

# Locked in!

## A resource for children at home

The following activities are designed for children aged 5-11, to help them to identify with the challenges and isolation of Christians who are imprisoned for their faith.

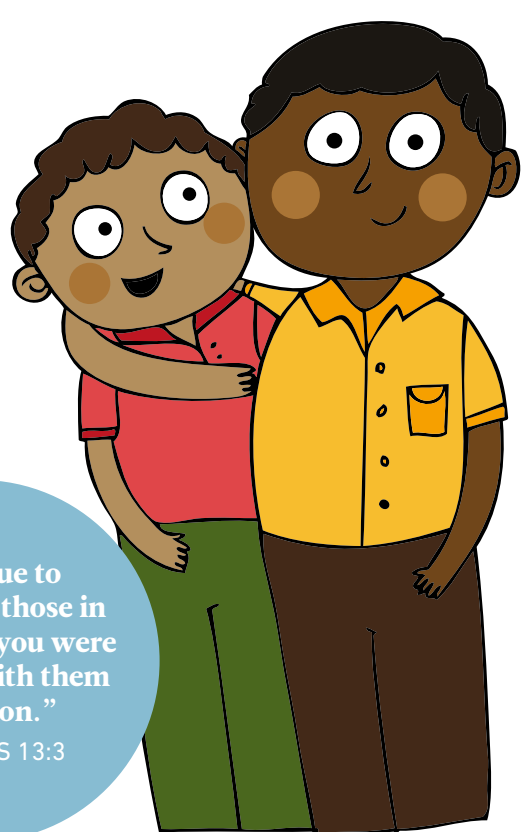
### Aims

- To discover the courageous faith of Christians in Eritrea and those who are imprisoned for their faith.
- To support persecuted Christians through prayer.

### Short plan

Mix and match from the following activities:

- The Land of Red! game
- Prison Quizzin'
- Watch film 'Paul in Prison'
- Talk about the film
- Container Crush
- Prisoners in the Bible
- From Paul to Paul
- Prison Power
- World Watch List PowerPoint Quiz
- Prayers for Prisoners.



“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison.”

HEBREWS 13:3

### Activities in detail

#### The Land of Red! game

Eritrea means 'red'. How many red things can you find in your house? Find as many as you can, then put them all together and make a red table display. (You could play Kim's Game after this). Alternatively, get your paints, pens or pencils out and make a red rainbow. How many different shades of red can you create?



#### Prison Quizzin'

What do you know about Eritrea? Do you know what prisons are like around the world, or how they've changed over time? Do a bit of research online, make up a quick quiz, then try it out on someone else.

#### Watch 'Paul in Prison'

'Paul in Prison' is an animated children's film that tells the true story of Paul, an Eritrean Christian, who spent ten years in prison for his faith. Find the film at [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)

#### Talk about the film

Here are some suggestions:

- Have you ever wondered what it must be like to be in prison?
- What does it mean to be 'depressed'?
- What did Paul mean when he said that he learnt from Christians that 'true happiness was not in material things but through faith in Jesus'?
- What happened in 2002 in Eritrea?
- What happened at Paul's church?
- What were the three things Paul and other Eritrean Christians were being asked not to do?
- Why didn't Paul sign the paper?



- Paul said it was very dirty in prison. Do you like getting dirty? How would you feel if you couldn't have a bath or shower for a very long time?
- What does solitary confinement mean? How would you cope if you were in a single cell for a very long time?
- Would you rather be on your own, or with lots of people, crowded into a dungeon?
- Could you cope with extreme heat?

### Container Crush – role-play challenge

Make your own cell – out of cardboard or anything you can find - and then try some of these challenges:

- Stand still for as long as possible - don't even touch your face!
- Lie down on your tummy with your legs bent at the knee and your hands holding on to your ankles. How long can you stay like this?
- Do exercises that are meant for a small space, e.g. finger exercises or Pilates, which was originally designed for people in captivity.
- Sing something joyful at the top of your voice!
- Send coded messages to people, either at a window, or in some other way.
- Try to do simple tasks with your hands tied together, e.g. putting your shoes on, eating a meal, brushing your hair or teeth.

### Prisoners in the Bible

There are a surprising number of characters in the Bible who experienced imprisonment. Look in a illustrated Bible. How many can you find?



### From Paul to Paul

The apostle Paul had a lot of experience of prison. Before he followed Jesus, he persecuted Christians and put them in prison (Acts 8:3; Acts 26:10). After he became a Christian, he was persecuted and put in prison himself (Acts 16:16-40) where he wrote a lot of letters to churches. How would you feel if you got a letter from a prisoner? What advice do you think the apostle Paul would give to Eritrean Paul? (2 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Corinthians 16:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:6-14)

### Prison Power

If you were in prison, you would have a lot of thinking time. What would you do with it?

Remembering the songs you sing at church - or Bible stories, verses, or prayers - might help you to stay strong. Here's a verse you might like to memorise:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13

### World Watch List PowerPoint Quiz

Put a world map up on your wall, or find one in an atlas. The Open Doors World Watch List Map shows the 50 countries where it is most difficult or dangerous to be a Christian. What number is Eritrea? Go online to [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org) to find out. Look for the World Watch List 2020 Children's Map and download the PowerPoint Quiz.



### Prayers for Prisoners

In the film, Eritrean Paul says "The love I received from Christians all over the world has helped me so much. Even though they don't know me, they prayed for me and helped me while I was in prison and after my release. The persecution would have broken my spirit had it not been for God's care shown through them."

Pray for Paul and those who are in prison now, using the verses or stories from the Bible to help you. You could write or draw your prayers on your cardboard cell.

