

# ***Bible Truths 6***

## ***Teacher's Toolkit CD***

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### **Optional Application Stories**

These stories may be used in place of the Unit 7 biblical fiction novel (*Forbidden Gates*). Each story is introduced with a listening question and followed by discussion questions.

# Optional Application Stories

## (for use with Unit 7)

### Lesson 113

#### Application Story

**Read or tell the following story.** Listening question: **What happened that allowed Dr. Aker and Mrs. Wieger to talk with each other? Mrs. Wieger was traveling to her son's home, and a woman asked Mrs. Wieger to change seats with her.**

The following account is used by permission. It is adapted from the book *God, You and That Man with Three Goats!* compiled by Don and Vera Hillis.

#### Twice to O'Hare

Dr. John Aker was flying to Chicago's O'Hare Airport to attend some special meetings at a college in Illinois. Though the flight was almost empty, Dr. Aker was assigned to sit near another passenger.

The fellow traveler had a window seat, and Dr. Aker had an aisle seat. Dr. Aker planned to stretch out on the empty seats between them, but he decided to talk to the fellow passenger first. After all, I am a pastor, he thought.

He found that the passenger's name was Dick Wieger and that they had both studied at the Army Intelligence School, married women in the army intelligence, and had three children. Mr. Wieger had just been to a cancer institute where he and the doctors had agreed that his chemotherapy and radiation treatments would stop. He was returning home to Beatrice, Nebraska, to be with his children before he died. Mr. Wieger, the comptroller of the Lutheran Hospital, would have six to ten months left to live.

Mr. Wieger and his wife were the only children in their families. A few months earlier, his wife had died in an accident. Mr. Wieger knew that his aged parents would be the only ones to care for his children when he was gone.

"Can I tell you about something that really changed my life?" Dr. Aker asked.

Mr. Wieger nodded, and Dr. Aker presented the gospel in a simple way. The stewardess interrupted them toward the end of his presentation. "We are now preparing for final descent into Chicago's O'Hare Airport," she said.

"Dick," Dr. Aker said, "can't you trust Jesus Christ for your future . . . what lies beyond the grave for you and your children? Can you look to the one who left His own grave behind and believe that He holds some hope for you and for the care of your children?"

Mr. Wieger clutched his hand like a dying man. "Pray with me," he said. Right then, thousands of feet above Chicago, Dick Wieger trusted Jesus Christ.

As the men parted ways, Mr. Wieger waved, his face fully alive and smiling warmly. Dr. Aker thought about his own

family and God's graciousness to allow him to share in God's work—the miracle of leading people from spiritual death to everlasting life.

The following year Dr. John Aker had been preaching on the East Coast and was returning home. He took that same flight to O'Hare that he had taken the year before. He was extremely tired. Beside him was a nice older woman. Dr. Aker thought that she wouldn't mind if he sat back, buckled up, and went to sleep. So he did just that.

Soon after breakfast, Dr. Aker woke up and realized that he had not taken any time to invest in this lady's life or ask her about her own. Dr. Aker began by asking the lady whether she lived in Chicago. She said that she did not but that she was headed to a little town in Nebraska. Dr. Aker asked her the name of the town.

"Oh, you've probably never heard of it," she said.

"Try me," Dr. Aker replied.

"Beatrice," she responded.

"I know Beatrice," he said. "I know the comptroller of the hospital there."

She looked at him in total surprise. "You know Dick?" she asked.

"Yes, I sat with him on this very plane last November," Dr. Aker said. "This same flight."

"You must be John," she said.

"How could you know that?" he asked.

"I'm Dick's mother."

Mrs. June Wieger, a Christian, told him how her son, Mr. Dick Wieger, had continued walking in the decision he had made for Christ. He was reading the Bible, getting together with his pastor, praying, and being concerned about Bible study. Mrs. Wieger was comforted with the assurance that her son was taking his final steps with his Master, her Lord.

"We're now preparing for final descent into Chicago's O'Hare Airport," the stewardess said.

"You know, June, this is when I prayed with Dick."

Just as her son had done, she took his hand and asked, "Would you pray with me?"

The plane pulled up to the ramp just as they finished praying. Mrs. Wieger looked at Dr. Aker and said, "You know, I'm so encouraged."

"I feel inspired!" Dr. Aker said. "To think that Dick and I had one casual meeting, and he's following through on that decision, and he's been concerned about a deeper relationship with his Lord. Wow! To see the way God takes our lives, causes them to intersect, and puts all the pieces together so perfectly . . . just the way He arranged for us to sit together: people would never believe it."

They were sitting in row 26, seats A and B. Mrs. Wieger looked at Dr. Aker and said, "You know, this wasn't my seat. I was assigned to row 24, but just before you came on board, a woman asked me to change with her."

- **How did Dr. Aker approach Mr. Wieger? He started with light conversation about their backgrounds; then he explained the gospel.**

- ▶ What were Dr. Aker's feelings both times before he began talking to the strangers? **He wanted to sleep, but he decided to talk; he slept and then decided to talk.**
- ▶ How had Mr. Wieger been faithful to the Lord since he had trusted Christ? **He was reading the Bible and praying, meeting with the pastor, and was concerned about Bible study.**
- ▶ What happened that allowed Dr. Aker and Mrs. Wieger to talk together? **Mrs. Wieger was traveling to her son's home, and a woman asked Mrs. Wieger to change seats with her.**

Direct students to think of a situation in which each student thinks he would be able to tell the gospel to someone. Ask volunteers to describe the situation with the class.

## Application Story

**Read or tell the following true account.** Listening question: **How was God's provision seen? the thirty cents from the Sunday school book for food; the ten dollars in the envelope for rent; the stamp from the postal worker for bus fare; the Christmas check from the hospital for her college bill; and the sheets for her bed**

The following account is used by permission. It is adapted from the book *God, You and That Man with Three Goats!* compiled by Don and Vera Hillis.

### Every Need

Vera Thiessen grew up in a pastor's home during a national financial depression. Over and over again, God showed Vera and her family how He cares for every need.

One time their family of six moved to a new area. Her father's only income came from working as an editor on Sunday school lessons. One Saturday, there was no money left in the house. Just a few weeks earlier, they had met a man at church; and this particular Saturday, that man came to see Vera's father. He wanted one of the Sunday school lesson books that were for sale, so Father sold him his own copy for thirty cents. With that money, her mother bought a small amount of hamburger to make meat gravy to go with the potatoes they had.

Another time, as Vera's mother was dusting pictures, she saw an envelope sticking out of the corner of one of them. Someone had written on the envelope, "Keep looking up." A ten-dollar bill was inside. That was the exact amount they needed to finish paying their rent that month. The Thiessens never found out who had left that envelope or how long it had been there, but God provided the exact amount at the exact time they needed it.

When Vera was a senior in college, she worked weekends and evenings as a nurse in a small hospital. The Christmas holidays were approaching, and she didn't have enough money to go home for Christmas—much less to pay her school bill for the next semester. A few days later, Vera received an envelope sent from her hometown, but without any return address. Inside was the exact amount needed for a round trip bus fare to her home. Once again, the Lord provided.

The first Sunday Vera was home for Christmas break, she was asked to give a testimony in church. She told how the Lord had made it possible for her to be home. A man who worked in the post office came up to her afterward. "Vera, there's something you should know," he said. "That letter came to the main post office without a stamp. One of the men who sorts mail brought it to me."

"Is this the daughter of your pastor?" the man asked, talking about Vera's father.

It was, so the post office worker who went to Vera's church had added the stamp and had sent the envelope on to Vera. The Lord knew what was needed, so He allowed it

to go to the only mail sorter in the whole post office who had heard his supervisor talk about Pastor Thiessen. God cared enough about a college student to put a stamp on a letter so that she could go home for Christmas.

After Christmas, Vera still did not have the money to pay her next school bill. When she opened her mailbox, she found a check from the hospital where she worked. The check was for the amount she would have earned if she had worked during Christmas. Thinking there was an error, Vera took the check to the hospital office when she went to work that weekend.

"Oh, that's no mistake," they said. "That's our Christmas gift to you." God provided.

The following Christmas, Vera was in Zaire as a missionary nurse. God showed her His care for her there too. One night when she wasn't home, her nicest bed linens were stolen.

A week later, a package came from one of her supporting churches. It was marked "bandages" for the leprosarium. The women's fellowship group sent bandages made out of torn sheets quite often. Vera usually took those packages right over to the hospital, but this time she opened it at her house. To her amazement, along with the bandages, they had sent the exact number of whole sheets that were stolen. Once again God provided.

Vera wrote to thank the women for the new sheets. They said that those sheets were in such good condition that they decided to send them as is and let Vera decide how to use them. And not just that, but that package had been sent months before Vera's sheets were stolen! God knows all things, and He provides for His children.

- **How did God show Vera that He was providing for all her needs? through the thirty cents from the Sunday school book for food; the ten dollars in the envelope for rent; the stamp from the postal worker for bus fare; the Christmas check from the hospital for her college bill; and the sheets for her bed**
- ⚙️ **What characteristic of God does this true account remind us of? Possible answers are His omniscience, faithfulness, power, and love.**
- ⚙️ **What verses tell us of God's provision?**
- ⚙️ **How has God provided for you and your family?**

## Application Story

Read or tell the following true account. Listening question: What was special about that day? **It was Joshua's mother's birthday.**

### Pointing Fingers

"Josh did it!" Mark shouted. "I saw him. He had a red shirt on—just like Josh."

Joshua Hart looked down at his shirt and then back up at Mark in surprise. "Did what?"

"Don't sound so innocent," Gordon said. "You're wearing the evidence right in front of us."

"Mr. Solmor is missing some peaches that were picked last week," Mark said. "I'm sure you know quite well where he stores them."

"Well, yes, I do," Josh said. "But . . ."

"Of course you do," Gordon said. "Everyone knows that you don't have any money, and you've been talking about getting peaches for a long time now."

Several other guys gathered around them. "Come on, guys!" Mark said. "Let's take him to Mr. Solmor."

Joshua looked confused, but he went along surrounded by the group of guys. When Mr. Solmor opened his door, the boys all started talking at once. "Whoa, wait a minute," Mr. Solmor pleaded. "One at a time." Mark spoke up and explained that they had discovered the thief: Joshua Hart. Then Gordon added the details.

"Josh, come here beside me, please," Mr. Solmor said. Joshua didn't understand what was going on, but he obeyed. "Now," Mr. Solmor said, "I want all of you to point at your friend Josh here." Mark and Gordon pointed immediately. So did Tom, Mr. Solmor's helper. Others did so, slowly. "OK, good. Keep pointing," Mr. Solmor said.

"So, what are you guys saying by pointing at Josh?" Mr. Solmor asked.

"He's guilty," two or three of them answered together.

"Okay, let's see here. Mark, where are most of your fingers pointing?" Mr. Solmor asked. The boys seemed to understand. Arms started dropping, and almost all the boys stared at the floor.

Mr. Solmor asked again. "Who were most of your fingers pointing at? Any answers, Gordon?"

"Back at ourselves, sir," Gordon said.

Tom dashed out the door. Silence fell on all in the room.

"Never mind him for now," Mr. Solmor said. "There's something I want to show you guys." As Mr. Solmor reached for something on a shelf behind him, the boys slowly looked up. Mr. Solmor held up an album. "Do you know what this is?" Some nodded. "It's a most valuable and prized stamp collection," Mr. Solmor said. "It represents years of careful saving. It reveals contact with people all over the world. Joshua Hart, your friend here, gave this to me this morning. He gave it to me in exchange for a wonderful birthday present for his mother—peaches."

The floor was getting a lot of attention again. "I have a project for you boys," Mr. Solmor said. "Today is Mrs. Hart's birthday, and I think that this is a perfect work crew to plant a little peach orchard in her backyard." The boys looked at each other. "I have several seedlings that would be just the perfect gift for Joshua's mother. Follow me, boys; I have plenty of shovels in my shed."



⚙️ **How do you think Joshua felt when he was being accused? Possible answers include embarrassed and hurt.**

⚙️ **When you accuse someone, are you loving that person as you love yourself? no**

► **Why not? You are not honoring him, treating him with respect, or treating him fairly.**

⚙️ **Why do you think Tom ran out of the building? Answers will vary.**

He could have been the thief, but be careful of accusing when you don't know all the facts.

⚙️ **What was special about that day? It was Joshua's mother's birthday.**

► **What did Mr. Solmor do to the accusing group? He gave them a job that would emphasize Joshua's innocence and make up for the shame he endured.**

⚙️ **What should the boys say to Joshua? They should admit to him their sin of accusing him based on their foolish assumptions, and ask him to forgive them.**

Remind the students that God is a just Judge, but He is merciful. Sometimes we notice certain sins in others because we are tempted in the same areas. Challenge the students to think about what they tend to criticize in others and to see whether they fail in those same areas. Encourage them to be quick to judge themselves but to be generous in their thoughts toward others. Read **Matthew 7:1–5** with the students and ask a volunteer to pray for the class to interact with each other with wisdom.

## Application Story

**Read or tell the following story.** Listening question: **What was Kellie's idea? God could use her to be a blessing to someone not as well-off as herself.**

### Someone Else

"Remember, young people, next Sunday is the last day to sign up to go to camp," said Mr. Reed, Kellie's Sunday school teacher. "Keep working hard to bring visitors and memorize verses. And keep in mind, the winner of the camp competition gets a free week of camp."

After church, Kellie helped her mother prepare lunch. "I just don't understand," Kellie said. "God knew that I would be having my piano recital the same week as camp. He could have easily changed something so that I could go to camp."

"Exactly," her mother said. "So do you think that perhaps God has something else in mind? I'm sure there's a good reason why He doesn't want you to go to camp."

"Or maybe," Kellie said, "maybe He'll work something else out so that I can go. I'm doing pretty well in the contest."

"Whatever happens, Kellie, God wants you to learn something. He is good, all-powerful, sovereign, and faithful. He will do what He knows is best."

"Thanks, Mom." Kellie hugged her mom and went to practice piano.

The deadline for signing up for camp came and went, and Kellie continued to concentrate on practicing piano as well as bringing visitors and memorizing verses for the contest. It seemed like every Sunday Mr. Reed announced something about camp. Kellie tried to think of other things when he gave those announcements.

The following Sunday, Mr. Reed said, "As you all know, today is the final day of our contest for camp. We've had some diligent competition these past few months. Many of you have worked hard to bring visitors and to serve others. Keep it up even though you won't get points on a chart for it. God is worthy of our love and service all the time."

"Okay. The winner of the free week at camp is—let's hear that drumroll—Kellie! Kellie, would you please come to the front?"

Kellie walked toward Mr. Reed as he held out the camp certificate. He shook Kellie's hand as the others clapped.

"But—" Kellie stammered.

"Congratulations!" Mr. Reed said. Kellie returned to her seat as the applause trailed off.

After church, Kellie helped her mom with lunch. "Mom, I just don't understand what God wants to teach me. He's provided the way for me to go to camp, but I'm not signed up because I have my recital that week."

"I know, dear," her mother said. "Sometimes God works in ways that we can't understand. Isn't it exciting to anticipate what God is going to do with this?"

Kellie started to set the table. After a couple minutes Kellie said, "Mom, I've been thinking. What if there's someone else who can't pay for camp? I could give her my certificate so that she could go."

Kellie's mother gave her a hug. "I'm proud of you, dear. That's a good selfless idea that honors God. I'll talk to Mr. Reed tonight."

After the evening service a younger girl came up to Kellie and threw her arms around her. Kellie lifted one arm and patted the girl on the head. "Thank you so much!" the little girl said.

"Thank you for what?" Kellie asked.

"I wanted to go to camp so badly, but I could never go because we don't have enough money. I thought I could win the contest in our class, but I found out this morning that I didn't."

"Did my mom give you the certificate I won?" Kellie asked.

The girl nodded her head vigorously. "I was so disappointed when I knew I didn't win, but I kept on praying for God to do something. And He did!"

Kellie put her hand on the girl's shoulder. "I hope you have a great time!" she said. "You'll learn and have fun at the same time. Let me know how it goes." The girl gave Kellie another big hug; then she ran off toward her family.



⚙️ **How did Kellie reveal her trust in and submission to God? She understood that God in His wisdom had a different plan for her and that He could use her to bless somebody else.**

► **What was Kellie's idea? God could use her to be a blessing to someone.**

⚙️ **Do you think that God favored the other girl more than Kellie? Why? Answers will vary.** Emphasize that though each Christian's circumstances will be different, all Christians are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph. 1:3).

Read Acts 20:35 and discuss why giving is an act of joy.

⚙️ **How can Christians continue to build trust in God, His ways, and His power? Answers will vary. Point out that faith comes from hearing, reading, and obeying God's Word.**



## Application Story

Explain that in 1952 in the Islamic country of Pakistan, there was a team of thirteen missionaries. Mr. and Mrs. Rock studied the Urdu language and had a medical ministry. The team grew, and a station was about to be opened closer to the Himalayas. Mr. and Mrs. Rock were just finishing the third year of their first term when the following events took place. Truly God made His power evident through His protection and perfect timing.

**Read or tell the following true account.** Listening question: **How was the Lord glorified? He used the missionaries' care for the accident victims to show the missionaries' usefulness to the community.**

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### Saved Seats

Missionary Caleb Cutherell and his family were about to finish their language studies in Pakistan and move from the hills of Murree to the village of Mansehra. Mr. Rock's job was to find housing for them. He found two possibilities for rent, but Mr. Cutherell would need to see them to make the final decision.

Not many of the missionaries had cars, so they used public transportation most of the time. Mr. Cutherell would make the long trip from Murree by bus. Mr. Rock calculated that Mr. Cutherell could leave after language classes on Friday, look at the houses on Saturday, and be back for classes on Monday.

Because of the extensive travel and possible delays, the language teachers and other missionaries said that Mr. Cutherell might not be back in time. Mr. Rock wanted to complete his assignment to find housing for the new missionary family and insisted that this was the time for Mr. Cutherell to travel.

Mr. Cutherell's travels went well, and on Saturday both he and Mr. Rock were ready to go by bus to look at the possible places to live. They hurried to the government bus yard in the early morning hours and arrived in plenty of time to catch the bus coming from another city.

Mr. Rock's trustworthy friend—the stationmaster—had promised to reserve two seats on that bus for them. The men went to the hut to pay for their reserved bus tickets.

"Sahib, ji," the stationmaster said. "Your request was forgotten! I repent." He crossed his arms and grabbed his earlobes to show that he was sincere. "You have nothing to worry about. There are always vacant seats this early. I'll give you the first two."

The bus came, but it was full. If they waited until the next bus, they would not be able to return in time for Mr. Cutherell's language classes. They decided to use the other kind of buses—the local buses. The local buses were usually not dependable; they were slow and broke down often, but it was their last option.

Mr. Rock and Mr. Cutherell hurried over to the other side of the bus yard to find the local buses. The drivers were trying to load up enough passengers to get on the road.

"Only need two more," one yelled. "Two more seats. We're ready to go. Two seats."

"Thank you, Lord," Mr. Rock whispered.

They made exceptionally good time and were just about to catch up with the government bus. They could still make it back in time if they hurried their inspection of the houses once they reached their destination. Only one more turn around the mountain, and Mr. Cutherell would have the best possible view of the village where he and his family would make their new home.

Around the bend, cars blocked the road. Villagers crowded the steep slope. Some looked down; some pointed. Others were crying. A trail of personal belongings littered the mountainside leading down to the bus lying on its roof about a hundred yards down in the valley.

The morning's events flashed through Mr. Rock's mind. He and Mr. Cutherell just stared at each other. The wrecked bus was the same one they had tried to reserve seats for.

Mr. Cutherell hurried to alert the mission doctor, and Mr. Rock helped the wounded and dying. The house search was postponed, but God opened the doors to a future medical ministry. The government was willing to give the missionaries land for their hospital because of their quick medical care for the accident victims.

- ⚙️ **Why did God allow Mr. Rock and Mr. Cutherell to not get the bus they wanted? God is always at work, often for reasons unknown to us, but an obvious answer was to protect them from the bus accident.**
- ⚙️ **Do you think some other Christians might have been on that bus? We don't know, but God has a unique race for each Christian to run (Heb. 12:1). Because God is our Lord, He has the right to do in our lives what is best for His glory.**
- ▶️ **How did the Lord open the doors for future ministry? He used the missionaries' care for the accident victims to show their usefulness to the community.**
- ⚙️ **How did God use Mr. Rock's insistence that Mr. Cutherell travel? God used them to be at the right place at the right time to help the wounded and dying. The government gave them land for their hospital.**
- ⚙️ **What can we learn about making decisions from this account? In addition to following the specific commands and principles given in the Bible (Prov. 3:1–6), we must rely on wisdom, common sense, and advice from those who love the Lord and know His Word. We should also pray about daily life and future direction.**
- ⚙️ **What can we learn about God from this account? God is all-wise, good, and powerful and can use unplanned and tragic events for His glory.**
- ⚙️ **Are you struggling with unbelief concerning any events that God is allowing in your life?**

Memorize and study Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28–29, and 2 Peter 1:2–3.

## Application Story

Explain that the following events took place in the 1980s. Missionary Boyce joined a group of American pastors for a tour of Israel (the Holy Land) and other places mentioned in the Bible. The Lord's majesty was manifested in a great way to them on this trip. The trip ran smoothly until the return flight. God's people used the circumstances as an opportunity to explain the gospel.

**Read or tell the following true account.** Listening question: **How did God use the whole event to manifest Himself to the passengers and crew? The opinion circulated that the elderly lady was an angel. The crew attributed their safety to the pastors, and the pastors witnessed to them about Christ.**

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### Appointed Delays

The group of pastors left Cairo, Egypt, early in the morning for a short flight to Amman, Jordan. In Jordan, they would change planes for the next flight through Amsterdam to New York.

They tried to board the plane in Cairo and knew something unusual was happening. The airline personnel searched each passenger at the boarding gate. When they walked out to the plane, army personnel searched them. Airline stewards searched them for the third time after the passengers boarded the plane. The flight was delayed over an hour.

The pastors were concerned that they would miss their flight from Jordan to Amsterdam. Once they arrived in Jordan, they realized that all flights were being scrutinized, so all were late. Theirs was almost four hours late.

They landed in Amsterdam and were told that because of limited time the passengers going on to New York could not leave the plane. Many were disappointed, but they understood. The airport personnel refueled the plane and took the departing passengers' luggage. The short stop lasted two hours!

Finally, a tow tractor towed them out to the end of the runway. The passengers were instructed to exit the plane and enter a small, nearby building. As they got off the plane, armed policemen surrounded them and escorted the 367 passengers to an unheated building that could hold only 240. At one point during the next nine hours, the passengers were told to claim their luggage, which had been unloaded. They did so, adding to the already overcrowded building.

Around 1:30 in the morning, some of the passengers tried to force their way through the policemen to go to a hotel in town. The police captain took a megaphone and stood up on a table. He informed the passengers that a bomb had been found on the plane; the police were trying to apprehend the person or people responsible. The crowd was compliant.

One man had been arrested when he claimed the suitcase that contained the bomb, and the police were watching him to see whether he had accomplices. The captain ordered his men to check everyone's passport and to escort them to a local hotel. The process took another hour.

During that time Mr. Boyce asked the police captain for details. When the plane landed in Amsterdam, a few people had been scheduled to board for the connecting flight to New York. One of these was an elderly lady, but she refused to board. She suddenly left the airport, and her luggage had to be removed from the plane. Her luggage should have been right near the door of the aircraft hold, but the baggage handlers could not find it. They started digging into the pile, and a man on the inside called out names on the luggage tags. He called out a name that was not on the passenger list. People often borrow luggage and forget to change the nametag, but they checked the suitcase anyway—especially since the airline had received a bomb threat. Sure enough, that suitcase contained a bomb! The passenger who later claimed the suitcase was traveling on a fake passport and had put his real name on his suitcase. He had a terrorist record and had planned to go down with the plane when the bomb exploded over the North Atlantic!

The following day, the plane continued on to New York, and Mr. Boyce asked the police captain for more information about the elderly lady who had refused to board, leading to the discovery of the bomb. He said that the airline had not been able to identify her. The record of her ticket purchase was not found anywhere in the computers, and her suitcase was never located. The police captain looked the missionary in the eye and said, "I believe she was an angel."

That opinion circulated through the plane during the flight. At one point, all the crew gathered in the section where the pastors sat. They believed that the Muslim god, Allah, had spared their lives because of the pastors aboard. They wanted to give these "holy men" gifts, but the pastors refused. Instead, the pastors took the opportunity to share the gift of salvation through the true God, Jesus Christ.

- ⚙️ **How did the passengers react in difficult circumstances when they did not know what was going on? Some got upset and tried to break through the police barrier to find rest in a hotel. Others obeyed patiently.**
- ▶ **What stopped the passengers from resisting the blockade? The police captain informed them that this was for their protection; their lives were in danger.**
- ⚙️ **How did God use the whole event to magnify Himself to the passengers and crew? The opinion circulated that the elderly lady was an angel. The crew attributed their safety to the pastors, and the pastors explained the gospel of Christ to them.**
- ⚙️ **Have there been times when you were honored that you did not give God the glory and speak about Him?**
- ⚙️ **How can you give God the glory when you are being honored? We should first truly be thankful to God in our hearts, realizing that all blessings come from Him, and then speak of His goodness and greatness.**



## Application Story

**Read or tell the following true account.** Listening question: **How was Mr. May tested, and how did God guide his way to the people that had the money? He was tempted to tell the wealthy man at lunch about the need. Because of the weather, he changed his route and landed where a Christian friend talked of investing \$1,000 to help a national.**

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### Trusting God

Thangi's parents were national missionaries in Asia, in a country where millions of people represent twenty different languages and dialects. Only two language groups had portions of the Scripture. Now that Thangi had just finished her master's degree in communications, her father had asked her to consider returning home to work as a Bible translator.

Thangi called Mr. Zander, the director of regional offices of a Bible translators' school, and he encouraged her to work on another master's degree in linguistics. She had only one week before the fees were due for the first course. If she were to attend, she would need \$1,000!

Mr. Zander called the director of the school, Mr. Bernie May, to ask whether he could raise the money for Thangi. Mr. May had just come out of a meeting with a number of translator representatives from different parts of the world. They had presented their financial needs—more than \$8 million! Some of these items had been on the list for years, but Mr. Zander wanted Thangi to be first on the list of needs.

Mr. May knew that he had the marketing and sales ability to get enough money easily by saying the right things to the representatives with him. He knew he could put off the request for \$33,000 to buy a new generator for a jungle base in Indonesia. He could also put off the request to buy a new plane to replace the one that recently crashed in Colombia. Mr. May knew that he would be trusting in his own ability if he used those methods. He felt that God wanted him to trust Him to provide the needed money.

"I can't treat Thangi in a special way," Mr. May told Mr. Zander. "But if God wants her in school this week, we can trust Him to locate and provide the funds. I will do two things. I'll pray about it. And if anyone approaches me and says he has \$1,000 to help train a national translator, I'll direct the money to Thangi."

Mr. Zander was disappointed, but he knew what it meant to trust God and not self. He agreed and told Thangi of the decision. She approved excitedly.

The following day, Mr. May had lunch with a wealthy man who could easily have written a check for \$1,000. Mr. May knew that he should wait on God instead of saying anything to the wealthy man.

Two days later, Mr. May flew his plane from Oklahoma back home to California. Because of the weather, he took a different route than usual and decided to stop in Colorado to refuel. He had Christian friends who usually vacationed there. Mr. May gave his friends a call when he landed.

His friends were delighted to hear his voice. They drove over to take him to their cabin. Mr. May was just getting ready to sit down on the porch for a sip of tea when his friend spoke.

"Bernie, I'm glad you stopped by. I've been thinking about the translation work. It seems you ought to try to find some Christian nationals and begin training them to help with the translation. If you ever find anyone like that, I'd like to invest \$1,000 to help with his education."

Mr. May started to laugh. "Let me tell you about Thangi," he said.



- ▶ **How did God use Thangi's father to direct her? He suggested that she come back to Asia and work as a Bible translator.**
- ▶ **Why did Mr. May not use his words and his own methods to get the money for Thangi? He believed that God wanted him to trust Him by having the Lord initiate conversation about the need.**
- ▶ **How was Mr. May tested, and how did God guide his way to the people that had the money? He was tempted to tell the wealthy man at lunch about the need. Because of the weather, he changed his route and landed where a Christian friend talked about investing \$1,000 to help a national.**
- ⚙️ **Would it have been wrong if Mr. May had asked others for the money? Not necessarily. God works through communication, but it is easy to trust others through communication rather than to trust God alone.**
- ⚙️ **How has God directly provided for a need in your life?**

## Application Story

**Read or tell the following true account.** Listening question: **Why did it seem impossible that Dr. Helen would receive a package with the requested items? *She had been in Africa for four years and had never received a package from home; people would not normally send the clinic those things without knowing of a need, especially sending a hot-water bottle to the equator.***

The following account is used by permission. It is adapted from the book *God, You and That Man with Three Goats!* compiled by Don and Vera Hillis.

### Jesus Really Loves

Dr. Helen was a medical doctor in Zaire, central Africa. Many times, supplies for the clinic ran out before more could be obtained. One night Dr. Helen worked hard to help a mother deliver her baby; but in spite of all the team's efforts, the lady died, leaving a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter.

There was no incubator at the clinic, and there was no electricity to run an incubator if they had one. They also lacked special feeding facilities. The team would have difficulty keeping the baby alive.

Nights in Zaire were often chilly with drafts. One midwife went to get a box and cotton wool to keep the premature baby warm. Another lady went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot-water bottle. She came back shortly in distress. As she had filled the hot-water bottle, it had burst.

"This was our last hot-water bottle!" she exclaimed.

There was nothing they could do. There were no drug-stores down the forest pathways. The town where they usually bought supplies was 350 miles away!

"Put the baby as near the fire as you safely can," Dr. Helen said. "Sleep between the baby and the door to keep him free from drafts. Your job is to keep that baby warm."

The following day at noon, Dr. Helen went to pray with any of the orphanage children that chose to gather with her, as she did almost every day. She gave the children suggestions of things to pray about, and she told them about the tiny baby. She explained the problem of keeping the baby warm and mentioned the hot-water bottle. She also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During the prayer time, one ten-year-old girl named Ruth bluntly prayed, "Please, God, send us a hot-water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon."

Dr. Helen gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer.

But Ruth continued, "And would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

Dr. Helen did not know whether or not she should say, "Amen." Could God do this? she wondered. Of course, He can do everything, but there are limits, aren't there? She had been in Africa almost four years, and she had never

received a package. If anyone did send me a package, she thought, who would put in a hot-water bottle for me here at the equator?

Halfway through that afternoon, while Dr. Helen was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message came to her that there was a car at her front door. By the time she reached her home, the car was gone. But there on the porch was a large twenty-two-pound package. Dr. Helen sent for the orphanage children; she just couldn't open this special package without them!

Together the children and Dr. Helen pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. They folded the paper, taking care not to tear it. Some thirty to forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box.

From the top, Dr. Helen lifted out brightly colored knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as she gave them out. Then she lifted out knitted bandages for the leprosy patients. Then came a box of mixed raisins. As Dr. Helen put her hand in again, she felt something rubbery. Could it really be? she wondered. It was. Dr. Helen cried. She had not asked God to send the hot-water bottle nor truly believed that He could, as Ruth had.

Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward crying out, "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly too!" Ruth rummaged down to the bottom of the box and pulled out a small, beautifully dressed doll. Her eyes lit up! She had never doubted.

Ruth looked up at Dr. Helen. "Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?"

That package had been on the way to Zaire for five months. Someone had obeyed God's prompting to send a hot-water bottle. And a little girl had obeyed by sending one of her dolls five months before as God's answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old.



- **What prayer request did Dr. Helen share with the children at the orphanage? *She told them about the tiny baby, the need to keep the baby warm, the lack of a hot-water bottle, and the baby's crying two-year-old sister.***
- ⚙️ **How did God show His majesty to these people? Possible answers include that He provided exactly what they needed at the precise moment that they needed it. They saw that nothing was too difficult for Him.**
- **Why did Ruth ask for a doll for the little two-year-old? *Ruth asked this so that the little girl would know that Jesus really loves her.***
- **Why did it seem impossible that Dr. Helen would receive a package with the requested items? *She had been in Africa for four years and had never received a package from home; people would not normally send the clinic those things without knowing of a need, especially sending a hot-water bottle to the equator.***
- ⚙️ **In what way has God shown you His power in the perfect timing of events in your life?**