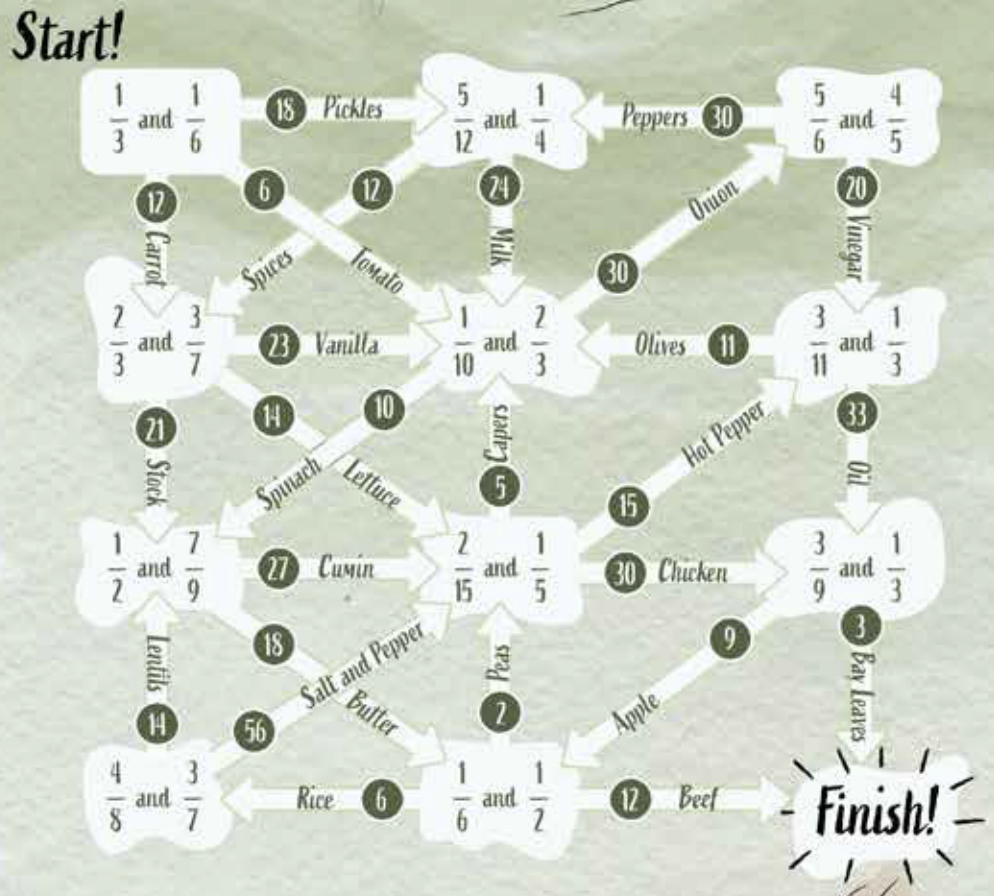
TABLE TALK NIGERIA

FINDING COMMON GROUND

How to Play: Complete the maze by finding the lowest common denominator between the two fractions. Follow the answer's path to collect cooking ingredients. An answer key, along with a printable recipe, is available at: vomcanada.com/TableTalkNigeria



The unlike fractions in the maze cannot be added together without first finding the common denominator. In the same way, when we share our faith with others, we must find common ground before we can effectively reach them.

COLLECTED INGREDIENTS:

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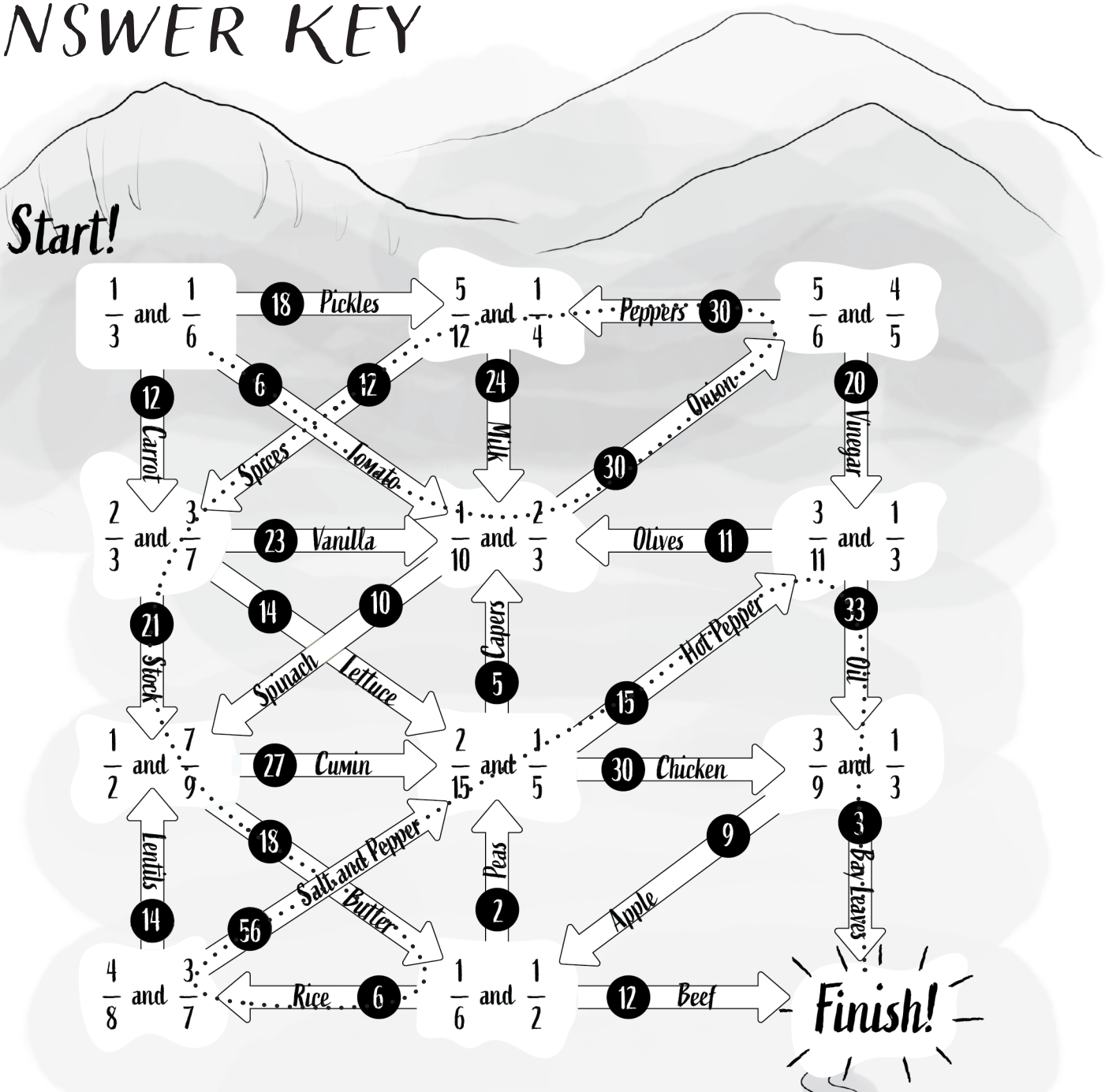
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Background: Shutterstock/artshock

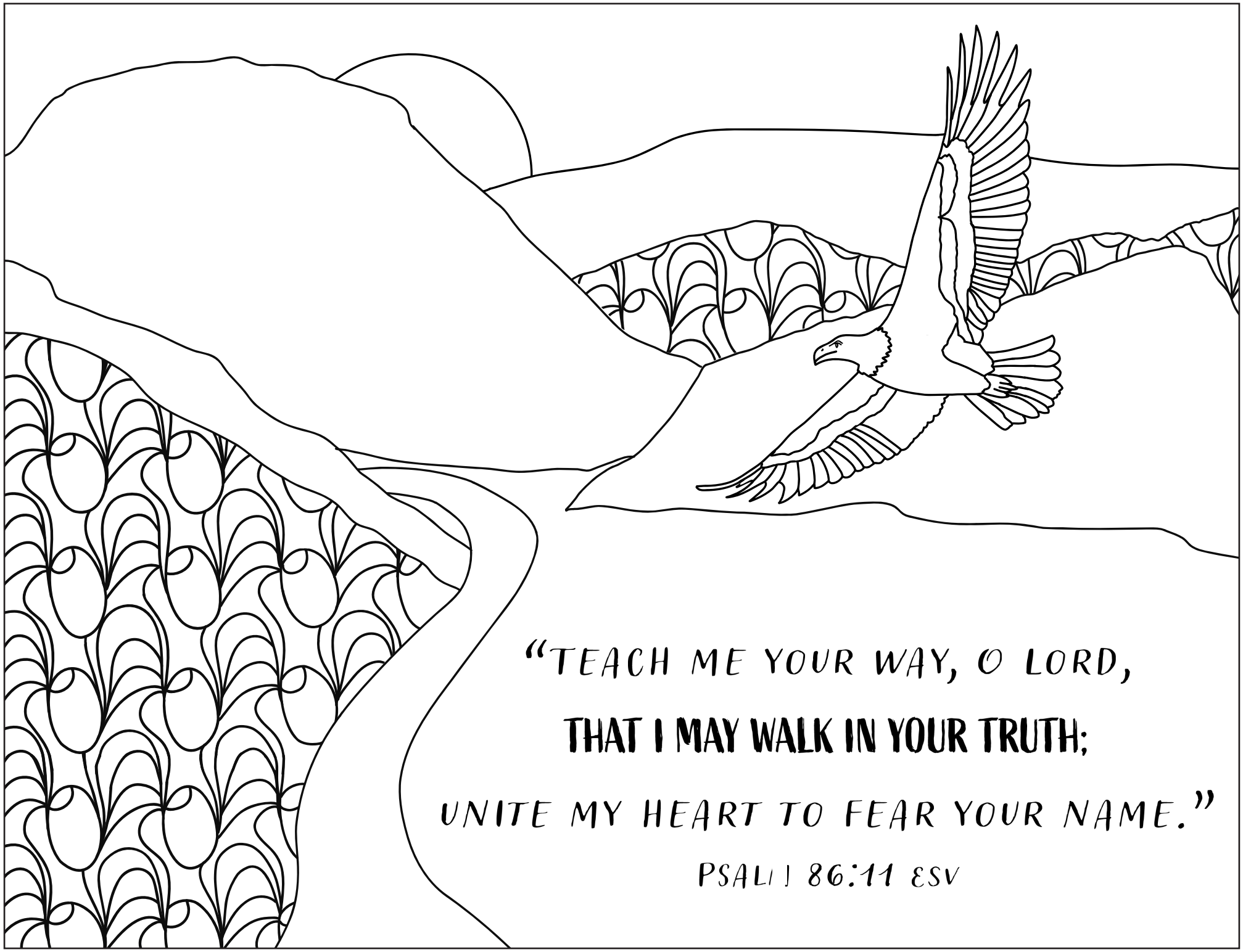
TABLE TALK NIGERIA ANSWER KEY

FINDING COMMON GROUND

How to Play: Complete the maze by finding the lowest common denominator between the two fractions. Follow the answer's path to collect cooking ingredients. An answer key, along with a printable recipe, is available at: vomcanada.com/TableTalkNigeria



COLLECTED INGREDIENTS: Tomato, Onion, Pepper, Spices, Stock, Butter, Rice, Salt & Pepper, Hot Pepper, Oil, Bay Leaves.


"TEACH ME YOUR WAY, O LORD,
THAT I MAY WALK IN YOUR TRUTH;
UNITE MY HEART TO FEAR YOUR NAME."
PSALM 86:11 ESV

MARCH 2024

HIS WAY *"Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name."* Psalm 86:11 ESV

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 **TÜRKIYE (TURKEY)** Pray for the son of a pastor and his wife who were killed in the February 6th, 2023, earthquake.	**2** **NIGERIA** Pray for Christian widows who are dealing with tremendous pain and trauma as a result of militant Islamists' attacks.
3 **BRUNEI** While oil wealth has ensured that few Bruneians lack material necessities, pray that they will realize their need for Christ.	**4** **LIBYA** Pray that the Holy Spirit will move in the lives of citizens throughout the country, resulting in multitudes of new believers.	**5** **PHILIPPINES** Pray for the families of pastors, evangelists and missionaries who have been killed for their faith.	**6** **NEPAL** Bible distribution is difficult in Nepal's mountainous areas. Pray for creative, effective ways to deliver God's Word to these regions.	**7** **MOROCCO** Pray that Christians will have opportunities for fellowship and to encourage one another.	**8** **ISRAEL (INCLUDING WEST BANK & GAZA)** Continue to pray for Pauline Ayyad (whose husband was martyred in 2007) and her children.	**9** **LEBANON** Praise God for the fruitful efforts of churches that are reaching out to Syrian refugees with the hope of the Gospel!
10 **IRAN** Pray that online ministries and Christian broadcasts will reach many with the Gospel and disciple new believers.	**11** **AFGHANISTAN** Pray for peace, comfort and strength on behalf of Afghan Christians in refugee camps who feel isolated.	**12** **CHINA** Pray that Christians will lay a firm foundation for their children, as the Biblical education of minors is prohibited.	**13** **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** Pray that emergency relief supplies will reach Christians who have been forced from their homes and communities.	**14** **MOZAMBIQUE** Pray that Christians who have been targeted in the Cabo Delgado insurgency will experience Christ's healing and peace.	**15** **BANGLADESH** Pray for ministry workers like Omar and Rojina, who are taking God's Word to Muslims in remote regions.	**16** **TUNISIA** Pray that Tunisians will be receptive to the message of the Gospel.
17 **BURKINA FASO** Pray for Christian women like Assetou who are persecuted by family members and pressured to marry animists.	**18** **KAZAKHSTAN** Pray for the spread and growth of house churches throughout Kazakhstan.	**19** **EGYPT** Pray for churches facing extreme hostility from militant members of the Islamic community.	**20** **MYANMAR (BURMA)** Pray for 11 Christian families from the Palaung tribe who have been pressured by villagers to renounce their faith.	**21** **DR CONGO** Pray that Christians in eastern Congo will be able to worship in their churches freely and without risk of attacks.	**22** **MAURITANIA** Pray that Christian converts from Islam will be protected from arrest and imprisonment.	**23** **DJIBOUTI** Pray that more churches will be allowed to operate throughout this Northeast African nation.
24 **AZERBAIJAN** Praise God for Christians who are faithfully proclaiming the Gospel despite legal pressure and possible fines.	**25** **KENYA** Pray for the families of Kenyan Christians who have been killed by Muslim militants.	**26** **BAHRAIN** Pray that Christians will receive God's wisdom and anointing when sharing the "Good News" of the Gospel.	**27** **MALDIVES** Pray that believers at risk of imprisonment or expulsion for following Christ will be wise and courageous witnesses.	**28** **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** Pray that churches will continue to faithfully proclaim the Gospel despite governmental prohibitions.	**29** **IRAQ** Pray for Christian converts from Islam dealing with opposition from family members, the government and extremist groups.	**30** **LAOS** Pray for Christians like Phan and Yun who have been rejected or evicted for their faith.
31 **SOMALIA** Young people in Somalia are becoming disenchanted with Islam amid ongoing al-Shabab attacks. Pray for their salvation.						

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The Voice of the Martyrs Canada

Scan to access Digital Calendar

IN THE KNOW: NIGERIA

WEIGH IN

1

Having a large family is highly desired in Nigeria. Often, couples will have as many children as they are able, resulting in some families having about a dozen members.

What are some benefits of having a large family in Canada compared to that of a similar size in a Nigerian household? What would some of the challenges be? Does living rurally versus in a city become an important factor when determining the various benefits/challenges?

2

Nigeria's population is 46 percent Christian. However, due to the presence of Islamic militants in the north, Christian persecution in Nigeria was ranked sixth on the 2023 *World Watch List*. Additionally, according to Statista, Nigeria has the third highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa.

Islamic militants in Northern Nigeria often raid Christian communities, resulting in families being homeless and/or forced to live in IDP camps. With so many in the country displaced (including non-Christians), what role could followers of Jesus have in these camps? Find a Bible verse that would comfort *and* encourage you to seize opportunities for ministry if you happened to be in this situation.

WAY OUT

Let's begin phase two of the dinner party! First, create a custom name tag for each of your guests and include a "weigh-in question" on the reverse side. These weigh-in questions will be excellent conversation starters and discussion points while your guests are enjoying the meal. Next, prepare and follow the recipe for the Nigerian "Jollof Rice." During the evening, present the allegory comparing the similarities between Islam and Christianity, which are listed in this month's "One Way" section. At the end of the dinner party, offer up a prayer for more opportunities to share the Gospel with your Muslim neighbours. The recipe and name tags with the weigh-in questions are available at:
vomcanada.com/TableTalkNigeria

RECOMMENDED READS

Around the World with Matt and Lizzy – Nigeria by Julie C. Beemer (Children)
Let's Eat! Mealtime Around the World by Lynne Marie (Children)
Byang Kato by Simonetta Carr (Children)

ONE WAY

Finding common ground is key when sharing your faith with others. With that in mind, let's learn some of the similarities between Islam and Christianity through the allegories below relating to the featured recipe.

Creation: Vegetables are tangible elements in a recipe, adding unique tastes and textures to the whole meal. Like the vegetables within the dish, the belief in God as Creator is a tangible element that flavours the entire belief system of those following either Christianity or Islam. Both religions believe that God created the heavens and the earth, giving purpose and meaning to all created things.

The Patriarchs: The spices in this recipe complement the other ingredients, enhancing the flavour of the entire dish. The purpose of each spice is not to overpower the taste of the other ingredients but to allow the other flavours to shine. In the same way, the common recognition of the Old Testament patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – complement the other beliefs held by both Muslims and Christians. In both religions, this shared belief is not meant to 'overpower' the other core elements but to highlight God's purposes for humanity.

One God: Much like how the rice is foundational to our featured recipe, the belief in one God is foundational to both Islam and Christianity. One of the core principles of Islam is the belief in one God, so much so that it is written on the outside of most mosques. Likewise, the belief in one God is foundational to the Christian faith. Although the identity, name and character of that one God differs significantly, this can be a common place to begin an interesting discussion between Christians and Muslims.

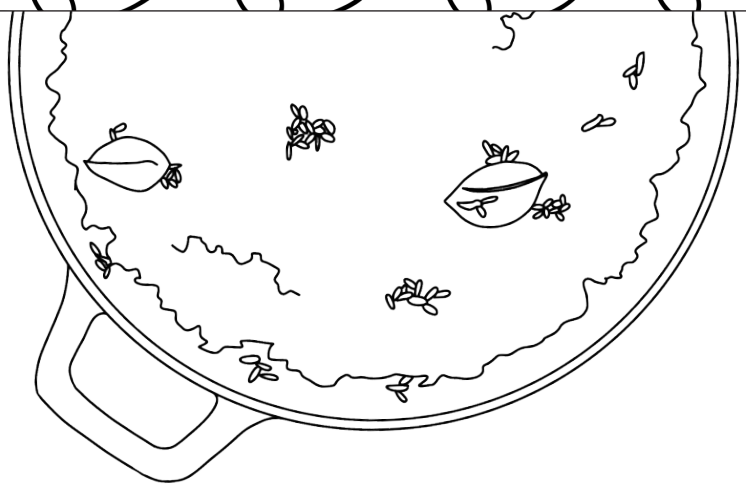
Final Judgement: The sauce completes the recipe, making the dish more than that of simply rice and veggies, but a rich and tasty meal known as "Jollof Rice." In a similar way, the belief that God is coming back at the end of human history provides a focal point and specific flavour to the rest of a person's faith beliefs. Both Muslims and Christians believe that God will come back to judge the world. What that looks like varies dramatically, but what a beautiful discussion could respectfully take place over those details.

Background: Shutterstock/artshock

Sources:
https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/nigeria/
https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/
https://www.statista.com/statistics/1237374/number-of-internally-displaced-persons-in-nigeria/

Finding Common Ground Solutions:

1/3 & 1/6 = 6 Tomato	1/10 & 2/3 = 30 Onion	5/6 & 4/5 = 30 Peppers	5/12 & 1/4 = 12 Spices
2/3 & 3/7 = 21 Stock	1/2 & 7/9 = 18 Butter	1/6 & 1/2 = 6 Rice	4/8 & 3/7 = 56 Salt & Pepper
2/15 & 1/5 = 15 Hot Pepper		3/11 & 1/3 = 33 Oil	3/9 & 1/3 = 3 Bay Leaves



NIGERIAN "JOLLOF RICE"

INGREDIENTS

Serving Size – Large Pot, 6-8 people :

- **1/3 cup** oil (*vegetable/canola/coconut, not olive oil*)
- **6** medium-sized fresh plum/Roma tomatoes, chopped, OR a 400g tin of tomatoes
- **6** fresh red poblano peppers (*or 4 large red bell peppers*), seeds discarded
- **3** medium-sized red onions (*1 sliced thinly; 2 roughly chopped*), divided
- **1/2 to 1** hot pepper (*yellow Scotch bonnets are a great choice*)
- **3 tablespoons** tomato paste
- **2 teaspoons** (*Caribbean/Jamaican-style*) curry powder
- **1 teaspoon** dried thyme
- **2** dried bay leaves
- **5 to 6 cups** stock (*vegetable, chicken or beef*) or water, divided
- **2 teaspoons** unsalted butter, divided
- **4 cups** uncooked converted long-grain rice or golden sella basmati, rinsed
- Salt
- Black and white pepper
- **Extra:** sliced onions, tomatoes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a blender, combine tomatoes, red poblano (or bell) peppers, chopped onions and Scotch bonnets with 2 cups of stock. Blend until smooth, about a minute or two. You should have roughly 6 cups of blended mix. Pour into a large pot/pan and bring to a boil. Then turn down the temperature and let simmer, partly covered, for 10 to 12 minutes.

2. In a large pan, heat oil and add the sliced onions. Season with a pinch of salt, stir-fry for 2 to 3 minutes. Then add the bay leaves, curry powder, dried thyme and a pinch of black pepper, stirring for 3 to 4 minutes on medium heat. Then add the tomato paste, stir together, and cook for another 2 minutes. Add the reduced tomato-pepper and Scotch bonnet mixture. Stir again, and set on medium heat for 10 to 12 minutes, with the lid partly on, until the liquid is reduced by half.

3. Add 4 cups of the stock to the cooked tomato sauce and bring mixture to a boil for 1 to 2 minutes.

4. Add the rinsed rice and 1 teaspoon of butter, stirring together. Cover with a double piece of foil/baking or parchment paper, and then place a lid on the pan to seal in the steam and lock in flavour. Turn down the heat and cook on the lowest possible setting for 30 minutes, stirring halfway through.

5. Stir rice – taste and adjust cooking time as required. If rice isn't soft enough and needs additional cooking, add 1/4 to 1/2 cup of stock or water, stir through, and continue to steam on low heat until cooked through.

6. Add sliced onions, fresh tomatoes, plus the second teaspoon of butter, and stir everything together. Let meal rest while covered for about 5 to 6 minutes.

7. **Optional**: To make "Party Rice," you'll need to add one more step. Party Rice is essentially "Smoky Jollof Rice," traditionally cooked over an open fire. However, you can achieve the same results on the stove top. Here's how: Once the rice is cooked, turn up the heat with the lid on for about 3 to 5 minutes so it can become golden brown. You'll hear the rice crackle and snap, and it will smell toasted. Turn off the heat and leave the lid on so the dish can "rest" until it's ready to serve. The longer the lid stays on, the smokier the flavour will be.

This meal can be served along with salad, meat dish, and/or any other sides you desire.

To view the recipe online, go to: https://food52.com/recipes/61557-classic-nigerian-jollof-rice

NAME:

WEIGH IN FACT

1) Did you know that modern slavery is still rampant in all parts of Sudan, which is a predominantly Muslim nation? As it is against Islamic law to indenture another Muslim, who do you think are being enslaved in Sudan?



NAME:

WEIGH IN FACT

2) An Ethiopian “coffee ceremony,” which involves turning unprocessed coffee beans into finished cups of coffee, can take three hours. The event is a specific time for Ethiopians and their guests to commune with one another. How would you assess the relationship between coffee and one’s sense of community in Ethiopia?



NAME:

WEIGH IN FACT

3) To be a Christian in Afghanistan means there is the constant risk of losing one's life for following Christ. Many Christians keep their faith a secret, or they will risk being subjected to beatings, tortures, kidnappings and/or even threats of death. Have you ever suffered for your faith in Jesus? What does "carrying your cross" mean to you?



NAME:

WEIGH IN FACT

4) Think about a situation where someone lied about you, bullied you, rejected you, or took something meaningful away from you that was clearly yours. What emotions and reactions did you have? Compare that situation and the resulting feelings with those of Christians around the world who are facing persecution for their faith due to opposing friends and family members.