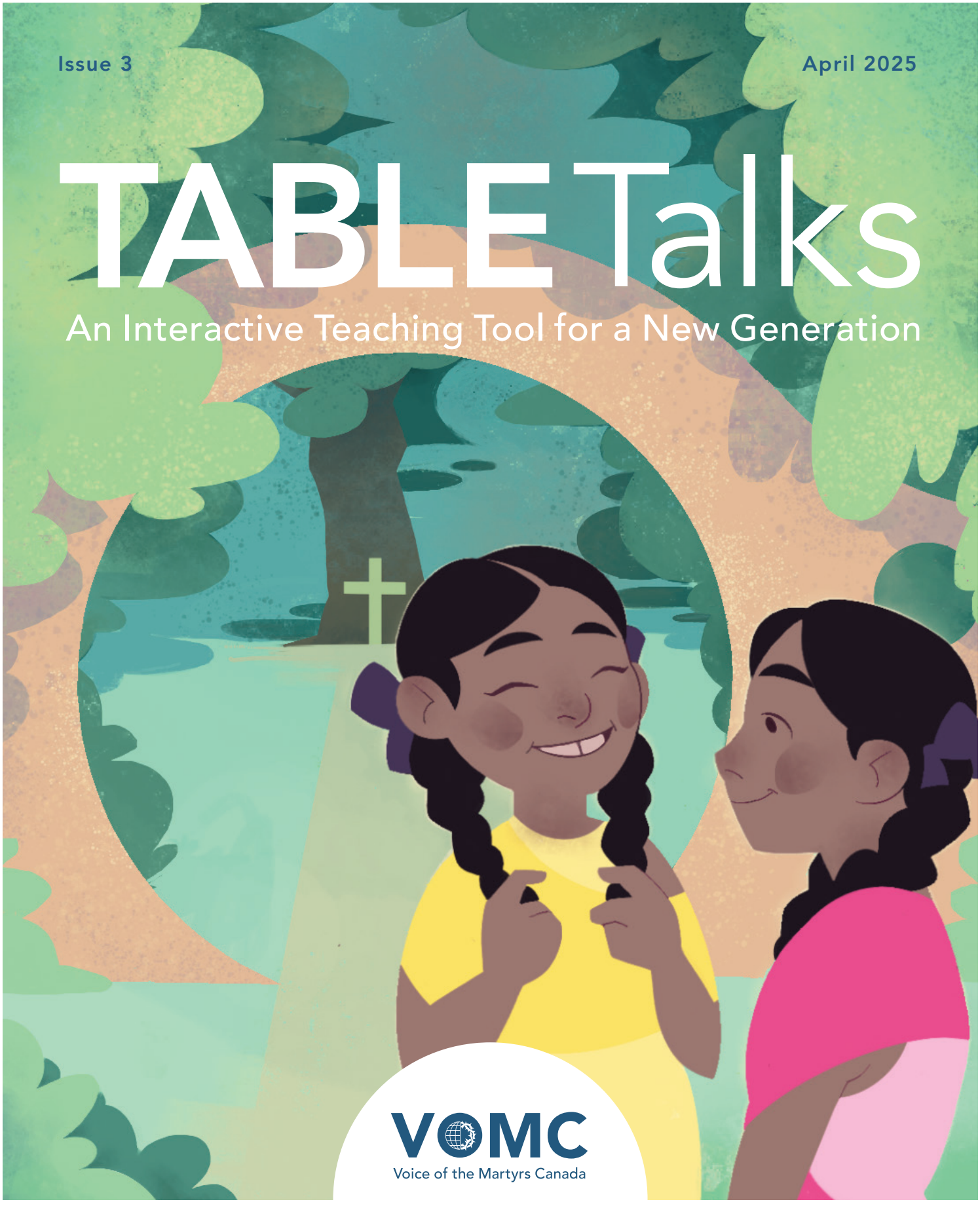
Issue 3

April 2025

TABLE Talks

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation



VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

FOCUS ON INDIA • FAMILIES WEIGH IN • READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Along the Way



This youth version was adapted from "Who Was Amy Carmichael?" – an article originally written by Aaron Garriott.

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It was March 1901. A seven-year-old Indian girl named Preena escaped a Hindu temple where she had been abandoned by her mother and forced to serve as a slave in "devotion to the gods." It wasn't the only time the child fled the temple. After the first incident, Preena had hoped her mother would rescue her. Sadly, her mother rejected her again, and the temple women punished Preena for her desertion.

The second time Preena was on the run, she wandered across a large body of water, arriving in the dark at a church in the village of Pannaivilai. The young girl hoped this church was different than the temple where she had previously been living. Was her mother living close by? Would her mother keep her this time?

The next day, the young girl embraced and kissed her "Amma" (which means "Mother" in Tamil). But Amma wasn't her birth mother. Instead, Preena's new compassionate caregiver was a 34-year-old Irish woman named Amy Carmichael.

By that time, Amy had been serving as a missionary in India for six years. When she left Ireland to do ministry work in India during 1895, she would never see her home country again. But that didn't concern her, for she was determined to proclaim the Gospel to unreached peoples in other parts of the world. Having grown up in a Godly Irish home, Amy loved Christ from an early age and eventually began teaching the Bible to poor girls in Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland. She later became a missionary in Japan and then in India. Her unexpected meeting with Preena years after, however, transformed the way in which she would go about her missionary work.

Due to Preena's difficult situation, Amy learned about the horrific problems hidden within the Indian caste system (involving social ranking classifications) which is based on Hindu religious ideologies and traditions. In turn, the system imposed an insurmountable burden on Amy to snatch as many children as possible from its snares. After all, how could she continue travelling to teach and evangelize when so many children were in danger? Her calling, as she saw it, had fallen into her lap. Amy's love for God, which had always fuelled her evangelistic efforts, was now notably channelled into a singular, prayerful devotion to the rescuing, preserving,

educating and discipling of destitute children, especially those who were dedicated as temple slaves.

With the help of her missionary companions, Amy began housing children at the Dohnavur Fellowship mission (located in southern India), which would become the hallmark of her expanding missionary work. During the year of 1904, there were more than 30 children in Amy's family at the Dohnavur mission. By 1913, it had grown to house more than 130. Over the next five years, the mission expanded to also include a home for boys. Indeed, only God truly knows exactly how many children were housed, taught and, quite literally, saved from lives of misery.

> "Southern India, in many ways, still bears the mark of Amy and her dedicated work. Hundreds of abandoned babies and mistreated children were rescued from slavery in Hindu temples...."

Southern India, in many ways, still bears the mark of Amy and her dedicated work. Hundreds of abandoned babies and mistreated children were rescued from slavery in Hindu temples. Converts were transformed. Churches were formed. Baptisms were administered. All, in large measure, connected in some degree with Amy's relentless labours. It's clear that this courageous woman of God deeply understood how the love of Christ can help us lead lives of faith and obedience. The example of her own life and ministry encourages us to question: Do we love Christ enough to give up our earthly comforts?

Reading Between the Lines

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

1. What is this story about?

a) Life for young girls in India.

b) Amy Carmichael's story demonstrates how the love of Christ can help us lead lives of faith and obedience.

2. How many countries did Amy reside in?

a) Four

b) Three

3. How did God redefine Amy's vision for her ministry in India?

a) An unexpected need moved her heart and she filled it.

b) She longed to become famous and inspire people around the world.

"Which Way?" Teaching Tips: Learn about words

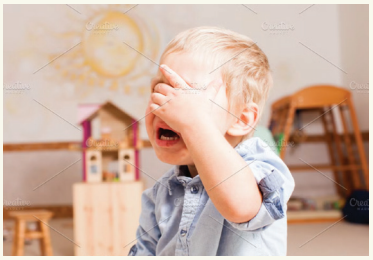
Check out the expanded "Reading between the Lines" literacy resource to support you and your family's teaching time. More **free** resources are available at our website: **vomcanada.com/TableTalksIndia25**

Learn about Words

How Well Did You Understand This Month's *Along the Way* Story?













A. Learn About Words: Draw a line from the word to the matching picture.

Cast

Caste

Taught

Taut

Grown

Groan

B. Look at the words you matched: Write the word that fits each sentence.

CAST or CASTE?

a) Jimmy broke his arm and needed a _____ for six weeks.

b) The _____ system is a social hierarchy in India. Each person is born into a position of societal status which cannot be changed.

TAUGHT or TAUT

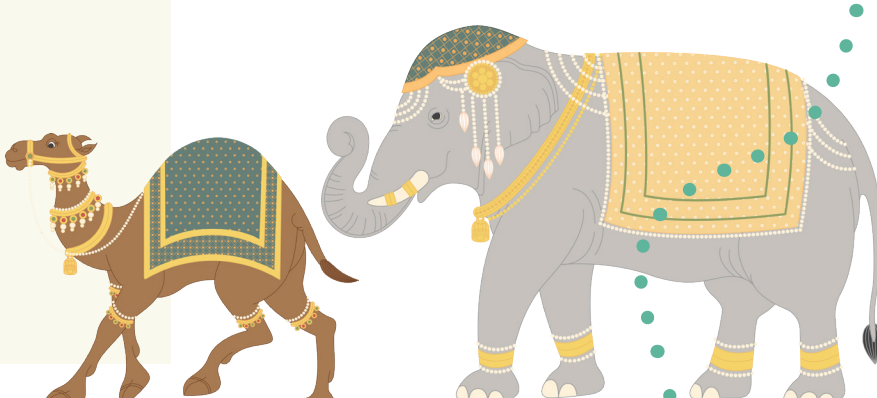
a) The teacher _____ her class algebra during third period.

b) The rope is always kept _____ when tightrope walking.

GROWN or GROAN

a) The plant has _____ by two inches this month.

b) Jimmy made his teacher _____ by talking loudly in class.



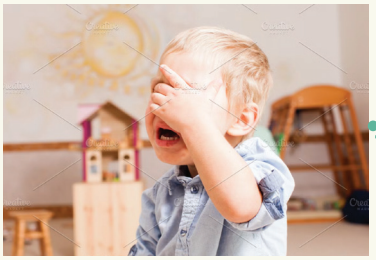
With Answers

Learn about Words

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A. Learn About Words: Draw a line from the word to the matching picture.

- Cast
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- Grown
- Groan

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CAST or CASTE?

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TAUGHT or TAUT

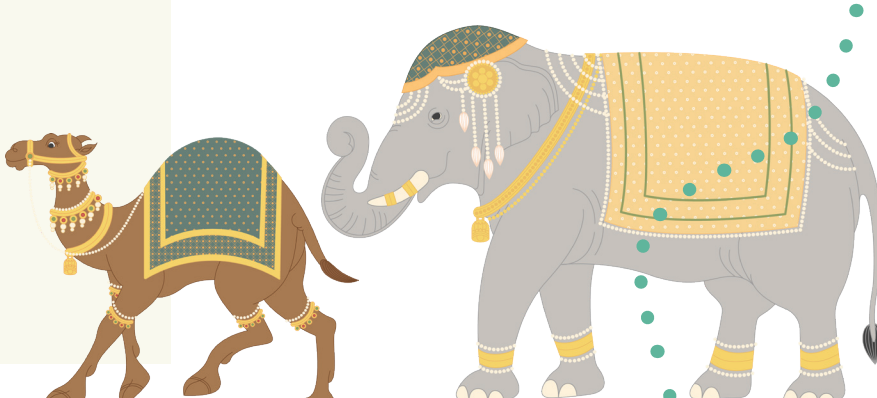
a) The teacher _Taught_ her class algebra during third period.

b) The rope is always kept _Taut_ when tightrope walking.

GROWN or GROAN

a) The plant has _Grown_ by two inches this month.

b) Jimmy made his teacher _Groan_ by talking loudly in class.



Crack the Code: India

Instructions: What's life like for Christians living in India? Find out by filling in the definitions. Match the letters with the numbers, then transfer those letters to the corresponding numbers in the final solution. Be careful with spelling! The first word has already been completed to provide you an example. An answer key and printables are available at: **vomcanada.com/TableTalksIndia25**

Definitions:

S A R I
21 / 9 / 6 / 12
A traditional garment worn by women in India.

16 / 9 / 21 / 15 / 18
A social hierarchy in India that divides people according to their social status and occupations.

3 / 18 / 21 / 15 / 12 / 8 / 9 / 14
A special event or celebration, typically religious in origin.

15 / 9 / 4 **25 / 9 / 26 / 9 / 14**
A world-famous building in India that became a World Heritage Site in 1983.

22 / 18 / 13 / 11 / 9 / 14 **15 / 12 / 11 / 18 / 6**
A striped animal native to India.

26 / 12 / 13 / 24 / 10 / 12 / 21 / 25
A prevalent ancient religion in India that teaches the concepts of reincarnation and "karma."

5 / 1 / 15 / 15 / 18 / 6 / 7
A traditional craft in India that involves clay.

18 / 14 / 18 / 5 / 26 / 9 / 13 / 15
The largest land animal in the world.

11 / 9 / 13 / 11 / 18 / 21 **6 / 12 / 8 / 18 / 6**
The longest river in India.

13 / 18 / 23 **24 / 18 / 14 / 26 / 12**
The capital city of India.

Solution Phrase:

12/13 12/13/24/12/9 15/1 22/18 12/13/24/12/9/13 12/21

21/7/13/1/13/7/25/1/10/21 23/12/15/26 22/18/12/13/11 9 26/12/13/24/10 12/13

15/26/18 18/7/18/21 1/3 25/1/21/15 5/18/1/5/14/18. 15/26/1/21/18 23/26/1

16/26/1/1/21/18 16/26/6/12/21/15/12/9/13/12/15/7 1/8/18/6 26/12/13/24/10/12/21/25

1/3/15/18/13 22/18/16/1/25/18 15/9/6/11/18/15/21 1/3 8/12/1/14/18/13/16/18

9/13/24 26/9/6/9/21/21/25/18/13/15 22/7 6/9/24/12/16/9/14 26/12/13/24/10/21.

With Answers

Crack the Code: India

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Letter Answer Key:

A = 9	B = 22	C = 16	D = 24
E = 18	F = 3	G = 11	H=26
I = 12	J = 4	K = 19	L = 14
M = 25	N = 13	O = 1	P = 5
Q = 20	R = 6	S = 21	T = 15
U = 10	V = 8	W = 23	X = 17
Y = 7	Z = 2		

Definitions:

S A R I
21 / 9 / 6 / 12

A traditional garment worn by women in India.

C A S T E
16 / 9 / 21 / 15 / 18

A social hierarchy in India that divides people according to their social status and occupations.

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T A J M A H A L
15 / 9 / 4 25 / 9 / 26 / 9 / 14

A world-famous building in India that became a World Heritage Site in 1983.

B E N G A L T I G E R
22 / 18 / 13 / 11 / 9 / 14 15 / 12 / 11 / 18 / 6

A striped animal native to India.

H I N D U I S M
26 / 12 / 13 / 24 / 10 / 12 / 21 / 25

A prevalent ancient religion in India that teaches the concepts of reincarnation and "karma."

P O T T E R Y
5 / 1 / 15 / 15 / 18 / 6 / 7

A traditional craft in India that involves clay.

E L E P H A N T
18 / 14 / 18 / 5 / 26 / 9 / 13 / 15

The largest land animal in the world.

G A N G E S R I V E R
11 / 9 / 13 / 11 / 18 / 21 6 / 12 / 8 / 18 / 6

The longest river in India.

N E W D E L H I
13 / 18 / 23 24 / 18 / 14 / 26 / 12

The capital city of India.

Solution Phrase:

I N I N D I A T O B E I N D I A N I S
12/13 12/13/24/12/9 15/1 22/18 12/13/24/12/9/13 12/21

S Y N O N Y M O U S W I T H B E I N G A H I N D U I N
21/7/13/1/13/7/25/1/10/21 23/12/15/26 22/18/12/13/11 9 26/12/13/24/10 12/13

T H E E Y E S O F M O S T P E O P L E . T H O S E W H O
15/26/18 18/7/18/21 1/3 25/1/21/15 5/18/1/5/14/18 15/26/1/21/18 23/26/1

C H O O S E C H R I S T I A N I T Y O V E R H I N D U I S M
16/26/1/1/21/18 16/26/6/12/21/15/12/9/13/12/15/7 1/8/18/6 26/12/13/24/10/12/21/25

O F T E N B E C O M E T A R G E T S O F V I O L E N C E
1/3/15/18/13 22/18/16/1/25/18 15/9/6/11/18/15/21 1/3 8/12/1/14/18/13/16/18

A N D H A R A S S M E N T B Y R A D I C A L H I N D U S .
9/13/24 26/9/6/9/21/21/25/18/13/15 22/7 6/9/24/12/16/9/14 26/12/13/24/10/21

Weigh In

Weighing the facts about India

1. **The Taj Mahal, a world-famous structure in India that is over 370 years old, has been visited by more than five million people annually.**

2. **Pottery is the art and craft of shaping clay with a special wheel to create beautiful ceramics. India is known for its intricate designs.**

3. **In India, it is common for Hindu nationalist groups to have informants in nearly every community. These informants eagerly report the activities of their Christian neighbours.**

4. **Christians account for only five percent of India's population. The other 95 percent consists mostly of Hindus who strongly oppose the presence of Christianity.**

Corresponding Question Points:

(1) What's your opinion? Why do people travel from across the globe to visit the Taj Mahal and other significant landmarks around the world? Is it merely to look at beautiful structures, or are there other reasons?

(2) In pottery, each lump of clay is formed based on what the potter envisions and shapes. No two pieces will be identical. Read Romans 9 and compare God's creation of humanity to a potter's creation of their masterpiece.

(3) Hindu extremists often attack Christians during the Christmas and Easter seasons in order to convince followers of Jesus to return to Hinduism. Do violent attacks ever fully convince someone to adopt the same beliefs as their attackers? How does Christ teach us to make disciples?

(4) If you were in a situation similar to that of persecuted Indian believers, how would you change your Christian witness to protect yourself from being reported and potentially targeted for violence? Would you change anything? Explain your answer.

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

If you are a Christian, must you believe that the concepts of all other religions are completely wrong? No, since there tends to be a hint of truth in most fallacies. The challenge is recognizing those lies when you hear them. **By comparing Christianity to other religions, we can break down human beliefs into categories to provide a clear understanding of different worldviews.**

The first major division separating humanity stems from those who believe in some kind of deity (a god)...

...and those who do not believe in a deity.

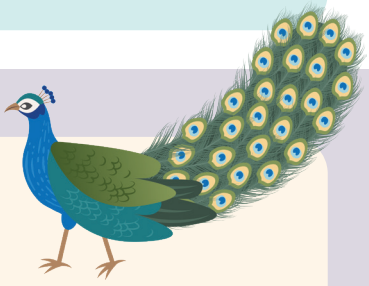
When it comes to deity, Christians are in line with the majority of the world's population, including those who adhere to Hinduism, the predominant religion of India. However, Hindus not only believe that there is some sort of divine being, but that there are *many* gods – 330 million, to be precise. **The next category further divides humanity, based on who we worship.**

Group #1: Individuals belonging to the first group (including Hindus) believe that all gods are outside of "good" and "evil." They do not see these two concepts as objective truths, but rather perceptions that are dependant on people's perspectives.

Group #2: The other belief system, which is upheld by Christians, acknowledges that God is absolutely good and righteous. He is, as C.S. Lewis writes, "a God who takes sides, who loves love and hates hatred, who wants us to behave in one way and not in another."[1]

Fun Facts:

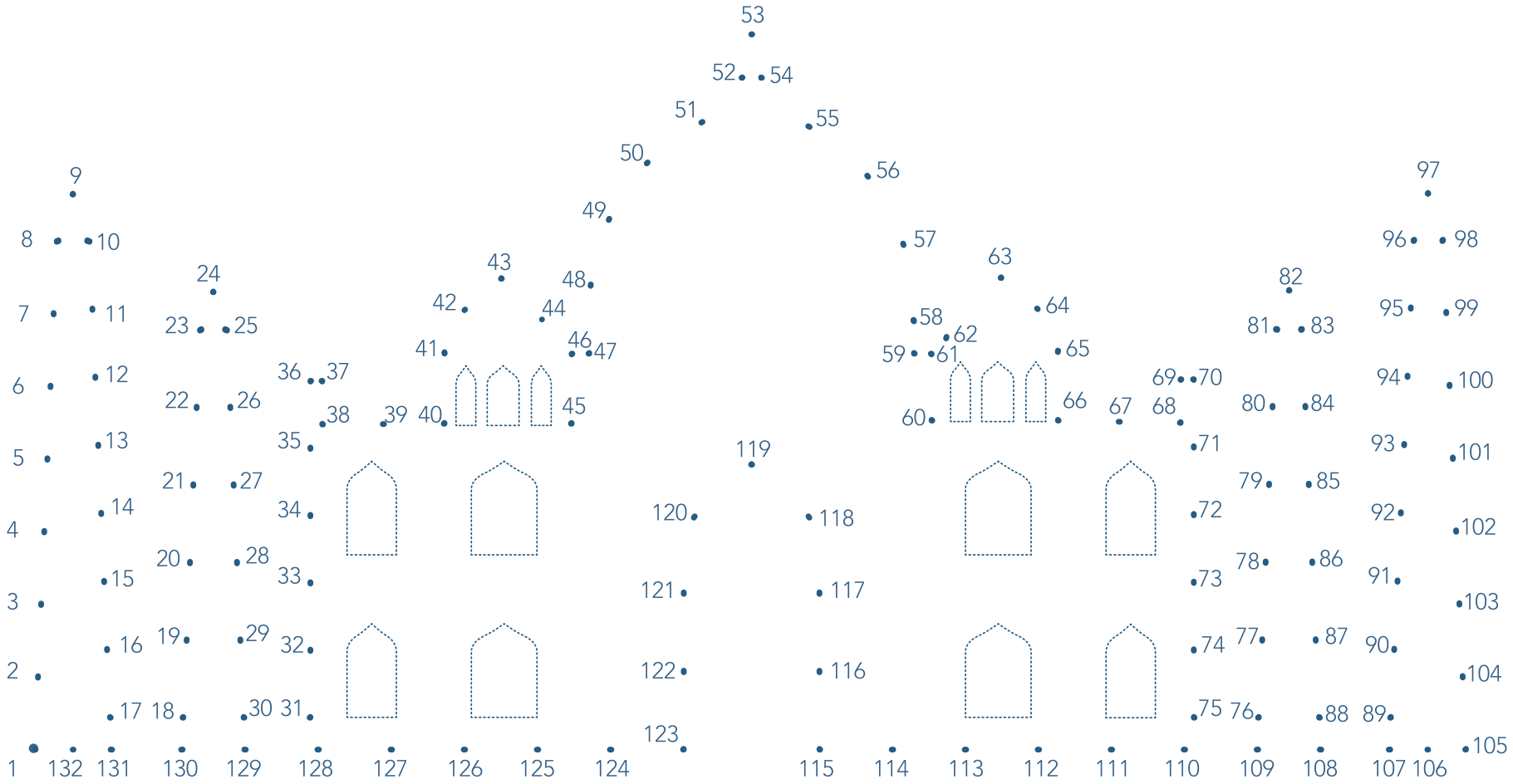
The Indian peacock was named India's National Bird in 1963. It is a colourful bird, about the size of a swan, with a fan-shaped crest of feathers on its head, a white patch under each of its eyes, and a long thin neck.



Endnote: [1] C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Barbour and Company, Inc., 1952, p. 32.

Connect the Dots

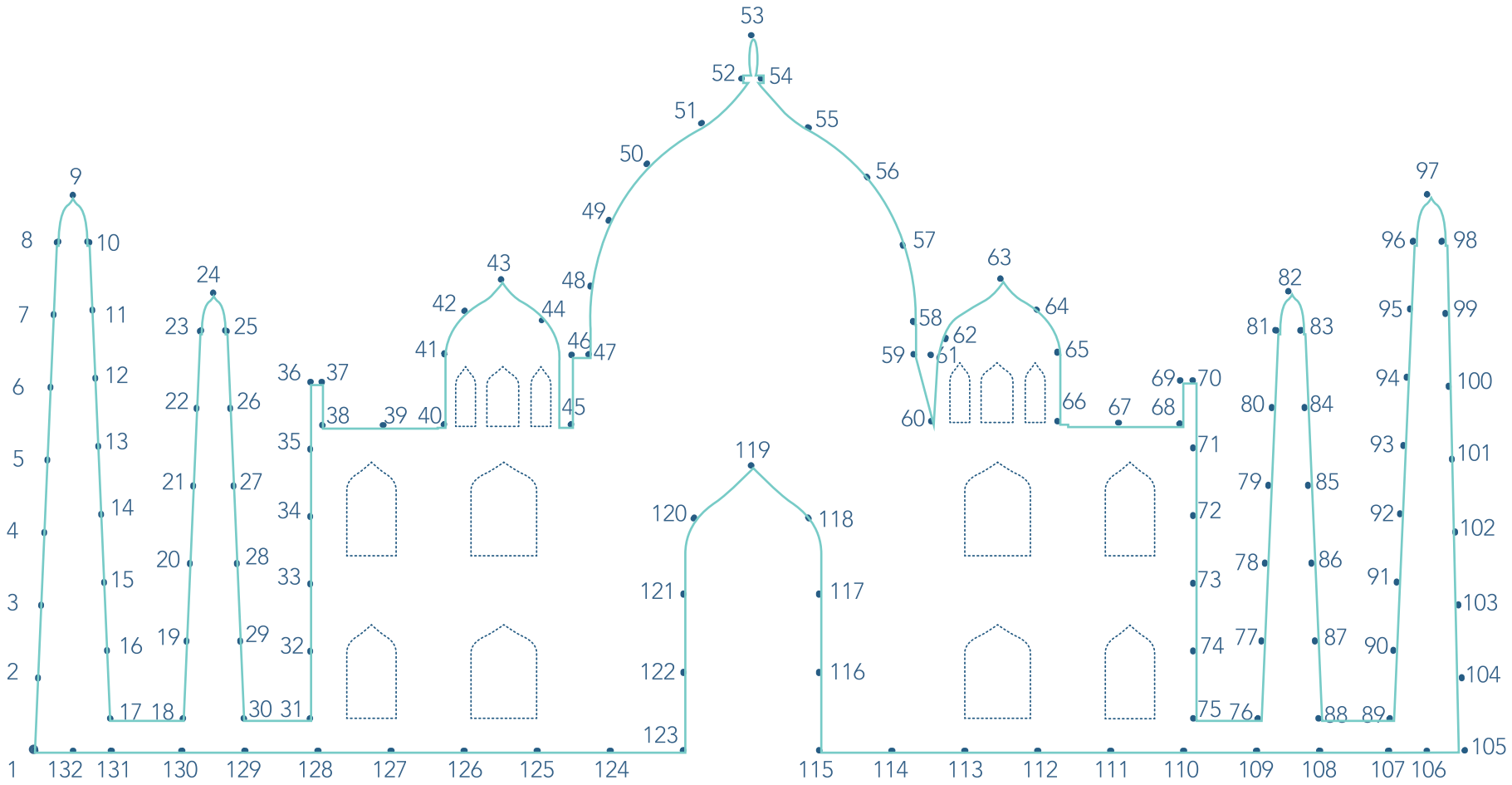
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Connect the Dots

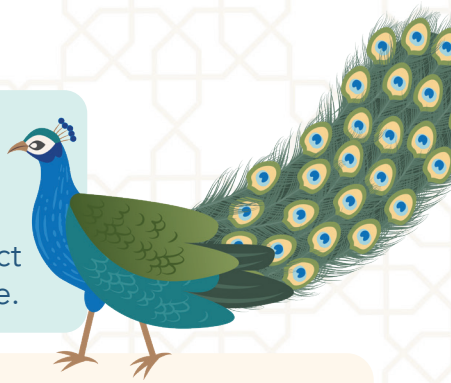
With Answers

Complete to reveal the image! To connect the dots, use a pencil to draw a line from one dot to the next, following the numbers in order, making sure your lines are straight and clear.



Thomas' Journey

Instructions:
Plot Thomas' journey from Jerusalem to India by following the story. Connect the route with a dotted line.

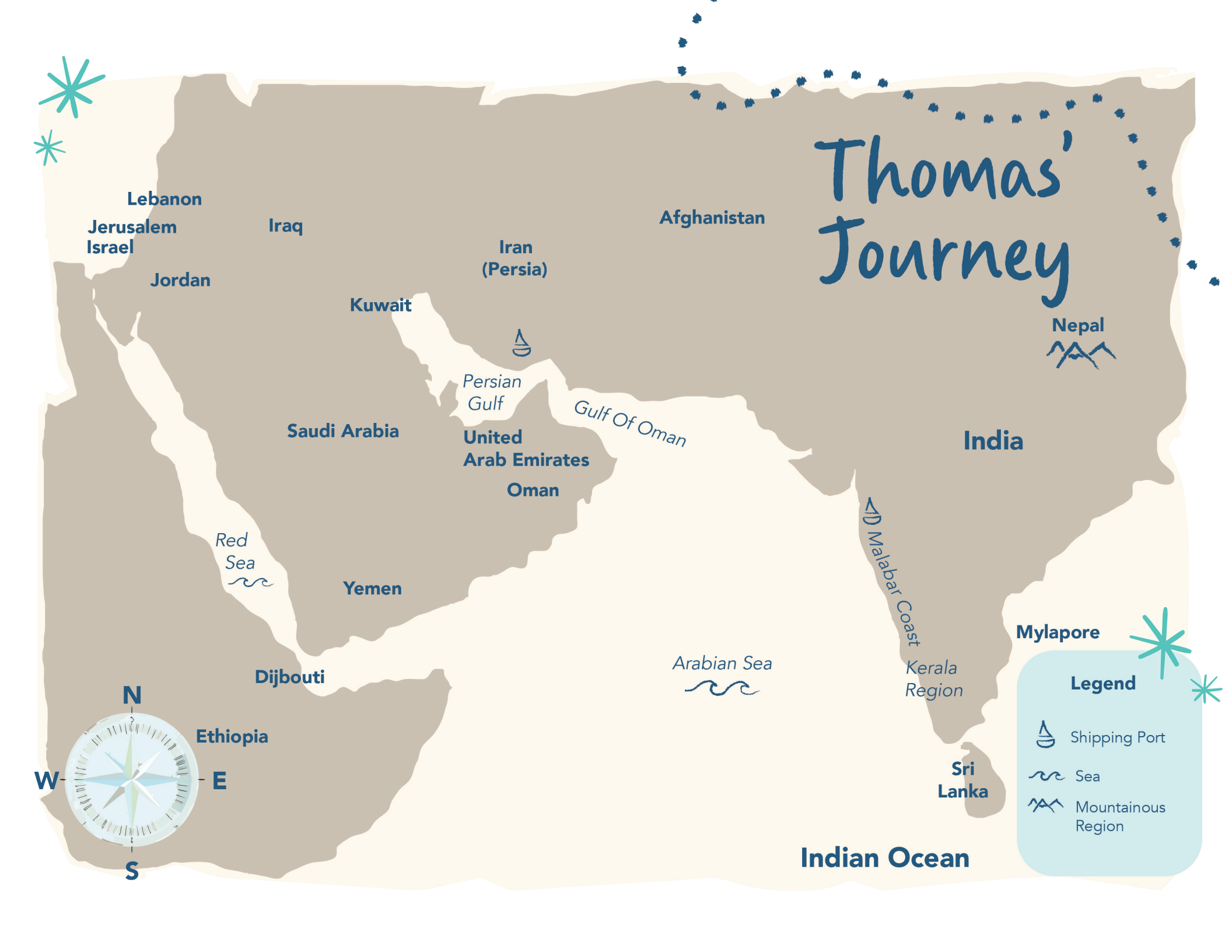


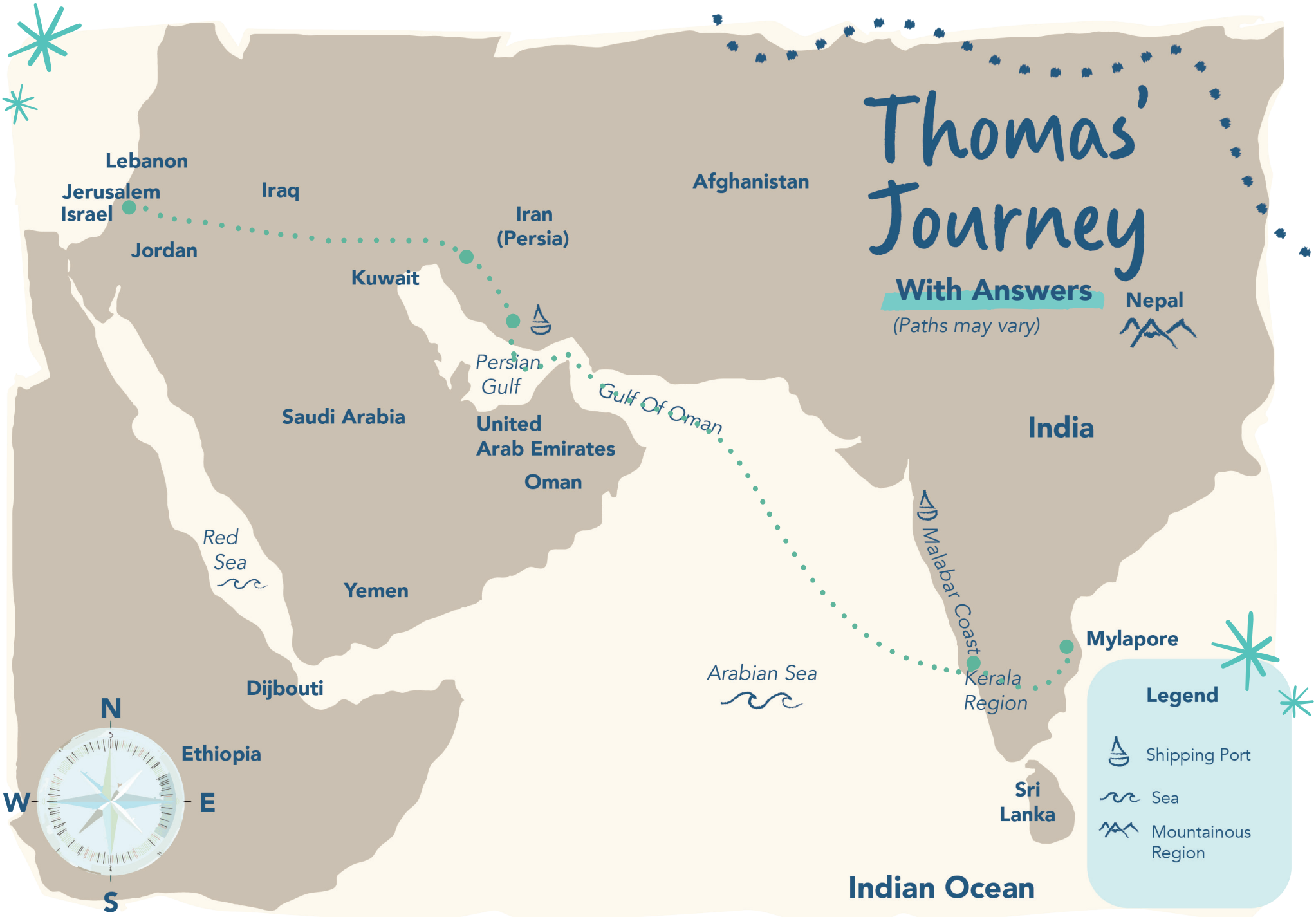
Directions and History

- Thomas was one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. Around AD 50 to 52, Thomas took a journey that would change the people of India forever.
- He started in **Jerusalem**, the home of the Jewish people. As Thomas was a Jew, he would have left the familiarity of his culture to share the Gospel with people who had never heard it before.
- From Jerusalem, he travelled to **Persia**, which is present-day Iran. In the first century, most people walked or had animals for travelling.
- Thomas' journey continued by boat from a port along the **Persian Gulf** in southwest Persia. He sailed through the Gulf and entered the Indian Ocean. From there, he landed in western India along the **Malabar Coast**. The Malabar Coast was a world-renowned hub for the spice trade, and even today this remains true.
- Along the Malabar Coast, in the Kerala region, Thomas evangelized and established seven churches. As many of these churches continue to stand today, the communities still experience the effects of this disciple's faithfulness.
- Thomas continued his way eastward, spreading the Good News wherever he went.
- Culturally, most people in India were Hindus. People were worshipping many gods and goddesses. The idea of monotheism – meaning worshipping one God – was foreign to these people.
- Thomas arrived in **Mylapore**, which lies on the east coast of India. While there, He confronted Hindu priests who had been performing a ritual. Thomas challenged the priests and vividly showed God's power to them. However, in their anger, the priests speared Thomas to death for his message.
- In present-day Mylapore, there is a monument to honour Thomas' legacy of faith. Many believers in India today credit their faith to Thomas' missionary work.

Discussion Points:

1. How long do you think it took Thomas to arrive in India from the day he left Jerusalem?
2. With Hindus believing in many gods, and Jews believing in one, there was a potential roadblock for Thomas as he shared the Good News. In your opinion, would Thomas need to change his strategy of evangelism for Hindus? What areas of Scripture would he need to explain first?
3. Thomas took a difficult journey to a foreign land to preach the Good News of Christ to the people of India. Little did this disciple know that he would never return home, as he was martyred for his message. If Thomas had known his life would end in India, do you think he still would have decided to go?

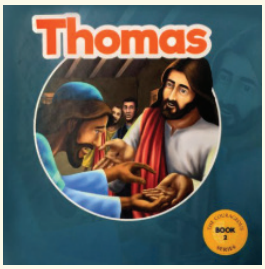

Thomas' Journey
Lebanon
Jerusalem
Israel
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Iran
(Persia)
Afghanistan
Nepal
Persian
Gulf
Gulf Of Oman
Saudi Arabia
United
Arab Emirates
Oman
India
Red
Sea
Yemen
Malabar Coast
Mylapore
Arabian Sea
Kerala
Region
Dijbouti
Ethiopia
N
W
E
S
Sri
Lanka
Indian Ocean
Legend
Shipping Port
Sea
Mountainous
Region


Thomas' Journey
With Answers
(Paths may vary)
Lebanon
Jerusalem
Israel
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Iran
(Persia)
Afghanistan
Nepal
Persian
Gulf
Gulf Of Oman
Saudi Arabia
United
Arab Emirates
Oman
India
Red
Sea
Yemen
Malabar Coast
Mylapore
Arabian Sea
Kerala
Region
Dijbouti
Ethiopia
Sri
Lanka
Indian Ocean
N
W
E
S
Legend
Shipping Port
Sea
Mountainous
Region

VOMC'S RECOMMENDED READS



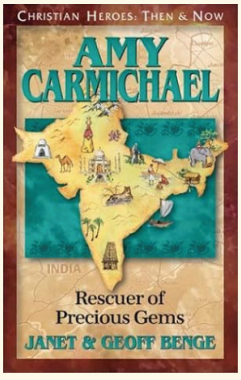
KIDS' BOOKS



Thomas: God's Courageous Missionary

by Voice of the Martyrs
(ages 6-12)

Jesus' disciple Thomas rightly earned the title "Doubting Thomas" by refusing to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. He told the disciples, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, I will not believe." Soon after, Jesus appeared to Thomas, shattering his unbelief. Thomas became so convinced of the resurrection of Jesus Christ that he took the Gospel to India, where it is believed that he died as a martyr at the hands of Hindu priests. Children will be inspired by his courage to take the Gospel to a strange land where his legacy of faith lives on today.



Amy Carmichael: Rescuer of Precious Gems*

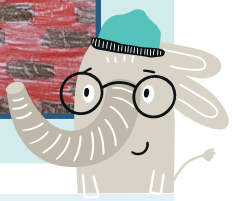
by Janet & Geoff Benge
(ages 8+)

Amy Carmichael stood on the deck of the steamer, waving goodbye once again to her old friend Robert Wilson. How could she have known she would never see him or the British Isles again? Amy was certain God had called her to India. Indeed, India would be her home for the rest of her life – one of simple obedience to God, regardless of the consequences. Driven by love, sustained by faith and determination, this woman from Northern Ireland defied the barriers of India's caste system.

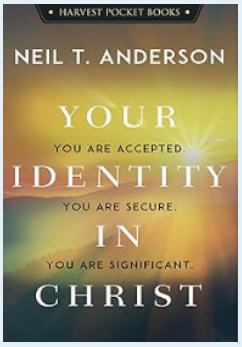
ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Rylee (age 6) is the Colouring Connection winner from the February issue of *Table Talks*. Congratulations and wonderful job! We received many fantastic submissions. Thank you to everyone who submitted their artwork.





TEEN BOOK



Your Identity in Christ*

by Neil T. Anderson
(teens & young adults)

Knowing your identity in Christ will lead you to reject the enemy's lies in your mind and reclaim God's truths, so you can become the person the Lord made you to be. Walk in freedom and peace as you embrace the inspiring Biblical truths about who you are as a follower of Jesus.

**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