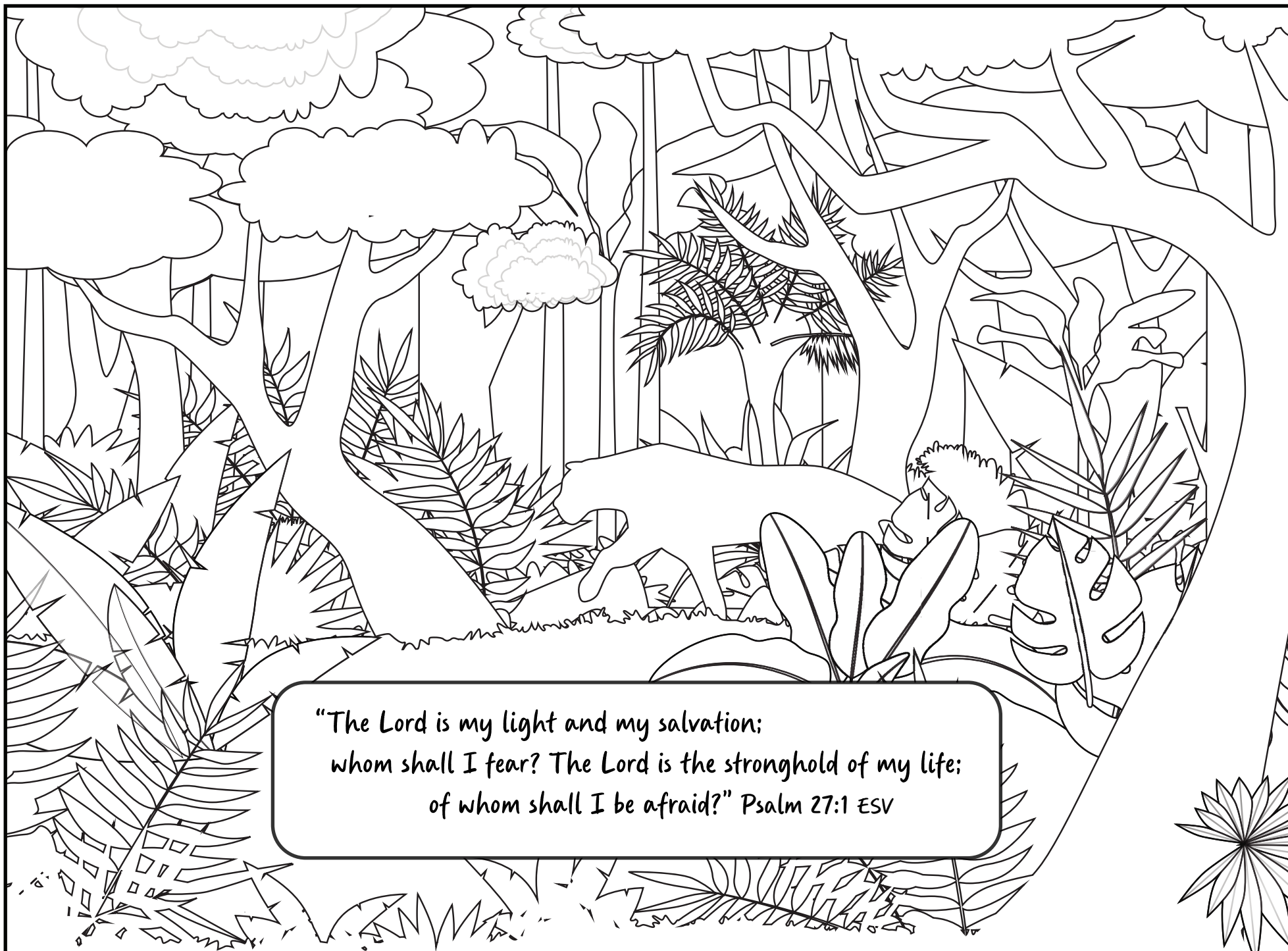
<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/drc/>

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-life/what-does-faith-over-fear-really-mean>

<https://www.equip.org/articles/infiltrated-recognizing-and-responding-to-occultism-in-your-church/>

<https://www.afrodiscovery.com/country/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-religion/religious-diversity-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-exploring-faith-traditions-and-practices/>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo



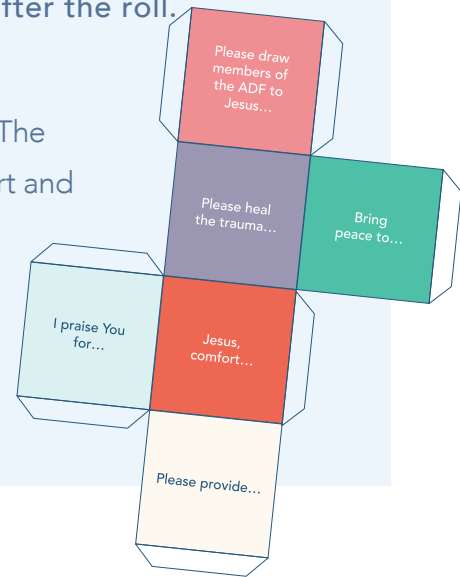
"The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1 ESV



A Way Out

Build a Tuka Pamoja Prayer Cube! For the month of May, use this cube at dinner time. Each person around the table can take a turn by rolling it, and then praying for Congolese Christians according to the suggested wording revealed after the roll.

"Tuka Pamoja" is a phrase used in the DRC that means, "I am with you." One Congolese pastor often uses this phrase to encourage distressed Christians. The pastor's words carry a profound sense of solidarity, suggesting that his support and presence remain with the persecuted Christians even when he is physically distant from them. This concept aligns with the author's words in Hebrews 13:3: "Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies" (NLT).



VOMC'S RECOMMENDED READS

PRETEEN/TEEN BOOKS

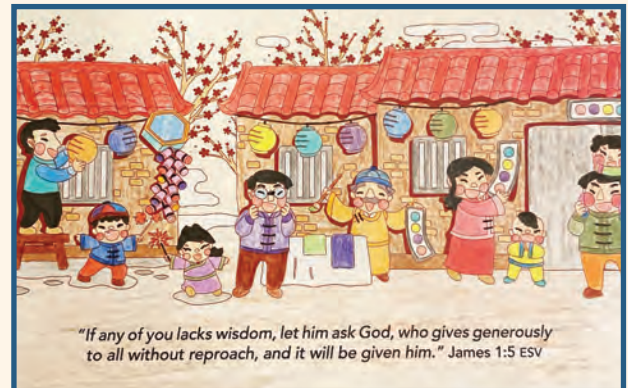


*Around the World:
Energy and Big
Government*

by PragerU
(ages 11-17)



ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Allison McLeod from Winnipeg, Manitoba, is the winner of *Colouring Connection* from the March issue of *Table Talks*. Congratulations and wonderful job! We received many fantastic submissions. Thank you to everyone who submitted their artwork.

BOOKS FOR LITTLE ONES



*Monkey Sunday:
A Story from a
Congolese Village*

by Sanna Stanley
(ages 5-8)

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

vomcanada.com/store





Tuka Pamoja Prayer Cube

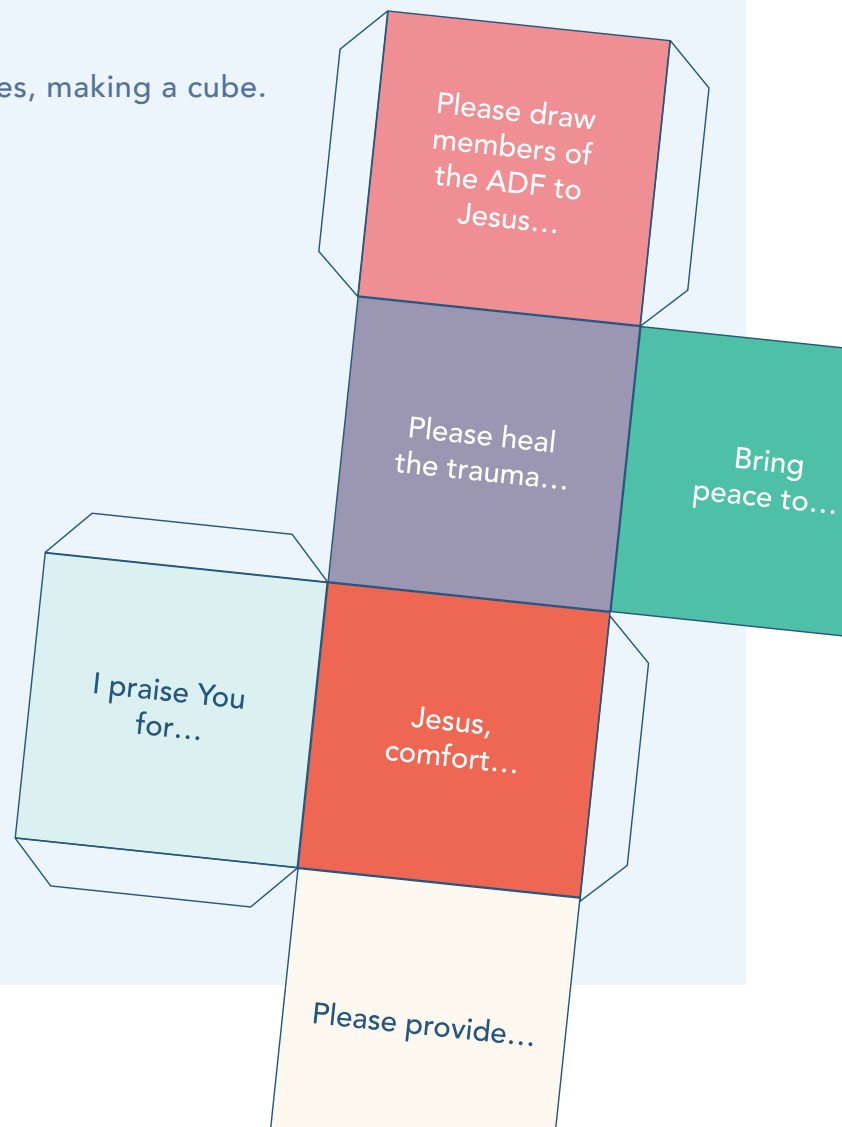
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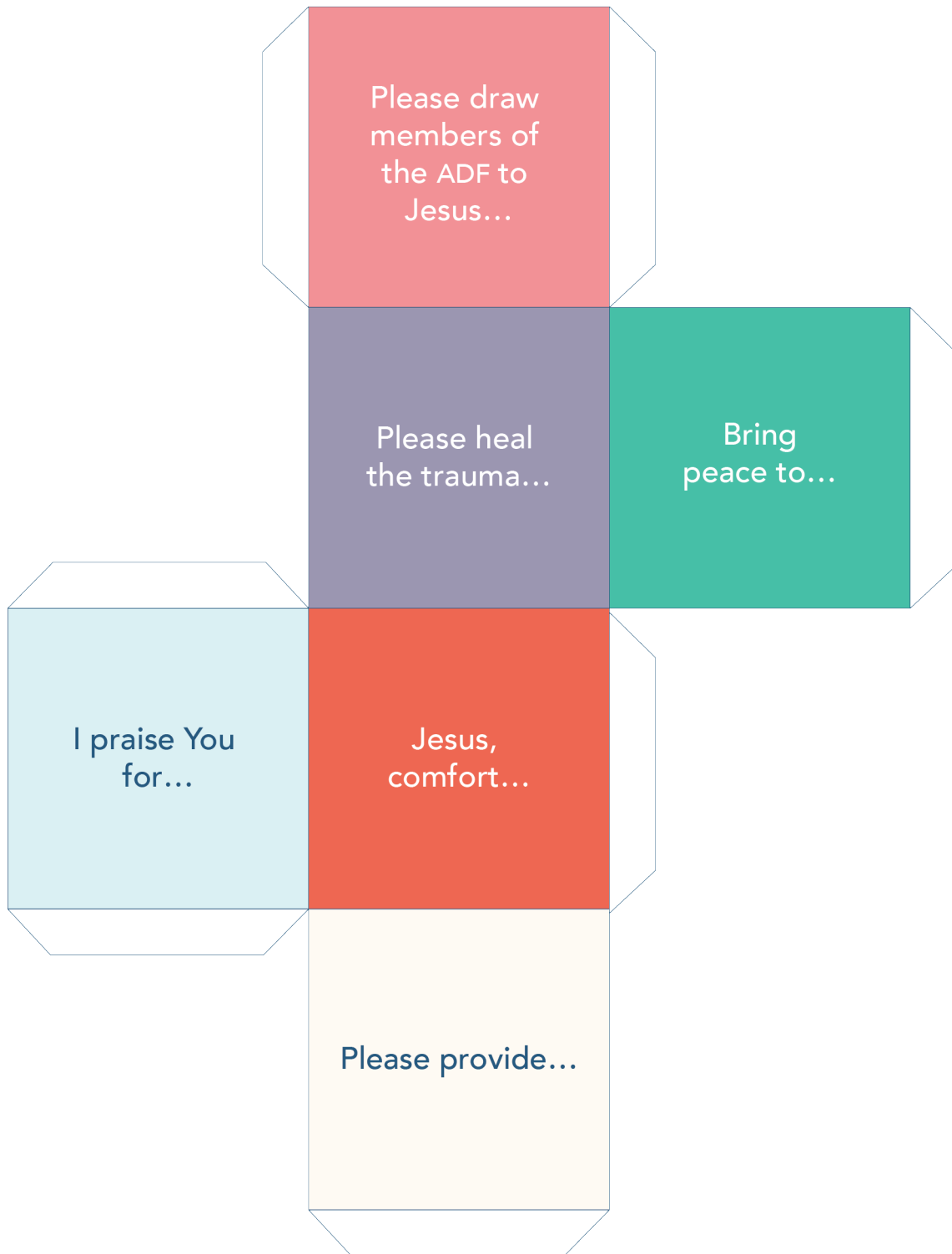
Instructions:

1. Print Tuka Pamoja Prayer Cube Template (colour version or black and white).
2. Cut template out.
3. Fold towards the back, along all lines.
4. Glue or tape tabs to corresponding sides, making a cube.

"Tuka Pamoja" is a phrase used in the DRC that means, *"I am with you."* One Congolese pastor often uses this phrase to encourage distressed Christians. The pastor's words carry a profound sense of solidarity, suggesting that his support and presence remain with the persecuted Christians even when he is physically distant from them. This concept aligns with the author's words in Hebrews 13:3: *"Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies"* (NLT).



Tuka Pamoja Prayer Cube Template



David Livingstone Unit Study

Instructions:

Read the book, *David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer*, by Janet and Geoff Benge, AND/OR read the following article: <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/people/david-livingstone-11630461.html>.

After reading about David Livingstone's life and missionary work in Africa, use what you've learned to fill in the blanks. Finally, answer the discussion questions with one or more people.

Fill-in-the-Blank Activity:

- David Livingstone was a hard worker. He laboured for _____ hours a day (from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.), and then did schoolwork for two hours afterwards.
- His shoulder was mauled by a _____. There is a statue in Scotland portraying the attack.
- As the missionary journeyed through the heart of Africa, he found many fascinating landmarks; most famously was his discovery of _____.
- David Livingstone made _____ extensive expeditions to Africa. In total, he walked over 46,000 kilometres.
- His legacy has inspired tens of thousands of Christians everywhere and influenced hundreds more to become _____.
- Although this man's primary quest was to _____ Africa, he also had a heart to share the Gospel with those he met during his many adventures.
- David Livingstone paved the way for other missionaries. While the number of people he personally led to faith in Christ was not substantial, through his journey of exploration, he opened a route for evangelism – impacting the continent of _____ and other parts of the world.
- Originally from _____, he intended to explore and evangelize Africa. This goal was fine-tuned by God after witnessing something horrendous – the _____. A passion was birthed within the heart of Dr. Livingstone to advocate for effective _____.
- He relentlessly attacked the horrors of _____ and successfully abolished a predominant slave trade hub.
- After he passed away, David Livingstone's _____ was transported back to London, England, but his physical _____ was left and buried in Africa.

Word Bank: Africa, slavery, heart, explore, slave trade, lion, Victoria Falls, body, missionaries, change, three, 14, Scotland.

David Livingstone Unit Study

Discussion Points:

- David Livingstone proved to be a hard worker throughout his early life. Is there a correlation between a diligent, hard-working person and the effectiveness of their labours in building the Kingdom of God? What other qualities or practices are necessary for Christian life and ministry? Explain your answers.
- Consider the locations where David Livingstone's heart and body were buried. How was this arrangement symbolic?
- How did the Christian man's calling and mission change throughout his expeditions in Africa?
- What part of David Livingstone's story had the most impact on you personally? Explain your answer.
- If God can use one man to open a door for missionaries in Africa, what could He do in your life? Do you have any dreams that seem so extravagant that only God could help you accomplish it?

Adjective Cards

Setup Instructions for Teachers:

1. Print the page with the photos of the nouns. Add laminating quality with a cupboard liner (can be found at some dollar stores).
2. Print off the adjective card page, and cut along the dotted lines. (Optional: consider laminating these cards as well.)

Playing Instructions:

Match each adjective card to the noun it describes by circling the correct picture. An "adjective" is a describing word. For example, the adjective "cold" describes the noun "ice cream."



Growing	Tropical	Tasty	Wet
Sticky	Dark	Fast	Tight
Cozy	Young	Bright	Free
Loud	Hurt	Tired	Sharp

Adjective Match-Up

