

Along *the Way*

In a small town in Liberia, three children – **Grace, Eric and Lawrence** – faced challenges that felt too big to handle. Their mothers had made the courageous decision to follow Jesus, a choice that led to rejection by their Muslim families. Left to raise their children alone, these single mothers struggled to afford even the most basic needs – including the ability to send their children to school. But the three young believers did not give up. They turned to the one source of hope they knew: *prayer*.

Grace was unwavering in her faith. The 15-year-old girl frequently asked her church and choir friends to pray with her – for food, her mother's ability to provide, and the chance to attend school. The teen's countless prayers were answered when her church selected her for a program supported by VOMC. Today, Grace attends school, eats healthy meals and continues to grow in her faith. Her mother has even launched a small business. Grace is amazed at how God has provided for her family, and she now actively serves in her church, leading devotionals and encouraging others to pray with boldness.

Like Grace, nine-year-old **Eric** also believes deeply in the power of prayer. He would often

ask every Christian he met to pray for his sick mother, as well as for his own opportunity to go to school. After joining the children's soccer team at his church, Eric was encouraged by his coach to continue praying. One day, a visiting pastor asked the team if anyone had prayer requests. Eric shared from his heart, and in the weeks that followed, God answered the child's prayers. Not only was his mother healed, but Eric was also welcomed into the VOMC-supported program and began attending school.

Lawrence had been praying quietly for a long time, asking God to make his dream of going to school come true. The 11-year-old's father had abandoned him, and his mother couldn't afford school fees for all her children. One morning, Lawrence met a pastor who asked if he was on his way to school. When Lawrence explained his situation, the pastor invited him to church and offered him an opportunity to join the VOMC-supported school program. Overjoyed, Lawrence and his mother continue to praise God for His provision.

Today, Grace, Eric and Lawrence are living proof that God hears and answers prayers. Their stories remind us that even in the hardest times, faith can open doors that once seemed forever closed.

Discussion Questions

Use these discussion prompts to spark meaningful family conversations.

1. Have you ever had a prayer answered in an unexpected way? How did this experience impact your faith?

2. What does this story teach us about how God uses people to bring about answers to prayer?

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

Say the sound: "Guh!" What letter makes that sound? Write this letter in the blanks below!

- a) Eric asked ___od to heal his mother.
- b) Eric's prayers were answered by ___od.

Say the sound: "Puh!" What letter makes that sound? Write this letter in the blanks below!

- c) Lawrence met a ___astor.
- d) Lawrence ___rayed to be able to attend school.

3. Sound Match

Which words start with the same sound as "Grace"?

- a) grew
- b) rice
- c) grunt

2. Rhyme Time

Say the word "pray." Can you find the rhyming words?

- a) stay
- b) play
- c) tree

Now try "home."

- a) dome
- b) roam
- c) hope

Which words start with the same sound as "church"?

- a) chair
- b) march
- c) cheese

