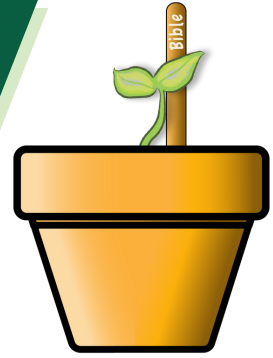


GROW

Kids Christian Magazine



Lessons for Life

"Here's your dream home," Torrey chuckled to his wife Sue. In fact, at the first glance it was more of a nightmare than a dream. The front yard was completely turned-up mud. The tiny four room house was littered inside with rubbish. Huge rundown greenhouses were full of ripe dragonfruit—but also prickly blackberry vines and weeds. Barrels of a chemical for making fertiliser were sitting around, and some had spilled, polluting the soil. This "dream property" was a literal dumping ground of rubbish.

Yet Torrey and Sue saw the potential behind the mess. For two and a half years they worked after hours with their two youngest daughters. (The others had left home already) They planted trees and shrubs. They added onto every side of the house. They removed truckloads of contaminated soil. They brought in the whole crop of dragonfruit, and pulled out the weeds and vines. Throughout it all, they persevered and worked diligently, relying on God to help them.

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What's inside our latest issue:

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Serial Story (Double Chapters)

News from the Farm

For a free email subscription,
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Lessons for Life cont.

Today, all their hard work has paid off. Their home and garden are spacious and look amazing! Although he probably could retire, Mr. Torrey runs his own business making outdoor fireplaces, and Mrs. Susan is always busy serving others (including my family), entertaining, and making amazing costumes, dresses, and quilts. But they also know how to relax, too. Every now and again they take their houseboat out on the lake for a restful day or week. Their diligence and hard work is an inspiration to me, and I pray it will be so for you, too! Diligence is "...conscientious hard work and perseverance, particularly with regard to a relationship with God"*

Dave Ramsey said, "Work is doing it. Discipline is doing it every day. Diligence is doing it well every day."

Challenges

Read: *Rainbow Garden* by Patricia St John

When her mother leaves her to go on a business trip Elaine is a selfish, spoiled, stuck-up city girl who only gets pleasure in pleasing herself. Will her mother notice the change in her, following her stay with the Owen family in the Welsh countryside? This story is beautiful, exciting, and carries a timeless message. I enjoyed this book thoroughly and highly recommend it.

Write: A few paragraphs about an inspiring person in your life such as Mr. Torrey and Mrs. Susan and share it with others (with the inspiring person's permission). :] If you like, send it to me and I will probably put it in the next edition of this magazine!

Outdoors: Earn money by doing an outdoor job for your parents or neighbours.



But **GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

2 Peter 3:18

*From *The Dictionary of Bible Themes* by Martin Manser

Character Verses: Godliness

Look up and read these bible verses in the ESV, then fill in the blanks.

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the _____, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be _____. Without having any chief, _____, or ruler, she prepares her bread in _____ and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you _____ there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your _____? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to _____, and poverty will come upon you like a _____, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 28:19

Whoever works his _____ will have plenty of bread, but he who follows _____ pursuits will have plenty of _____.

Ecclesiastes 10:18

Through sloth the _____ sinks in, and through _____ the house leaks.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work _____, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the _____ as your reward. You are

Character Activities

Choose one or two of these activities (more if you want) and do them!

- **Study** laziness and/or diligence in the bible. Use a concordance to record each verse on the topic and what it says. What can you learn?
- **Study** diligent men and women in the bible; Joseph, Ruth, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jacob, etc. How were they diligent? What were the results? Record your observations on a chart or in a report.
- **Study** Proverbs 6:6-11. Then study ants. Observe an ant colony and/or read all you can about them. How do they care for their young and the queen ant? How do they organise their home and keep it clean? How do they collect and store food? Write a report about ants. What did you learn that you could apply in your own life?
- **Read** about men and women from history who were diligent in their fields; inventors, athletes, musicians, scientists, authors, etc. Write a report on one of them.

Character Activities cont.

- **Get up and go to bed** each day at a certain time (making sure you get enough sleep!) whether you feel like it or not. Learn to see things that need to be done. Dedicate a day each to look for ways to share, ways to keep your home clean, ways to encourage others, ways to help your parents, ways to show respect etc., and do as many as is reasonable.
- **See how much** school and/or work you can get done in a day before someone tells you to do them.
- **Raise a pet** or livestock. Take full responsibility for their care and feeding.
- **Ask your parents or neighbours to hire you** for jobs. Work hard and get paid. Be lazy and get fired!
- **Volunteer** for some sort of community work, if you are old enough.

Most activities adapted from Polished Cornerstones by Pam Forster



Character Evaluation Questions

- Do you generally do your best, completing tasks with efficiency and excellence? (reliability)
- Do you clean up after yourself? (cleanliness)
- Do you quit when a job or project becomes boring or difficult? (perseverance)
- Can you do regular daily chores and tasks without being reminded? (initiative)
- Is completing a list of “to-do’s” more important to you than your relationship with God and people? (balance)
- Do you take initiative to help your parents and keep your home clean, even when you don’t have to? (initiative)
- Do you get easily distracted from the task at hand? (focus)

Most questions adapted from Polished Cornerstones by Pam Forster

Activity Page

Dilligence Word Scramble

oucsf ____
radh rok w (2 words) ____ ____
ciiledneg ____
nitvitaie ____
ralbielity ____
servepanecer ____



Character Challenge Wordfind

Find the words you wrote in the blanks for the Character Verses in the wordfind

g t g g u q d l a n d z i r a
w p s l e e p b d u z i n w n
z h a l n v w u m o i f h j t
k z e p z a w o r t h l e s s
r y b a p r c s u o l k r r o
l j r f r a e u u h o f i s f
p s o j t t e s b p t f t b f
k e b b z a i z t e v n a m i
p r b x u r l l i z g g n w c
o v e t c l l k y k i k c i e
v i r g v c i o y x w n e s r
e n i n d o l e n c e z g e x
r g a n m l q k s z a f i w k
t f m w d o a g s u m m e r r
y r z y a d b x t p r o f i t

Serial Story

The Story of Charlie Chipmunk on Noah's Ark

by Sophia Coleman

Chapter 7

A Bird's Mission

Forty days passed. Eden and the other humans seemed more cheerful, but also more restless and impatient. The same could also be said of us. **The food, however, was an impending problem.** When I saw the wild dogs opposite me guzzling down half of their food and spilling the other half on the floor, it was hard not to get angry at them because my own stomach never had quite enough. (Although, funnily enough, I found their food disgusting even to look at.) Sometimes Eden would let me and Charlotte out of our cage and take us for a run down the corridors of the ark, always ending at the kitchen for a snack. Those frolics were the highlight of this period for me.

One day, Christina came to me in a flurry of excitement. "Charlie! Charlotte! Jasper has been chosen to go out and see if there's any dry land yet."

"Really?" I exclaimed. Our time on the ark must be nearly over.

"Look!" I followed her gaze toward the open window down the hallway, the same window Japheth had seen the tops of the mountains out of. Noah was standing at it and, sure enough, holding Jasper the proud raven. The other humans were gathered around him watching breathlessly. I, too, held my breath as Noah whispered, "Go out and get 'em, Jas," and then lifted him up so he could take off. Jasper hesitated, then launched himself into the air with a braggy confidence.

"I do hope he'll be alright," said Christina, for her kind heart cared for even the onboard bullies.

continued on next page



Serial Story cont.

A day later, Jasper had not returned. I wondered what had happened to him. Around midday, Christina came to me so quietly that I was certain something had happened.

"What's up?" I asked apprehensively.

"I-I've been chosen," she said.

"No!" I exclaimed, horrified, "What if you don't...come back?"

"I'll be fine," she replied calmly.

"Christina?" Noah's kind voice came from the window.

"Goodbye!" The dove called to me as she flew to Noah.

"Goodbye, bird of hope," Noah said affectionately to Christina when she alighted on his shoulder. "Go out and find land. Come back as soon as you feel tired, unless you find somewhere to rest. Be careful out there."

What Noah had said was exactly what I wanted to say. "Be careful," I whispered.

Christina glanced at me with a peaceful smile which seemed to say, "Don't worry." Then she was gone.



Chapter 8

An Olive Leaf?

I worried the whole afternoon about Christina, and I didn't feel like eating. Had the wind blown her into the sea? Had she collapsed from exhaustion mid-flight?

Around sunset a tired white bird landed wearily on Noah's wrinkled hand. Noah, who had been waiting for her at the window, gathered her into his arms and stroked her head gently.

"Good girl," he whispered. "I'm proud of you." He took her to the human's living area.

I didn't see Christina until mid-morning the next day. She came flitting cheerfully up to our cage, looking well rested. "I did it!" She exclaimed, "No land yet, though, only the tops of the mountains. We're stranded on a big one. I think it's called Ararat."

"Any sign of Jasper?" I questioned.

"No," she replied, "By now he's probably dead or found some dry ground far away." I sincerely hoped the latter, but even if he was alive it would be unlikely for him to stay that way, alone and without shelter.



Jasper lay on cold rock, more dead than alive as waves beat against his refuge. He had first sheltered in this small cave on the peak of a mountain six days ago, exhausted from the long flight. Finding no dry land, the prideful raven had refused to return unsuccessful from his mission. But now he wholeheartedly regretted his decision. Several times he had tried to reach reach the ark, but it was far away and his strength was slowly ebbing. Cold, hungry, alone, and utterly miserable, Jasper shivered at the top of the mountain as night fell.

continued on next page

Serial Story cont.



After seven days, Christina was sent out again. I did not worry about her much this time, but I was still relieved when she returned. To the delight of Noah, the other humans, and all the animals watching she was carrying a freshly plucked leaf in her beak. A tree must have grown on—dry land!

"An olive leaf!" Shem exclaimed.

"Symbolising peace," smiled his mother, Noah's wife.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great!" * began Noah.

"He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains," continued Noah's wife.

"At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them," chanted the others.

They continued on, finishing with "Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!"

"And on that note," Noah smiled, "Let's have a feast to celebrate! The animals, too."

Everyone cheered.

To be continued...

** This song is taken from Psalm 104, which is not attributed to any author, so could be written by Noah, or Moses! It is really talking about creation (see Genesis 1:2; 9-10), but is appropriate for this joyful time.*

News from the Farm

This month we took a big road trip up through Christchurch, Picton, and Wellington to Te Puke near Taraunga in the North Island. We took the Bluebridge ferry, saw dozens of seals at Kaikoura, climbed Mt Maunganui, and rode on our host's (Mr. Torrey and Mrs. Sue's) houseboat to natural hot pools on Lake Rotowhiti. We even bought a huge van for our big family on the way home! This month I have been learning about God's provision and guidance, and how he works behind the scenes for his beloved. He has guided my family to every place we've lived without wasting a minute. **The "journey" can be just as important as the destination!**

Please pray for:

- Guidance and help for my family as we think about possibly moving
- Provision for my orthodontic treatment and for it to go well
- Blessing on the launching of the new Grow Magazine website!