

Border Zone Mission (Part 1)

Belgium 1943

Marc, can you keep a secret?"

Marc Bouchard could tell something serious was happening. Of course, with war raging across the nations in Europe, something serious was always happening.

"Yes, Papa. I can. Even better, I can act as if there's no secret."

"Bon! Good! That is what you must do. Nobody can know what I am about to tell you until the Allies have defeated the Nazis."

After a pause, Papa continued. "I have brought home a man. An American pilot whose plane was shot down. Patriots hid him before the Germans could capture him."

Marc's mind whirled. "Why is he here?"

"Our house is secluded and near the border. I have been asked to sneak him out of Belgium and into France. But they are not ready on the French side. The American must hide with us for two days."

"Isn't it dangerous for you to guide him into France, Papa? There are so many German soldiers guarding the border. Won't they shoot you both if they catch you trying to cross?"

Marc's papa thought a minute, then answered. "Sometimes one or two mice can sneak where an elephant cannot. Besides, such things mean nothing to God. We simply do our best and trust the rest to Him."

The plan was for Papa to leave with the American that evening; he would repair the roof during the day. When Lieutenant Carson was hiding in the loft, he had noticed spots of light coming through holes in the roof.

Around midday Marc was about to ask the American how high bombers fly when he heard a shout overhead and then a thumping noise. Mother and Marc rushed outside.

Papa lay groaning. "I slipped off the roof. I think that I have broken my leg."

The two helped him inside, but Papa's guess was correct: his bone was broken.

After Mother set off on her bicycle to get the village doctor, Papa called Marc to him. "I cannot lead our guest over the border. But friends will be waiting for him at the wood merchant's house tonight. You must guide him. I shall tell you the passwords."



Marc swallowed. The border zone meant guards, rifles, dogs—and possible death. Then he remembered his papa's words: "Such things mean nothing to God."

"As you wish, Papa."

"God, if You will help me, I will go. But please shut the eyes of the guards," Marc prayed.

As darkness deepened that evening, rain drummed on the rooftop. Thunder rumbled.

"Such a stormy night," Mother commented. "Perhaps they shouldn't go."

"This weather is perfect!" Marc objected. "I prayed for God to close the Germans' eyes. In this storm, they won't see us. And their dogs won't smell us!"

Understanding the boy's words, Lieutenant Carson grinned and motioned toward the door. "Allons! Let's go!"

To be continued next week.

Ancient Evidence of Unfaithfulness

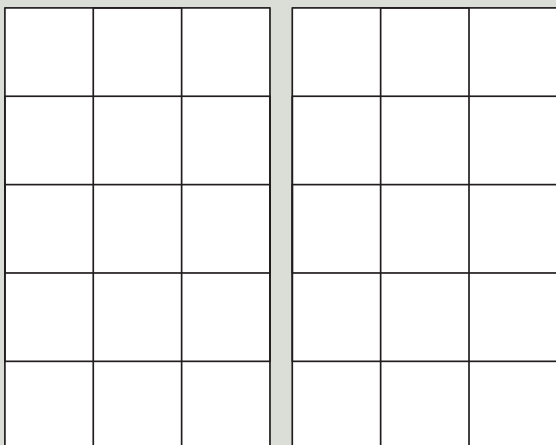
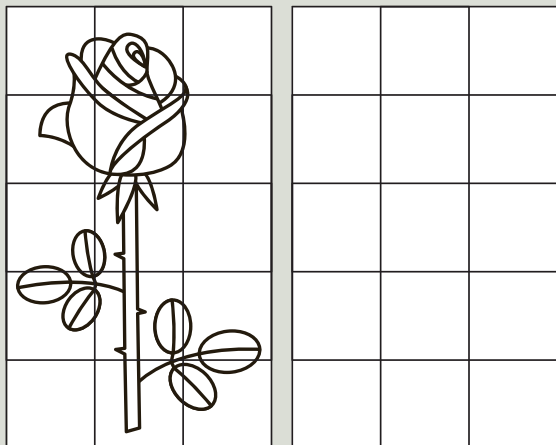
Find the words in all CAPS in the word search. The building is an ancient temple of Baal, the false god Israel worshiped.



God **FAITHFULLY** delivered Israel from **EGYPT**, brought them to **CANAAN**, and gave them the **PROMISED LAND**, a place they neither **EARNED** nor **DESERVED**. Israel was **UNFAITHFUL** to God in response. They chose to **SERVE BAAL**, a **FALSE** god. God deserves your faithful **WORSHIP** for being faithful to you!

Thorny Lessons

Copy the rose and thorns. God said Israel's enemies would be as thorns in their sides to teach them to be faithful to Him.



Find the Differences



Measuring Growth

The Middler lesson for this week covered God's progress report on Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. Israel began with victories as they put their faith in God. But the second and third generations rebelled against their faithful God and served idols and false gods instead. Your child was challenged to recognize God's faithfulness in his or her life and to serve God faithfully. Talk with your child about this week's measurables.

Measurables

Look for the following clues that your child recognizes that God is always faithful to him or her.

1. My child understands that God's remains faithful even when he or she isn't faithful.
2. My child confesses his or her sin to God.
3. My child seeks to grow in faithfulness through God's Word.



STRONG
kids