

Issue 3

March 2026

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation

TABLETalks



VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

ALONG THE WAY • INVESTIGATING THE STORY • SEW IMPORTANT

Along the Way

Adapted from the book, *In God's Underground*, by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand.

Pastor Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina founded Voice of the Martyrs in 1967.

Today, their legacy lives on as VOM offices around the world continue their work in remembering and serving the persecuted church.

When Romania aligned with Nazi Germany during World War II, Sabina felt the world collapse around her as a wave of anti-Jewish violence swept through the country. In the capital of Bucharest alone, 11,000 Jews were slaughtered in a single day.

Her heart broke as her parents, siblings and extended family were torn from their home in Bucovina and deported to Transnistria – a desolate borderland where death came either by bullet or starvation. None of them survived. Sabina carried that grief quietly, the weight of loss etched into her soul. Life moved forward, but the memories never faded.

One evening, her husband Richard returned home with unsettling news. Their landlord had spoken of a man staying with him in their building – a soldier on leave named Borila. Once known for his kindness, Borila had become boastful and cruel. He claimed to have volunteered to kill Jews in Transnistria and bragged about murdering hundreds.

Richard met Borila in his landlord's apartment later that night. The soldier, towering and cold, spoke of his wartime "adventures" with disturbing pride. Yet, beneath the bravado, Richard noticed something unexpected: Borila had a deep love for music, especially Ukrainian folk songs. With a plan in mind, Richard invited the group back to his apartment where he played the piano for them.

While Richard played, Sabina slept peacefully in another room, unaware of the chilling company. As the melodies filled the apartment, something shifted in Borila. The music stirred a part of him long buried. When the final note faded, Richard turned to him and said, "There's something important I must tell you."

He gestured toward the curtain. "Behind there is my wife. Her family was taken to Transnistria, where you said you killed hundreds. You may have murdered her family." Borila erupted in fury, but Richard raised a calming hand. "Let's try an experiment. I'll wake my wife and tell her who you are and what you've done. She won't blame you. She'll embrace you as a brother and offer you the

best food we have. If she, a sinner like us, can forgive, imagine how Jesus – who is perfect love – can forgive you.”

The soldier broke. His pride crumbled, revealing the guilt he had long masked. He tore at his shirt, sobbing, “What shall I do? I’ve killed many people!” He fell to his knees, pleading with God for forgiveness. Richard prayed with him and when they rose, he embraced Borila.

“If she, a sinner like us, can forgive, imagine how Jesus – who is perfect love – can forgive you.”

Then Richard gently woke Sabina. “There’s a man here who killed your family,” he said softly. “But he has repented. He is now our brother.” Sabina’s breath caught. The pain of her loss surged, but so did something deeper: compassion. Without hesitation, she stepped forward and embraced Borila. Their tears mingled – those of a killer and a survivor. And then, just as Richard had said, she went to the kitchen and prepared him a meal.



Investigating the Story

1. What is the main point of the story?

- a) An unexpected man gives his life to Jesus.
- b) Sabina forgives generously – showing Jesus’ love in action.
- c) A social experiment.

2. What was the outcome of Richard’s experiment?

- a) Sabina resented the man for murdering her family and quickly kicked him out of her home.
- b) Borila didn’t believe Richard and stormed off, angry at his attempt to convert him.
- c) Richard was right; Sabina forgave the man and even cooked him a meal, treating him just like family.

3. How does Sabina’s forgiveness demonstrate God’s work in her heart?

Circle all that are true.

- a) She didn’t hold onto bitterness and unforgiveness in her heart.
- b) She didn’t want to forgive but knew she had to because it’s the Christian thing to do.
- c) She allowed Christ to heal her heart so that she could love those who hurt her.
- d) She didn’t want to forgive, but her husband told her to in order to win a soul for Christ.

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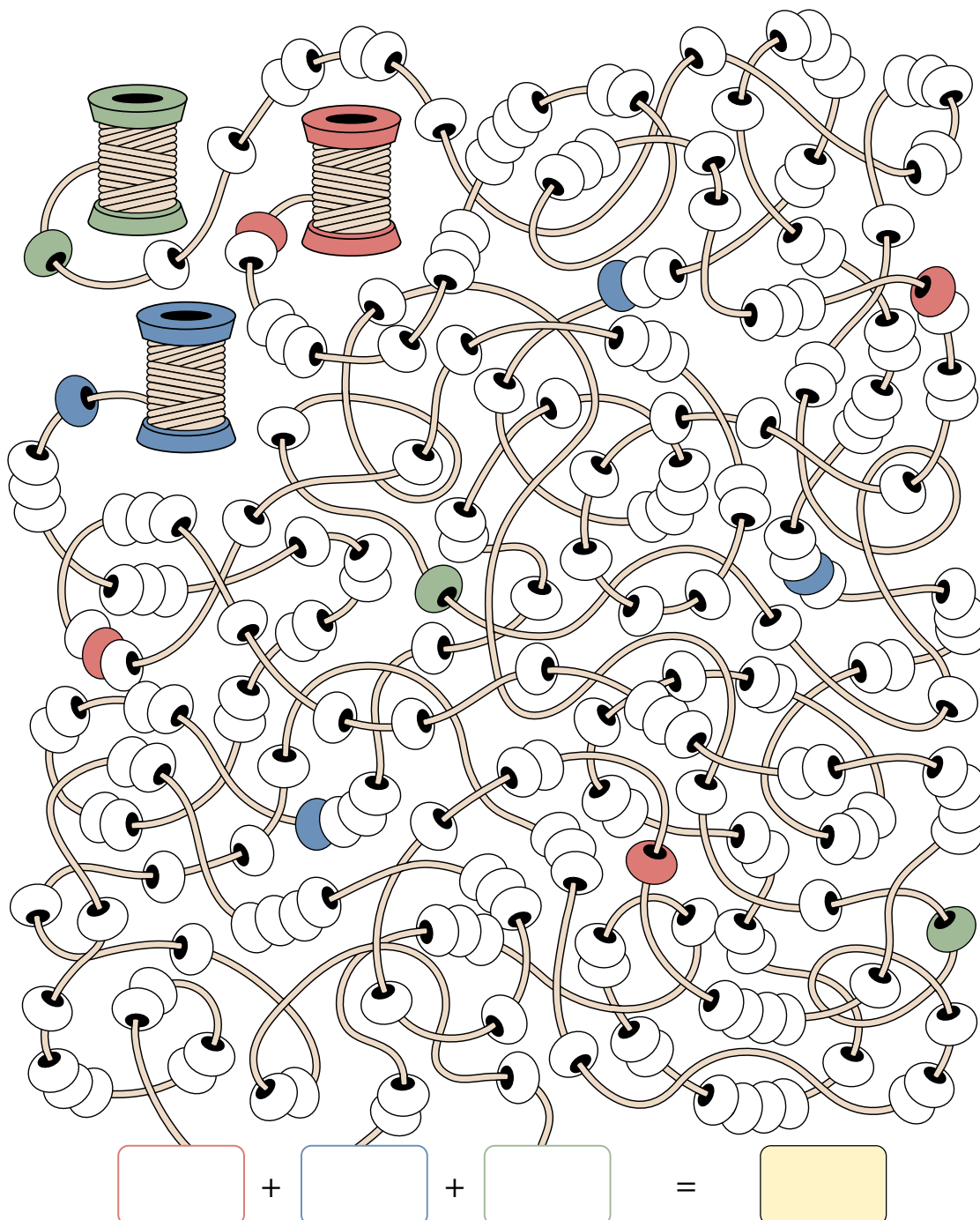
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Sew Important

Instructions

1. Colour the beads on each strand according to the correct colour code.
2. Count how many beads there are of each colour.
3. Use those numbers to solve the math equation and unlock the Bible verse code below!

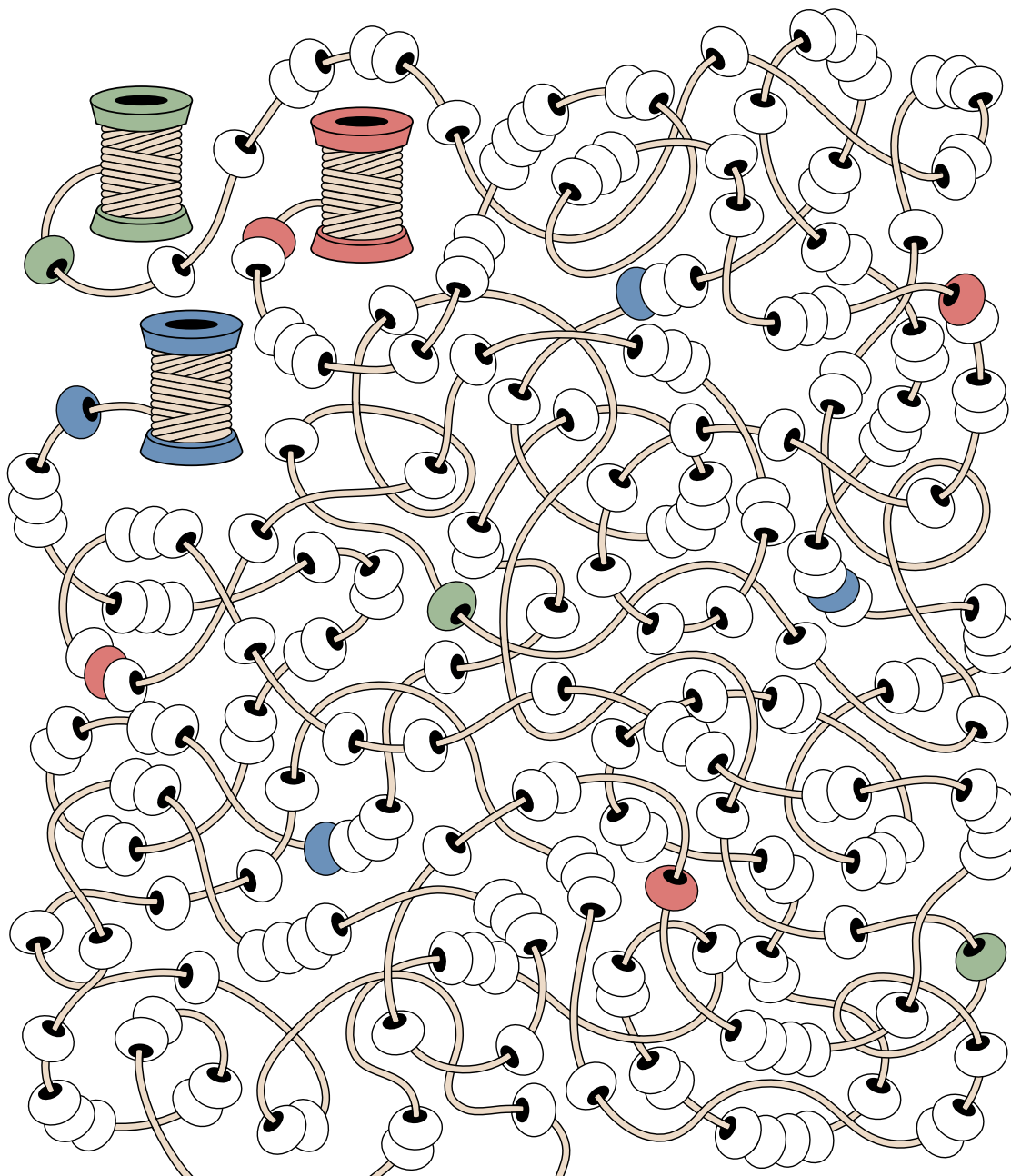


"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." – Genesis __: __ NIVUK

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1. Colour the beads on each strand according to the correct colour code.
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90

+

88

+

40

=

218

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." – Genesis 2: 18 NIVUK

Colouring Connection!



"You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." (Genesis 16:13 NIVUK).

Weigh In

Weighing the facts
about Christian Women

1. The word “helper” in Genesis 2 means “ally” or “rescuer.” This term is used twice in the Bible to describe women; in all other references it is used to describe God.
2. Like an iceberg, persecution often reveals only a fraction of its true form. For men, persecution tends to be more visible, like the tip of the iceberg. But for women, their suffering is often submerged – unseen, unspoken and overlooked.
3. In persecuted nations, a woman’s decision to become a Christian can result in divorce and family rejection.
4. Christian women in persecuted regions are frequently denied justice for the crimes committed against them.

Sources:

<https://hebrewwordlessons.com/2018/05/13/helper-defining-the-ezer-woman/>

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/afghanistan/>

Corresponding Question Points:

1. If the Bible uses the word “helper” to describe women – and that same word is also used to describe God helping people – what does that tell us about how strong and important women are in God’s plan?
2. How does the iceberg analogy help you visualize the difference in challenges faced by Christian men and women? Why do you think it’s important to notice and care about the pain that isn’t visible? How can you pray for and support those whose suffering is often overlooked?
3. Have you ever had to make a choice that others didn’t understand or support? What would help you stay strong in your faith if following Jesus meant losing something important?
4. How do you protect your heart from being disappointed, offended, or even from blaming God when you are unjustly wronged? How should we respond when God doesn’t answer the way we’d hoped He would? Reflect on David’s response in Psalm 13.

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

Are you a human? If you answered "yes," then at some point you...will...be...hurt by another person. In fact, if you love Jesus and live the one way that He instructed us to, the potential for hurt becomes even greater. Jesus warned that, at some point, others *will* become angry with you because His beauty and light shining from within make the darkness in others obvious by comparison. Nobody wants to admit the mess of their hidden sins. When someone shines a light on the places we've fallen short, it's easier to get mad and try to snuff out that light than to say, "I was wrong," and allow Jesus to heal those dark places.

So, if living for Jesus and shining His light make getting hurt part of the deal, why not gear up for it like a pro? Jesus didn't leave us guessing – He gave us everything we need to handle offence and hurt without losing our joy. Think of the Bible as your ultimate survival guide for sticky situations. Page after page, the Lord shows us how to respond in the right way when people push our buttons or step on our toes. It's like having the best coach ever whispering, "Here's how you win this one!"

Instead of letting thoughts like "I'm hurt! I need everyone to know I'm right! I want revenge!" pop up when we're hurt, let's hit the pause button. Step outside of the pain for a minute and think. How did Biblical super agents of Christ, like David or Joseph, handle offence? They stopped. Dropped. And prayed!

"It is impossible that no offences should come...."

– Luke 17:1 NKJV

When hurt happens, here are some practical steps you can take to respond in a Christlike way:

1. Turn to God.
2. Be honest with Him. God is never afraid of your honesty, and He wants to hear how you feel.
3. Spend time praising God. Turn up the worship tunes and focus on how awesome God is, how much He loves you, and how much He's done for you.
- 4 Then comes the hard part...forgiveness.
5. Ask Jesus to help you own your part and drop the grudge.

Just like exercise, it takes effort to stay free of offence. Regular practice will strengthen the spiritual force of forgiveness in you.

Reflection Questions

1. Does holding onto hurt or offence make you feel closer to God – or farther away?
2. What happens when we choose to forgive, pray for others and let go of offence?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive so you can grow good fruit in your life? If so, what's one way you can start praying for them today?



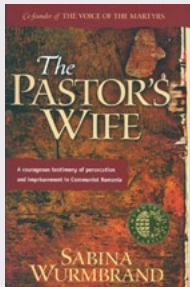
A Way Out

This month's *One Voice* and *Table Talks* issues are dedicated to women.

Take a moment to pause and reflect on the significant impact women have had on your life! Use a journal to write about one or more women who have positively changed your life for the better. Then, share your story with us by emailing tabletalks@vomcanada.org



Special Resources



The Pastor's Wife
by Sabina Wurmbrand
\$8 | Ages 13+

In her testimonial book, *The Pastor's Wife*, Richard Wurmbrand's wife, Sabina, candidly recounts the events leading to their imprisonment – the discovery of Christ, their secret underground church activities, the opportunities they had to preach in bomb shelters during WWII, their rescue of Jewish children from the ghettos, and the illegal printing of millions of Russian Gospels.... This remarkable true-life story is sure to hold you captive to the ongoing cause of Christ!



*A Tale of Three Kings**
by Gene Edwards
Ages 14+

Although written at a higher reading level, this book is an invaluable resource for parents and teens. Based on the Biblical figures of King David, King Saul and King Absalom, *A Tale of Three Kings* explores themes of power, betrayal and brokenness. For the many Christians who have experienced pain, loss and hurt at the hands of other believers, this moving story offers comfort, healing and hope.

**Not available at VOMC's online store, but available elsewhere.*



The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
\$25 | Ages 8-12

The pages of this visually stunning graphic novel, with its more than 1,500 engaging full-colour illustrations, reveal how even in the most desperate, loneliest and darkest of times...faith, hope and love will ultimately triumph!

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

vomcanada.com/store

