



MAY I NEVER BOAST EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD
HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.

GALATIANS 6:14



OpenDoors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

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SIXTH COURSE - IRAQ

Know Your Place (Mat) Quiz

1. What three ingredients formed the original Passover meal?
2. The Islamic world has two major denominations. What are they called? And what is the split in Iraq?
3. When will the Open Doors global petition for Syria and Iraq be presented to the UN?

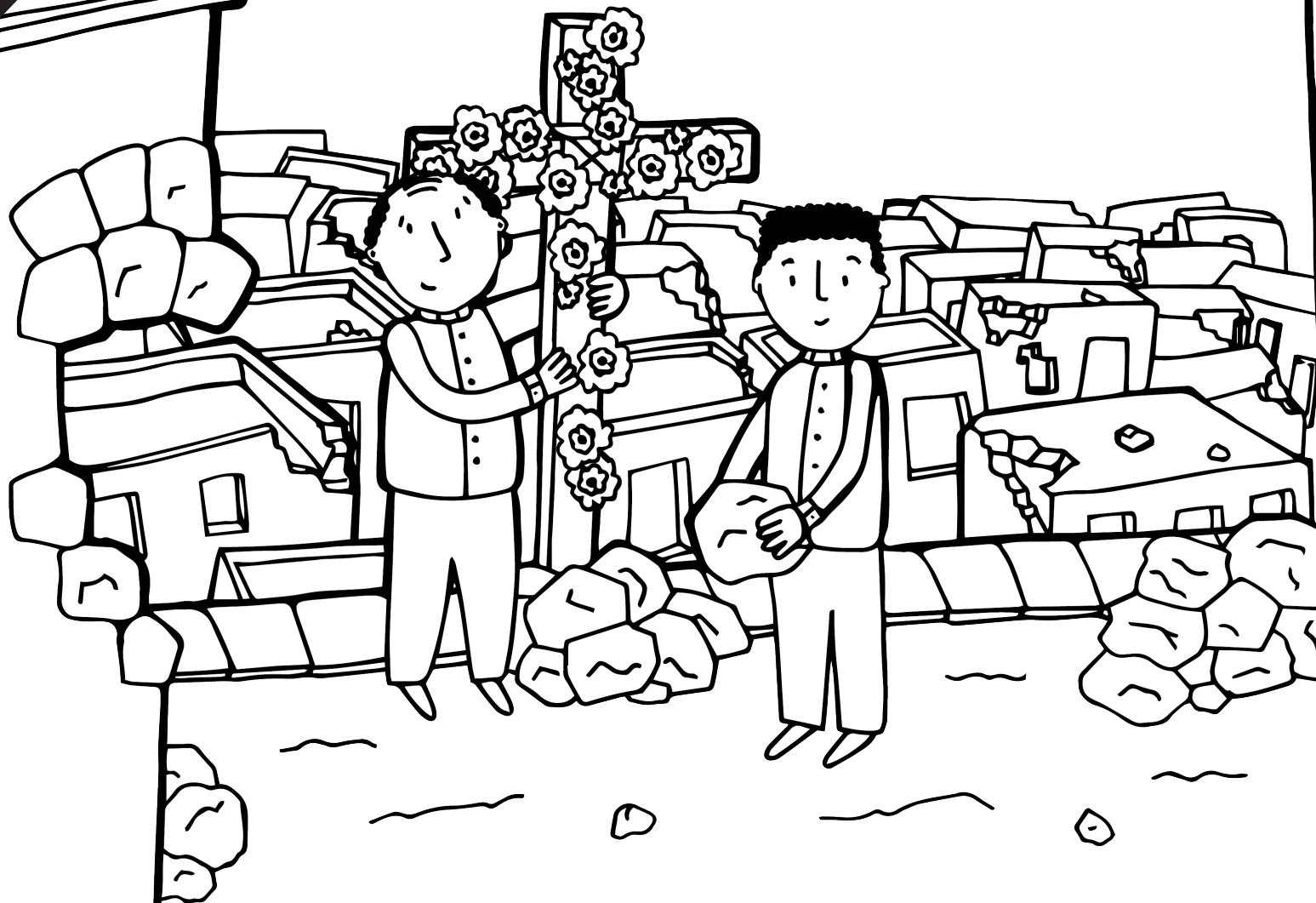
The Open Doors World Watch Map/Guide 2017 will help you answer questions about the persecuted church.

Ghazan in Iraq

Father-of-three Ghazan arrived in Erbil empty-handed when forced out of his house on the Nineveh plains by so-called Islamic State (IS). "Back in my own town I used to have a successful transportation company." But in Erbil, he says, "I couldn't find a job, I had no income, and the rent for our apartment was high." So when the church offered him a managerial position at a bakery established by Open Doors partners, he took the job immediately. "Although I don't earn much here and I have to work much longer hours, at least I can pay my rent so my family doesn't have to live in a camp. I am a Christian and Jesus teaches us how to be patient. In this situation there is no other road... I have lost everything, but I thank God that my family is still with me."

Displaced Christians in Erbil are watching and waiting to see when it will be possible to go home. A few have made plans to return. In Karamles, a Christian village near Mosul, the church leaders have raised a cross as a sign that one day their village will be full of people once again.

Food for thought: What does the cross mean to you?
What do you find yourself boasting about?



SIXTH 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.



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Bible: Galatians 6:14

The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ is my only reason for boasting.

