

Years passed, and then one day in 2017, Yusup was invited to a birthday party. There, he saw an old friend – someone who used to go to the secret church with him. “He started talking about Jesus again,” Yusup says. “My heart started beating faster. It was like a fire was lit inside me.”

Yusup began attending underground Bible studies again, moving from house to house to stay safe. Eventually, he joined a special course to learn how to be a leader and help

others grow in their faith. “Thanks to that course, my faith got stronger,” Yusup says. “Now I share about Jesus with others!”

But it’s still risky. “Please pray for me,” Yusup asks. “Pray for my studies, and for the people I talk to about Jesus. Pray that God protects us and our secret meetings. We know it’s dangerous, but we keep going because we need [Christ’s message] to grow.”

Reading Between the Lines

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions:

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| 1. Underground church | a) A sudden attack or invasion, often by police or military forces |
| 2. Raid | b) A group that meets secretly to worship |
| 3. Discipleship | c) Strength to do something difficult or dangerous |
| 4. Seized | d) Taken by force |
| 5. Courage | e) The process of learning about and following the teachings of Jesus |

Past Tense Verbs

Underline the past tense verbs in the paragraph below:

“When I was 16, I heard about Jesus for the first time from my friends,” Yusup remembers. “I started going to a secret church that met in someone’s house. One day, while we were reading the Bible and singing songs to God, the police burst in.”