

Issue 9

October 2025

# TABLETalks

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation



**VOMC**  
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

ALONG THE WAY • HIDDEN IN THE HUES • RELIGIOUS COMPARISON

# 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](http://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

- Adra met \_\_\_\_esus.
- Adra felt \_\_\_\_oy.

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

### 2. Rhyme Time

- Say the word: "camp."

Can you find the rhyming words?

lamp  
cat  
stamp

- 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?**

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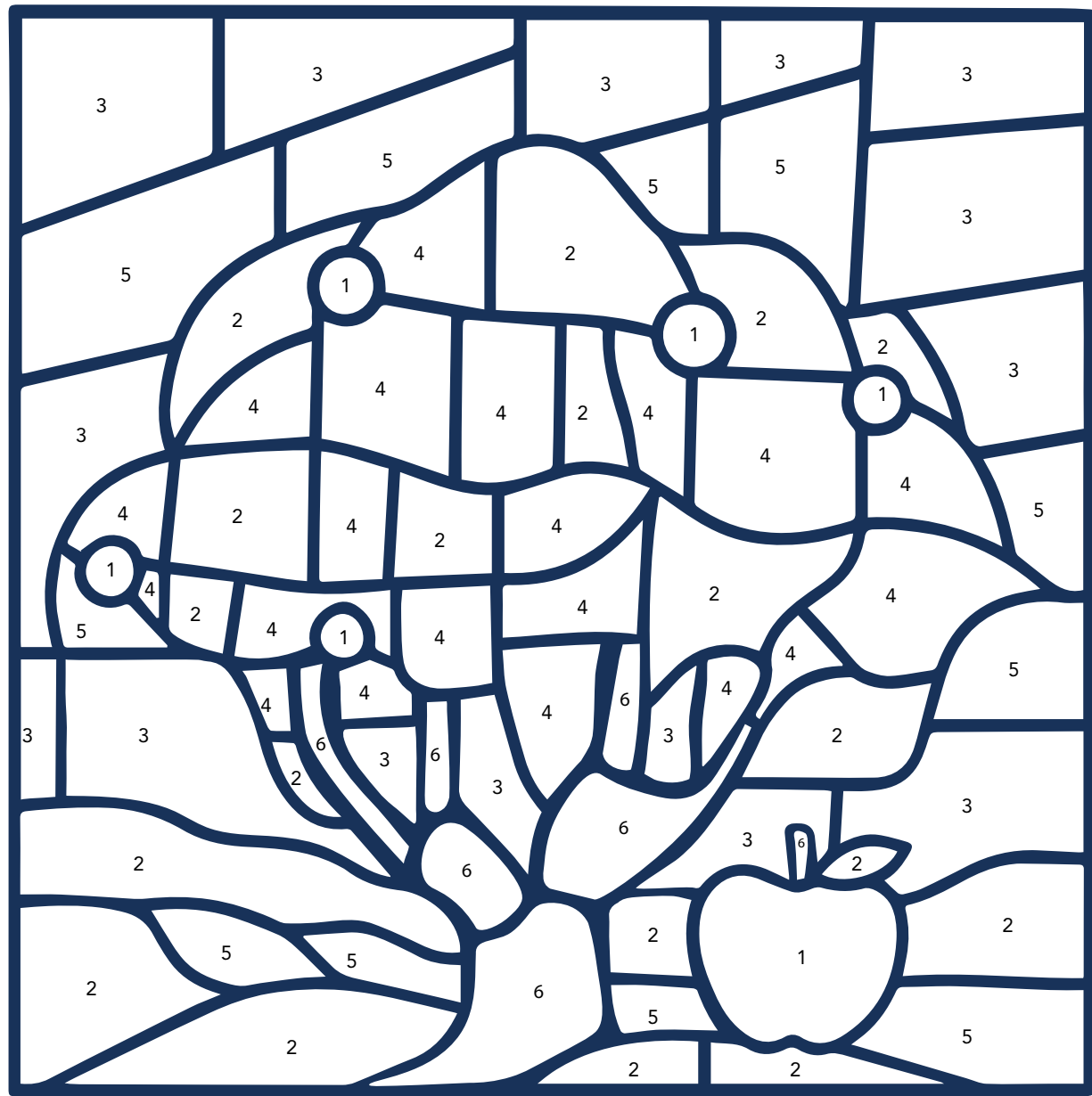
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# Hidden in the Hues



1 = RED



3 = LIGHT BLUE



5 = DARK BLUE



2 = DARK GREEN



4 = LIGHT GREEN



6 = BROWN

## Instructions

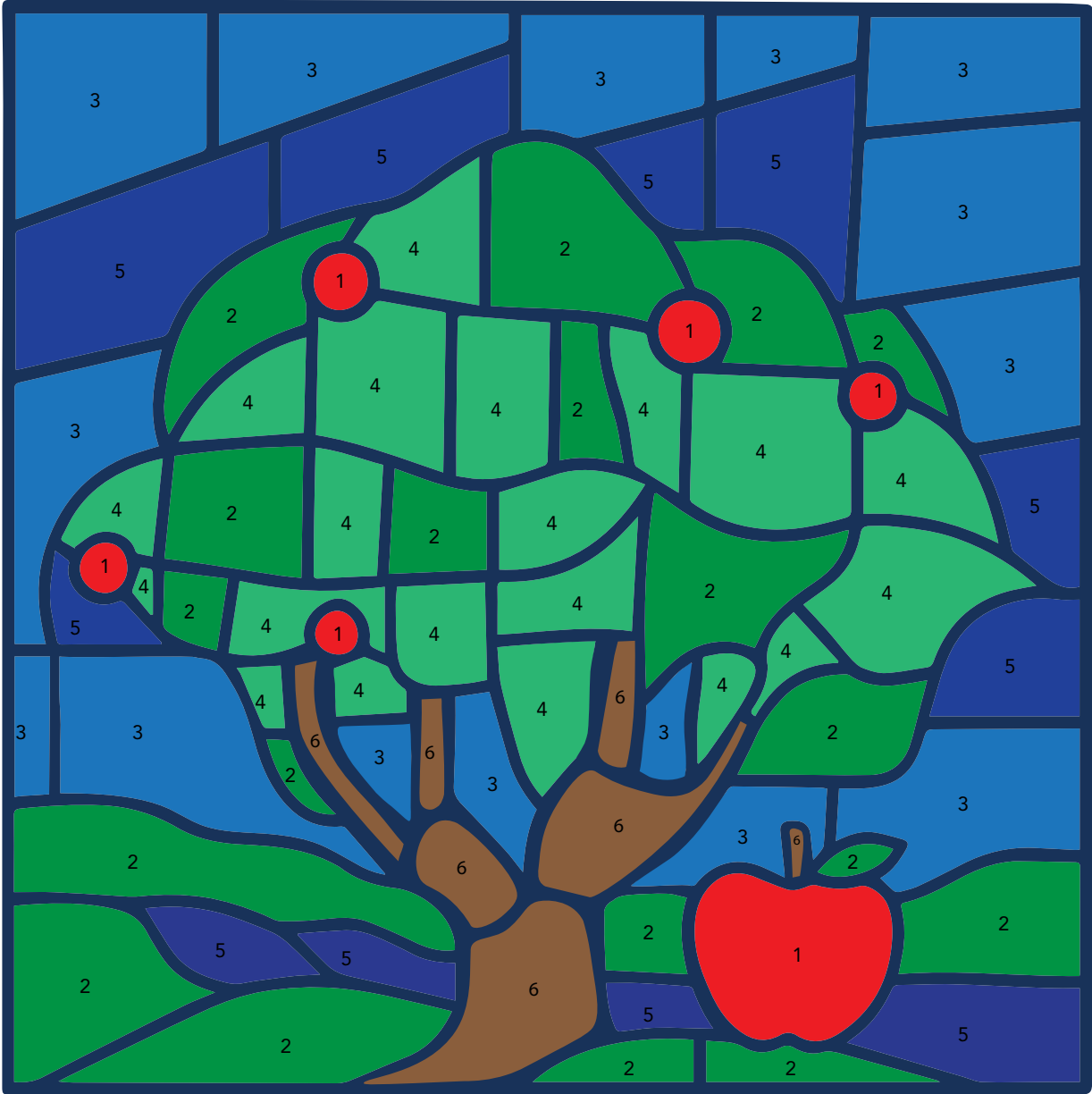
Fill in each numbered section with its corresponding colour to reveal the Biblical account hidden in the picture. Visit [vomcanada.com/TableTalksIraq25](http://vomcanada.com/TableTalksIraq25) for the answer key and printable resources.

## Bonus Questions

Which Biblical narrative does the picture portray?\_\_\_\_\_

Which book of the Bible contains this true story?\_\_\_\_\_

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## Bonus Questions

Which Biblical narrative does the picture portray? The Garden of Eden  
Which book of the Bible contains this true story? Genesis

# Weigh In

Weighing the facts  
about Iraq

1.

Iraq lies in an ancient region known as “the Cradle of Civilization” – the area where human societies originally began – and is the projected location of the Garden of Eden.

2.

Iraq’s history is marked by repeated wars, causing deep instability, fear and hardship for its people across generations.

3.

Islam is Iraq’s official religion. Christians, who comprise about one percent of the population, have increasingly relocated to northern Iraq due to social and political pressures.

4.

The brutal violence of ISIS in recent years has sparked a spiritual revival in Iraq, leading many to place their hope in Christ.

## Corresponding Question Points:

**(1)** If it’s true that Iraq is the birthplace of civilization, what can this connection between history and the Bible tell us about where humans come from?

**(2)** What are the consequences of war on civilians? How does it impact their daily lives, sense of safety and future? Consider the effects on life, infrastructure and emotional health.

**(3)** How might Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 5:13-16 about being the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world” inspire some believers to remain in challenging environments to share the Gospel, despite the risks? Does this motivate some to stay?

**(4)** In what ways might God use times of intense suffering – such as the violence in Iraq – to draw people closer to Him? Can you see parallels in your own life? Have seasons of hardship ever deepened your relationship with God?

# One Way

## Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

**Shared Roots, Diverging Futures:** Did you know that both Islam and Christianity recognize Adam and Eve as the first humans? Each religion acknowledges God as the Creator and the Garden of Eden as the place where human life was first formed. But beyond these similarities, their theologies diverge significantly, leading to major differences. Follow the paths below to see how.

### CHRISTIANITY

Humanity is **uniquely made in the image of God**, reflecting His moral attributes.



Adam and Eve's **disobedience** in the Garden of Eden **introduced sin** into the world, breaking the perfect relationship between humanity and God.



Because of this fallen nature, humanity stands **in need of redemption** – a Saviour to **restore** the broken relationship with God.



**Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of all humanity, offering the only path to reconciliation with God.**



**True change begins in the heart.**



**Salvation is a gift from God** and assured the moment an individual believes. It's **not earned by works** but received through **faith** when a person **accepts Jesus** as Lord and Saviour of their life.



**Through salvation, humanity is restored to its original relationship with God – redeemed as sons and daughters, and made coheirs with Christ.**

### ISLAM

**Humans are not made in the image of God**; however, they are endowed by God with knowledge, will and the power to act. God doesn't share His attributes with anyone.



Adam and Eve made **a mistake** in the Garden of Eden. However, they were **quickly forgiven**, demonstrating God's mercy.



Their choice revealed that human beings have the **capacity to disobey God**. From that point on, every person is **expected to avoid rebellion** and strive to live in **obedience to God**.



**Every person is born in a natural state of submission to God.** Life becomes **a journey of striving** to remain in submission by **perfectly** following God's rules.



**Submission is yielding actions, not a transformed heart.**



**No one knows if their actions are enough** until Judgement Day.



**On Judgement Day, those whose good deeds outweigh the bad enter Paradise, where they serve God with gratitude in a slave/master relationship.**

#### Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/iraq/>  
<https://www.factretriever.com/iraq-facts>

<https://vomcanada.com/iraq.htm>

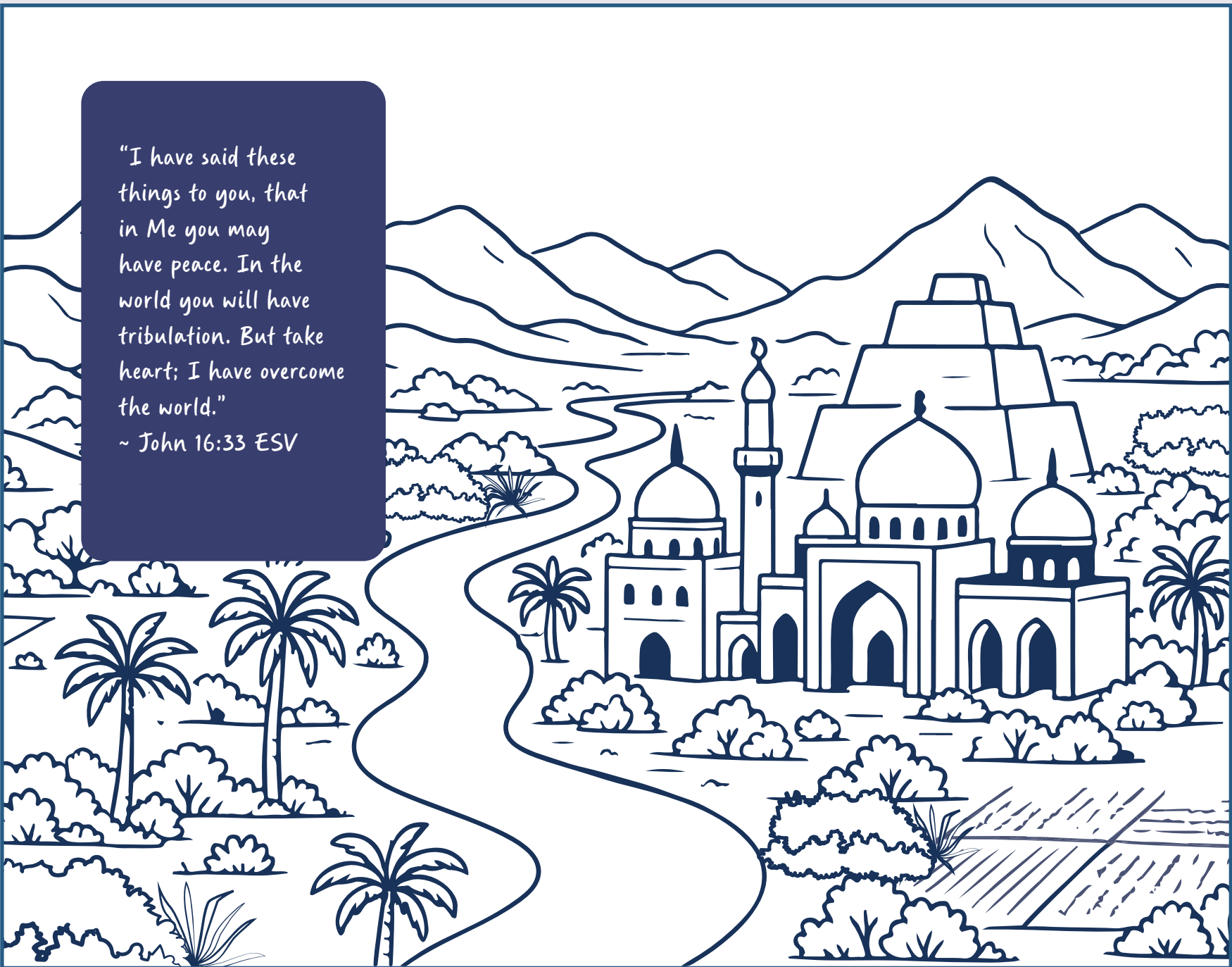
*Understanding the Times – A Survey of Competing Worldviews* by Dr. Jeff Myers and Dr. David A. Noebel.

# Colouring Connection!

COLOURING CONNECTION

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

~ John 16:33 ESV



# A Way Out

How can I get out of my comfort zone and get involved? Let's help – one leaf at a time!

Join us in collecting fall leaves to support those in need.  
For full details and a printable card to share with your clients, visit: [vomcanada.com/TableTalksPakistan25](http://vomcanada.com/TableTalksPakistan25)



## FEATURED BOOK



*I Wonder...Where Does God Like to Be?\**

by Charlene Ramstead

\*Available at:  
<https://exalthim.ca/author>

Cost: \$10/book

This heartwarming children's story, written in engaging rhyme and brought to life with beautiful illustrations, introduces foundational truths from God's Word to your little wonderer. Come join a child's journey of discovery, learning where God loves to be – you may be surprised because it's closer than you think!

## YOUTH RESOURCES

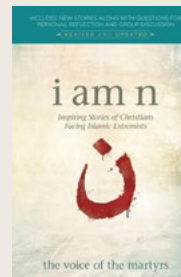


*iBIBLE Storybooks:*  
Volumes 1 & 2  
Plus *Creation Day 5* Puzzle  
(Sold separately)

by RevelationMedia  
(ages 4-7)

Featuring illustrations from the world's first interactive Bible, the *iBIBLE* Storybooks solely reference the text of the Holy Bible for their featured stories. The first and second volumes of this vibrant book series are designed to help children and youth encounter the life-changing Word of God.

## TEEN BOOK



*I am N*

by The Voice of the Martyrs  
(teens & young adults)

In this revised, updated edition, you will meet 52 Christians who were persecuted for their witness in countries where they face opposition from Islamic extremists. Your faith will be deepened as you see how all believers are called to embrace Christ's suffering.

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

[vomcanada.com/store](http://vomcanada.com/store)



# Fall Leaf Fundraiser Instructor's Guide

## 1. Instructions

- Print out as many fundraiser cards as you need.
- Determine whether you will charge a certain amount or allow the client to give as they feel led.
- Coach your children on what to say, and practise with them beforehand.
- Pray with your children before they go out.
- Provide each household with a fundraiser card, making sure that your contact information is clearly printed so they know how to reach you.

## 2. Tips for Success

- Determine ahead of time which houses to approach.
- Make note of any households that may struggle with yard work due to mobility needs.
- Be polite and friendly. Introduce yourself and explain why you're there.
- Invite a few friends or family members to help out; this will make the job faster and more enjoyable.
- Offer to pray with each potential client.

## 3. "Get Your Leaf Pile Published!"

- By October 31st, 2025, please email [tabletalks@vomcanada.org](mailto:tabletalks@vomcanada.org) with the following information:
  - Total amount collected.
  - Number of yards completed.
  - A photo of the largest leaf pile you created.
  - Age and name.
- The participant who collects the most donations will have a photo of their leaf pile published in a future issue of Table Talks, along with the total amount of funds collected, their name, and the number of yards they completed.

