

## SYRIA

The war in Syria has made the country a lot less safe for Christians. They have been attacked, kidnapped and many have lost their homes, forcing them to move far away. Thousands of families are still living in refugee camps. A lot of children haven't been to school for years – and with no jobs, parents find it difficult to afford food for their families.

But because lots of people have given money to help, 12,000 displaced families in Syria have been supported through churches like Pastor Edward's in Damascus, with a food parcel each month – as well as blankets, coats and medicines. In some cases, families are beginning to return to their villages, having received help from Open Doors' partners to rebuild their homes. Things are looking up.

**Question:** Could you live without your favourite things?

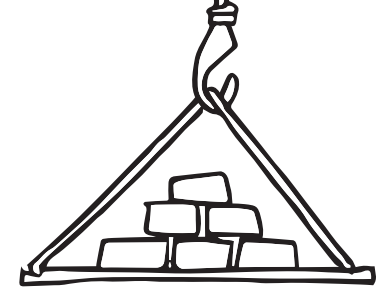
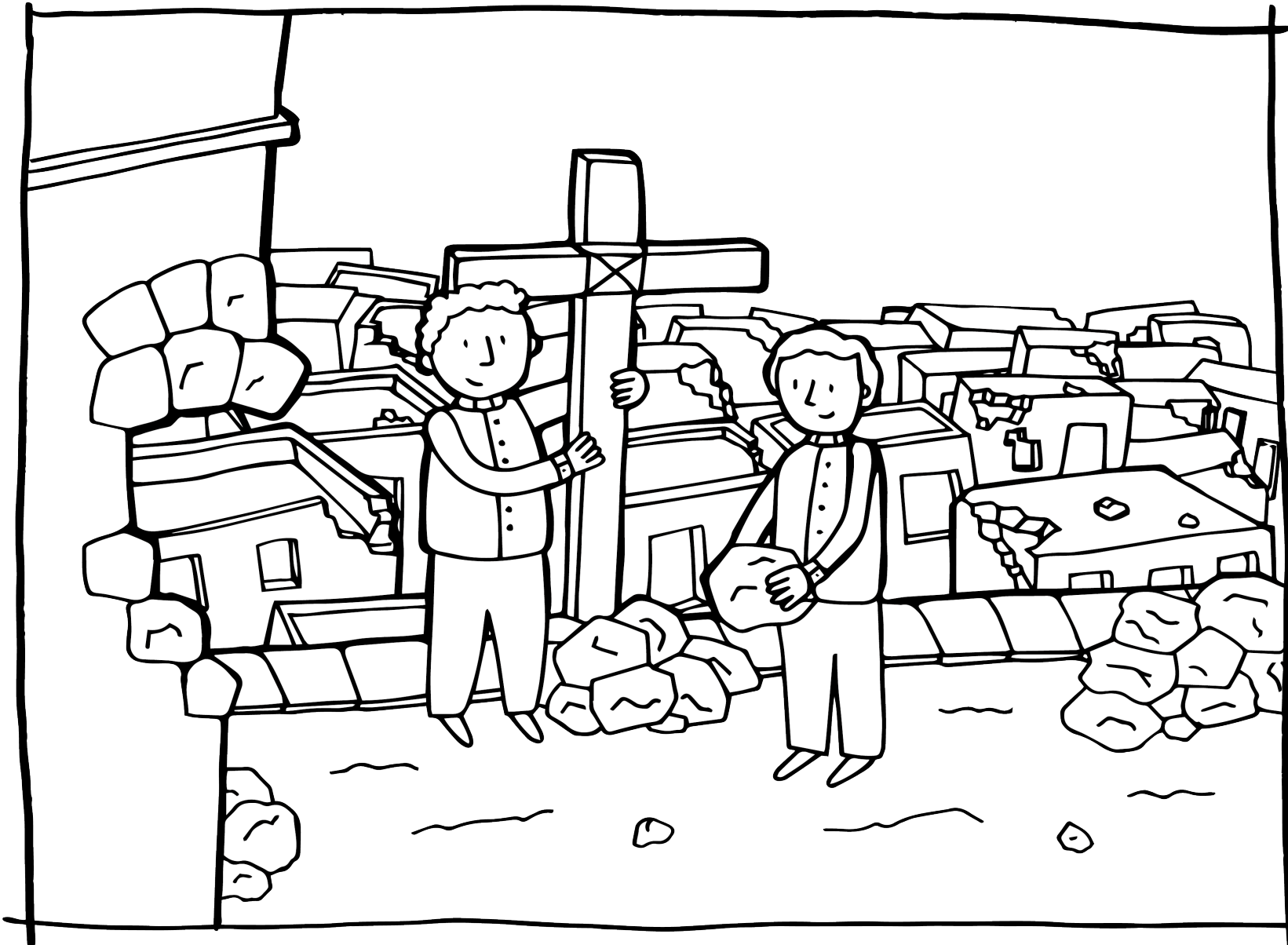
**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for food to eat. Please look after your people in Syria and give them hope.

**Bible:** Philippians 4:12-13

I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation – when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing. Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do.



**OpenDoors**



## IRAQ

When Islamic State fighters took over Mosul in 2014, thousands fled to Erbil – in a safer part of Iraq.

People from Karamles, a Christian village, fled together and now live in a set of apartments they call 'Little Karamles'. Martin and Thabet, their church leaders, went with them. They have carried on leading the usual church activities – just in a different place.

When the fighters were at last forced out of Karamles, and it was safe to visit, Martin and Thabet went back to take a look. They saw the damage in their church and village, but they also planted a huge cross on a nearby hill, as a sign to everyone that Karamles will one day be full of people once again.

**Question:** What's so special about the cross?

**Prayer:** Help me to put you first and love you more than anything else. Please give strength to your people in Iraq as they try to rebuild their homes and lives.