

Along *the Way*

Adra lived with her parents and two younger siblings in Iraq, until one day, a dangerous group known as ISIS invaded the region, forcing her family to leave everything behind and flee to Lebanon. They found a small apartment to live in, which was infested with insects and rats. Eventually, the family moved to a better apartment, but after a few months, they were evicted by the local government and forced to leave by nightfall.

"I want to give people hope despite my challenges and difficulties."

In 2019, VOMC interviewed Adra and her family to capture their story. The ministry was also able to help the displaced believers with their housing so they could find a suitable place to live. The following story is from Adra's interview with VOMC.

When Adra lived in Iraq, she always felt lonely. "My family and I had a place to live, and I used to think I was happy," she reflects. But deep down, Adra knew something was missing. She longed to feel loved, accepted, and like she truly belonged.

After travelling to Lebanon, Adra attended a Christian youth camp in 2015. It was there that she met Jesus for the first time. "The Lord kept telling me that I am loved and accepted. That day, I was transformed," she says.



To view Adra's inspiring video interview with VOMC, visit: www.vomcanada.com/video/adra or scan the QR code.

After the camp ended, Adra's family had to move into a tiny, cramped apartment. Rather than complaining to her parents about their uncomfortable living conditions, Adra felt an unexplainable sense of peace. "I saw the difference after I gave my life to Jesus in the camp," she explains. "I was filled with so much joy. I didn't understand where it came from." Although Adra's home in Iraq was much bigger, she recalls that she never felt the kind of joy she now experiences.

As Adra reflects on her circumstances, she realizes that she is exactly where God wants her to be. "This is His plan for me," she shares. Adra believes God is using her to proclaim His Gospel and is happy to be bearing His fruit. She says some of her friends have even turned to faith in Jesus.

Adra's hope for the future is to be a "worshipper of the Lord." She aspires to become a medical doctor and explains that when she experiences difficult circumstances, she asks God for His help to be more like Jesus: "My prayers are, 'Lord, I just want to be more like You. I want to give people hope despite my challenges and difficulties. I want to be an example for others to walk with Christ.'"

Reading Between the Lines

This activity is designed for early grade-school readers to complete together with a parent or caregiver.

1. Fill in the Sound

- a. Adra met ____esus.
- b. Adra felt ____oy.

Say the sound: "Juh!" What letter makes that sound? Write this letter in the blanks above!

2. Rhyme Time

- a. Say the word: "camp."

Can you find the rhyming words?

lamp
cat
stamp

- b. Now try: "run."

sun
fun
bed

Discussion Questions

Use these discussion prompts to spark meaningful family conversations.

1. How does Adra's story encourage you to find joy when things are difficult?

2. Think of the people God has placed in your life right now. How can you show Jesus' love to them?