

PREVIEW



JOHN BUNYAN'S PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
FULLY ILLUSTRATED AND ADAPTED
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NKJV)

PREVIEW

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

This book
belongs to a
little pilgrim named:

From:

Date:



PREVIEW

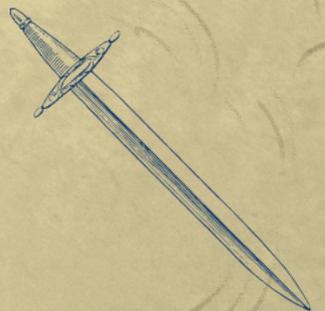
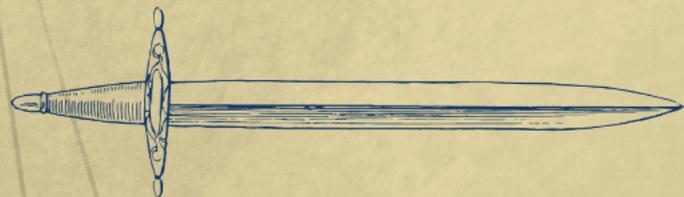
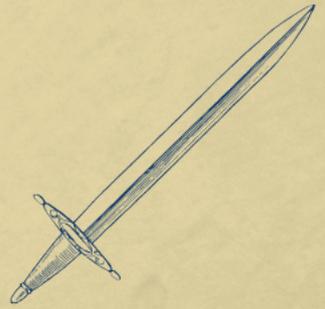
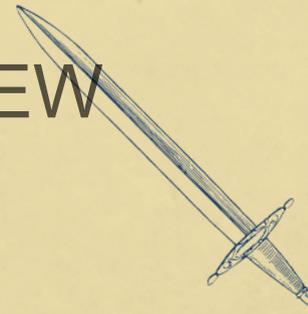
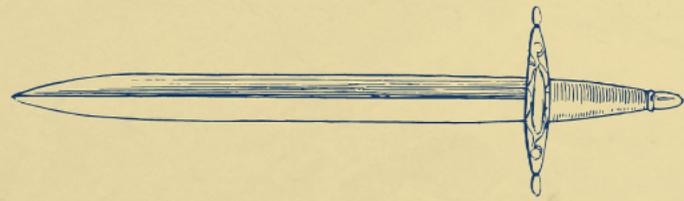
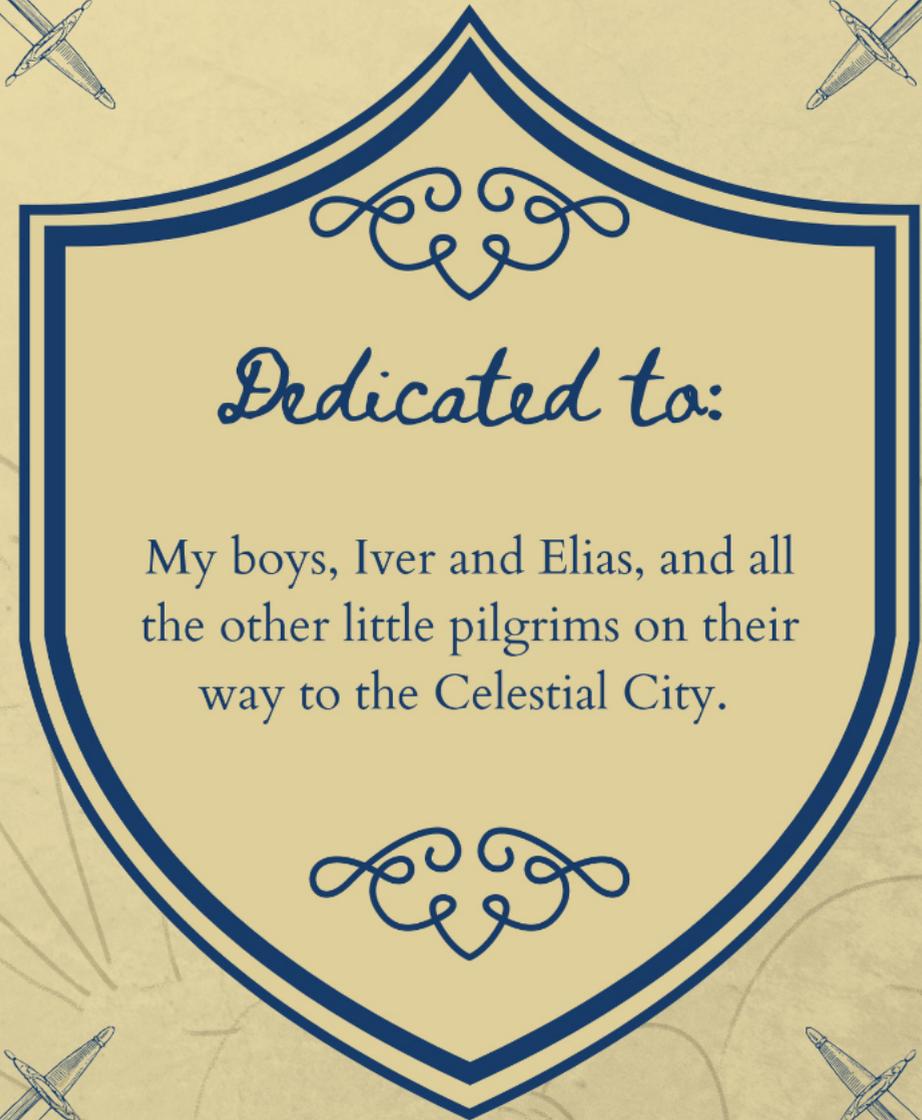
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www.LithosKids.com



Little Pilgrim's Big Journey

PREVIEW



1. *The City of Destruction*
(pp. 9-26)

2. *The Bog of Despair*
(pp. 27-44)

3. *The Interpreter's House*
(pp. 45-64)

4. *The Place of Deliverance*
(pp. 65-82)

5. *The Palace Beautiful*
(pp. 83-104)

6. *The Valley of Humiliation*
(pp. 105-126)

7. *Vanity Fair*
(pp. 127-152)

8. *The Castle of Despair*
(pp. 153-174)

9. *The Delectable Mountains*
(pp. 175-192)

10. *The Celestial City*
(pp. 193-212)

PREVIEW

Introduction

In 1661 a man named John Bunyan was put in jail for preaching the Bible. In those days people weren't allowed to teach freely, but had to conform to rules from the government. John Bunyan could have been set free if he promised to stop preaching—but he could not be silent about the truths of God.

He remained in jail for twelve years. He faced great difficulties. But God had great plans for him there. During this time in jail, John Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Some friends told him that it was a silly storybook and he should throw it out. But he printed it anyway. To his surprise, it became famous, and continues to be famous to this day. In fact, next to the Bible, it's the most published and translated book in the world.

This book—*Little Pilgrim's Big Journey*—is based on John Bunyan's timeless tale. It seeks to follow the original storyline closely, while making it easier for children to read and understand.

As *The Pilgrim's Progress* has inspired countless generations of Christians, we hope this book will inspire many little pilgrims to begin their journey to the Celestial City.



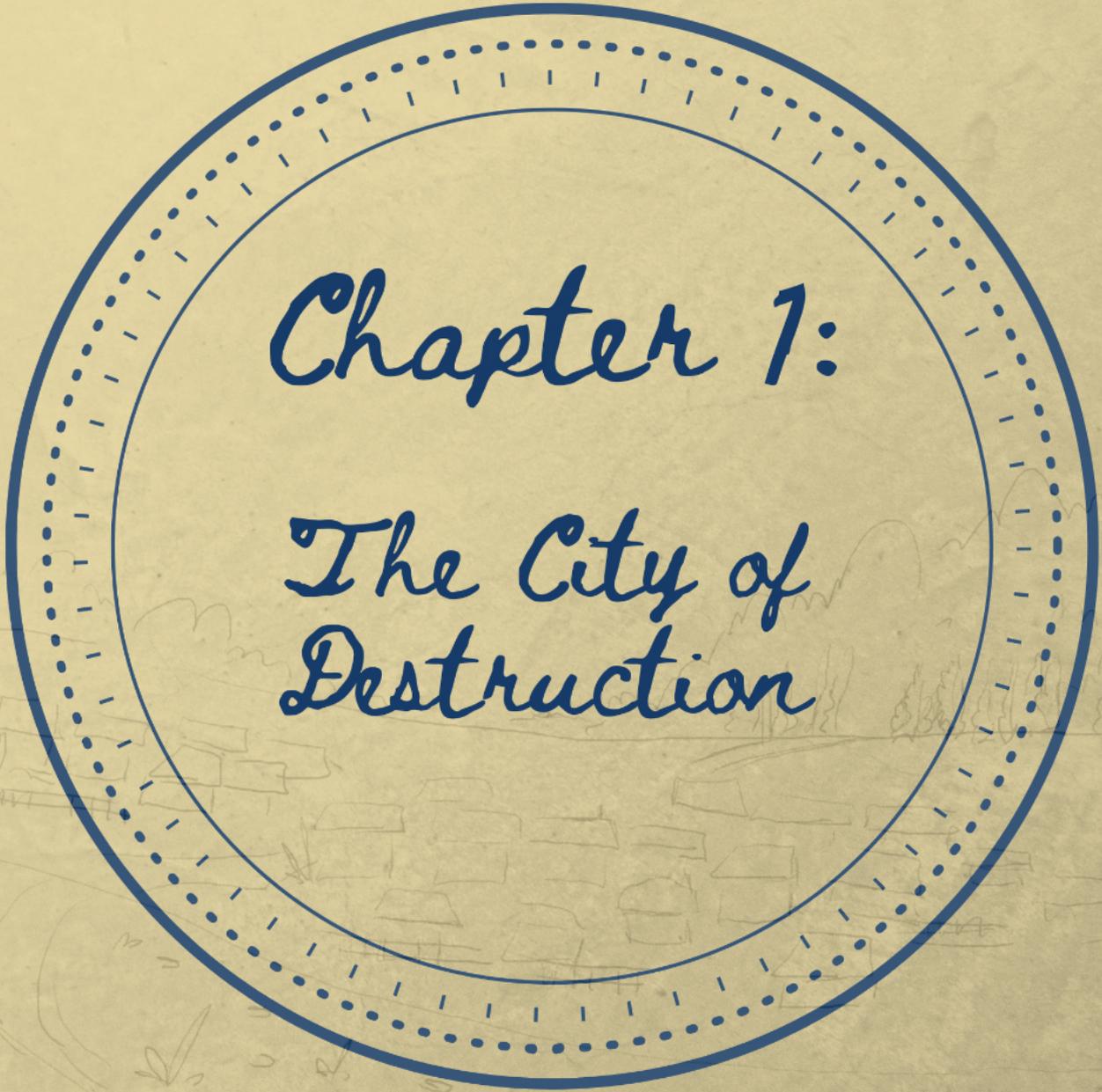
What is an Allegory?

The Pilgrim's Progress is not an ordinary story. It was written as an allegory. An allegory is a story with a deeper meaning. All the people and places mentioned in this story are intended to teach us important lessons. (To help parents explain the meaning of this allegory, a short summary is included at the end of each chapter, along with a question guide at the end of the book.)

A pilgrim is someone who leaves home to go on a big journey. John Bunyan believed that the Christian life is like a pilgrimage, with many joys and trials on our way to heaven. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the story of John Bunyan's experience as a Christian, but it represents the journey of all Christians.

This story vividly explores biblical themes as we follow Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. He faces many obstacles along the way. He meets people who try to help him as well as those who try to harm him.

As you embark on this journey, we pray that you'll be inspired to become a pilgrim and begin your own journey to the Celestial City.



Chapter 1: The City of Destruction

As I walked through the wilderness of this world,
I found a quiet place to sleep.
As I slept, I dreamed a dream.

In my dream,
I saw a boy named Christian dressed in dirty old clothes.
He had a book in his hand and a great burden on his back.
He was crying to himself: "Oh, what can I do to be saved?"

PREVIEW



At home, Christian told his family,
“This burden on my back grows bigger every day,
and this book says our city will be burned with fire from heaven.
If we don’t find a way to escape, we’ll surely die.”

But no one believed him.
“You’re sick,” they said.
“You should go straight to bed.”

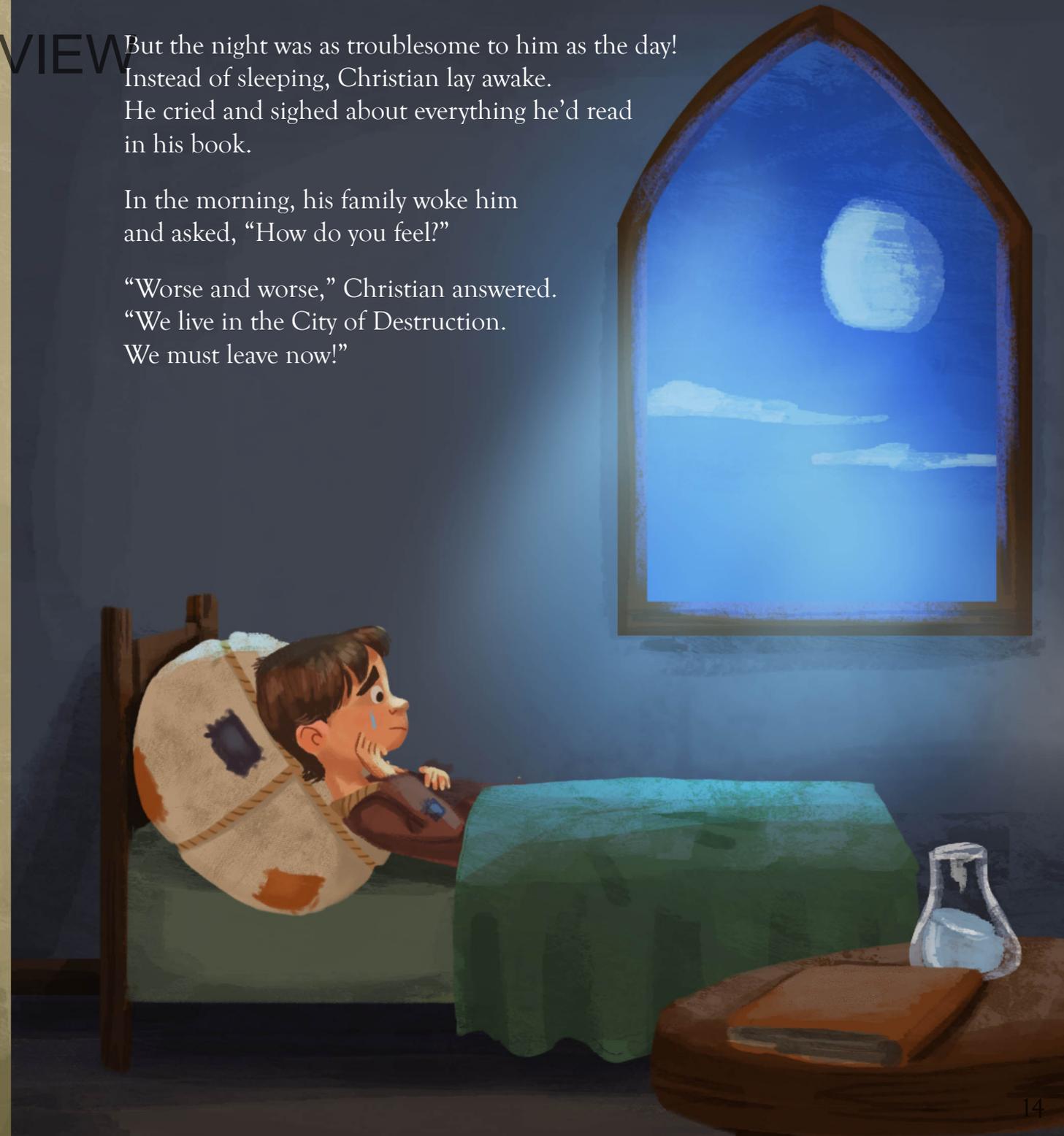


PREVIEW

But the night was as troublesome to him as the day!
Instead of sleeping, Christian lay awake.
He cried and sighed about everything he’d read
in his book.

In the morning, his family woke him
and asked, “How do you feel?”

“Worse and worse,” Christian answered.
“We live in the City of Destruction.
We must leave now!”



PREVIEW

But his family became angry.
“Stop telling us these fairy tales!”
They tried to change Christian’s mind.
They mocked him, and bullied him,
and sometimes ignored him completely.

But Christian wouldn’t stop believing
his book.

Christian read about a Celestial City, and about a King so kind and full of love that he invited everyone to join him there.

“The King has invited us all to the Celestial City,”
Christian said. “Please, come with me!”



Christian took his book to the field to read alone.
He longed to travel to the Celestial City.
He thought, "But what if I get lost on the way?
And how will I travel with this burden?"

PREVIEW

Someone called out, "What are you worried about?"
It was a kind old man named Evangelist.

Christian looked up.
"This book says my city will be destroyed with fire.
I'm scared. I'm not ready to die."

Evangelist pulled a note from his pocket.
It was written by the King himself.
Christian opened it and read:
"Flee from the City of Destruction.
Come find refuge in my city.
I'll keep you safe and secure forever."



Christian asked Evangelist, “Do you think it’s true?
Will my city be destroyed? Is the Celestial City real?”

“Yes,” said Evangelist. “Every word of it is true.
The King wrote it all, and the King never lies.
Do you want to find the Celestial City?”

PREVIEW

“Yes,” Christian said, “more than anything!”

Evangelist pointed in the distance. “Can you see that light?
Follow it until you find the Narrow Gate.
When you get there, Good-Will will tell you what to do.”



Christian sprinted toward the light in the distance,
right through the middle of town.

Some laughed at him and called him names,
and some were sad to see him leave.

PREVIEW



Christian didn't even look back.
He just kept running and shouting,
"I want life!
True life!
Eternal life!"

People who saw him shouted,
"Where are you going?
Come back, Christian—don't be a fool!"

Two boys from the town—named Obstinate and Pliable—chased after him. “Slow down!” they yelled. “Wait for us!”

Obstinate, who was a stubborn and strong boy, caught up with Christian. He grabbed Christian by the arm and said, “Come back right now. Don’t be a fool.”

PREVIEW

“I’m not a fool,” said Christian. “And I can’t come back, because you live in the City of Destruction. But I seek an everlasting city. Please, come along with me.”



“No way!” said Obstinate. “I could never leave behind all my friends and all my stuff.”

Christian answered, “The friends and pleasures you speak of can’t compare to the joys I seek. I seek a treasure that can never be lost, or stolen, or broken. Read about it in my book.”

But Obstinate refused. “Hush! I don’t care about your book. Let’s go home, Pliable. Christian has lost his mind.”

PREVIEW

“Don’t make fun of him,” Pliable told Obstinate. “If what he says is true, I’d like to go with him.”

Obstinate laughed. “Then you’re just as much a fool as Christian. Have fun searching for your imaginary city.” He turned and went back.



Chapter 1 Summary

In chapter 1 we meet Christian, a young boy who's about to leave the City of Destruction and embark on his big journey to the Celestial City. Christian, as his name suggests, represents all Christians who are leaving this world behind in order to seek a heavenly city (Hebrews 11:8-16).

The book in Christian's hand represents the Bible, which tells him about the coming destruction. He believes everything in it, and he has faith to leave everything behind to seek a greater reward. Salvation begins with understanding and believing God's word (Romans 4:3; Romans 10:9-13).

The burden on Christian's back is the burden of sin. It represents the guilt and shame we feel when we understand how we've disobeyed God. Christian longs to be freed from this burden, but he needs the Evangelist to tell him how this can be done (Romans 10:14-17).

People insult Christian and make fun of him for believing what he reads in his book—just as many people today reject what believers in Jesus tell them about the good news in the Bible (Matthew 5:11-12).

Understanding the Allegory:

1. What does the burden on Christian's back represent?
2. How did Christian respond to the truth in his book?

*A more comprehensive question guide can be found at the end of this book, or can be printed out at lithoskids.com

Chapter 2: The Bag of Despond

PREVIEW



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS PART II
CHRISTIANA & THE CELESTIAL CITY

1 Peter 2:9-11 (NKJV)

PREVIEW

*But you are a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people,
that you may proclaim
the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness
into His marvelous light;
who once were not a people
but are now the people of God,
who had not obtained mercy
but now have obtained mercy.*

*Beloved, I beg you
as sojourners and pilgrims,
abstain from fleshly lusts
which war against the soul.*

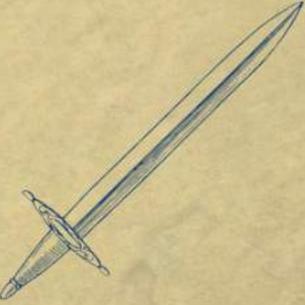
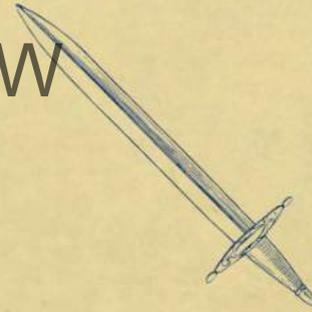
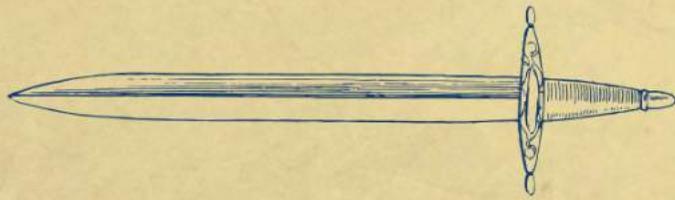


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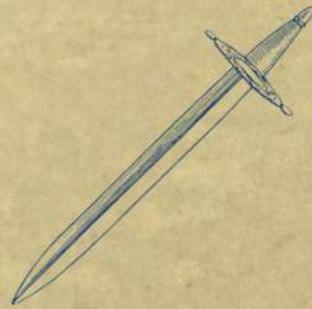
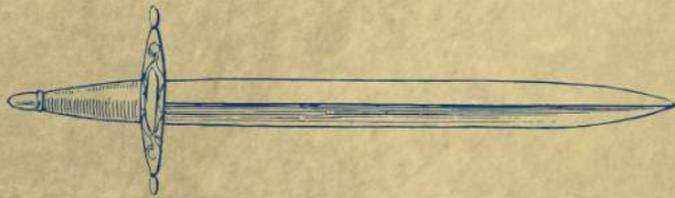


PREVIEW



Dedicated to:

My daughter, Olive.
May the King keep you pure
and blameless, so you can shine
like a light in this crooked
generation.



Little Pilgrim's Big Journey Part 11

PREVIEW



1. *A Letter from the King*
(pp.10-27)

2. *Entering the Narrow Gate*
(pp.28-51)

3. *Setbacks on the Journey*
(pp.52-75)

4. *Lessons at Interpreter's House*
(pp.76-95)

5. *Finding True Deliverance*
(pp.96-113)

6. *Overcoming Difficulty*
(pp.114-135)

7. *Entering the Valley*
(pp.136-163)

8. *Valiant in Vanity Fair*
(pp.164-185)

9. *Freed from Despair*
(pp.186-203)

10. *Faithful to the End*
(pp.204-229)

Introduction

PREVIEW

John Bunyan spent twelve years in prison because he was determined to obey God rather than man. He said, “I will stay in prison till the moss grows on my eyelids rather than disobey God.” He also said, “I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a butchery of my conscience.”

Bunyan was finally released from prison in 1672. *The Pilgrim’s Progress* was first published six years later. In that book, Christian’s family refused to join him, and they were left in the City of Destruction.

After reading that story, many people wondered what happened to Christian’s family. So John Bunyan released the second part of *Pilgrim’s Progress* after six more years, in 1684. This part follows the journey of Christian’s family to the Celestial City. And it’s the story told here in *Little Pilgrim’s Big Journey Part II*.

My aim has been to follow the flow and emphasis of the original, while also making the story connect more naturally with *Part I*. Some scenes and characters have been adapted to help children understand and engage with the timeless truths in this book.

My prayer is that the timeless truths in this story will impact the hearts and minds of many little pilgrims as they begin their big journeys of faith.



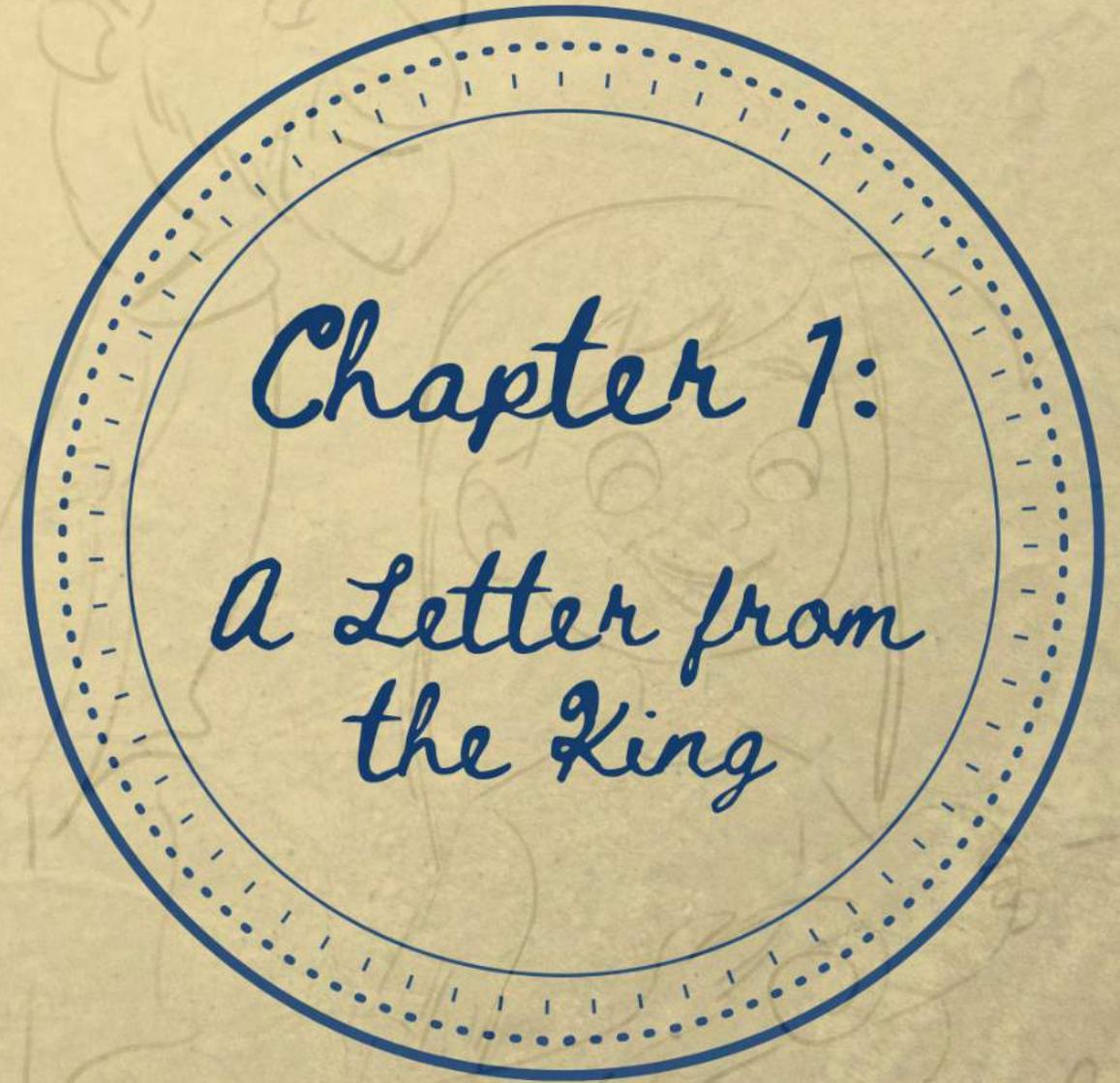
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A pilgrim is someone who leaves home to go on a big journey. John Bunyan believed that the Christian life is like a pilgrimage, with many joys and trials on our way to heaven. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the story of John Bunyan's experience as a Christian, but it represents the journey of all Christians.

This story vividly explores biblical themes as we follow Christiana and her brothers on their journey to the Celestial City. One of the repeated themes in *Part II* is, "the bitter must come before the sweet." John Bunyan understood this, as he spent twelve bitter years in jail because of his commitment to follow Christ. Yet now Bunyan is with his Savior enjoying the sweet reward of his faithful service to God.

Every Christian's journey will be different, but we all must believe the King's word and follow the King's path. After we have endured difficulty in this life, we will receive eternal joy in the King's city.



PREVIEW

As I walked through a forest, I found a quiet place to rest, and I fell asleep. As I slept, I dreamed again. And in my dream, behold, I saw Christian's sister, Christiana. She was crying to herself, "Woe is me! I am lost."

Christiana cried because she missed Christian and thought she might never see him again. She remembered mean things she had said to him, and how she wouldn't listen to his loving pleas. Sometimes she could almost hear Christian's voice calling out, "What must I do to be saved?"



PREVIEW

Christiana went back to her house and told her brothers,
“Christian is gone, and it’s all our fault!
Why didn’t we go with him?”

“I thought he was a fool,” said Jude, her older brother.
“But now I know he was the wisest of us all.
The light of life was given to him, but we remain in darkness.”

And Eli, her younger brother, cried out,
“Christian showed us his book, he told us of the King,
he invited us to the Celestial City—but we wouldn’t listen!
Now we’re doomed to destruction.”



That night, Christiana had a strange dream. She saw a large open scroll. Written on it were all the bad things she'd ever done—each time she had lied, or cheated, or been angry at someone. The scroll grew bigger and bigger in front of her, until it seemed like it would crush her.

Christiana awoke, shaking with fear. She cried out, “Lord, have mercy on me for all of my sin!”



PREVIEW

But she told herself, "It was just a dream."
She fell back asleep and dreamed again.

This time her dream was more pleasant.
She saw Christian in the Celestial City
among the happiest people she'd ever seen.
They sang and danced near the throne of a King.
The music was sweeter than any melody on earth,
and the joy on Christian's face seemed brighter than the sun.
All the children in that city sang out,
Thank you, my Lord, for your goodness and grace.
Thank you, my King, for this glorious place.



PREVIEW

When Christiana woke up, she began to pray, and her brothers joined her.
“Dear King, please forgive us. If it’s not too late,
we would like to become pilgrims.”

As they prayed, they heard a knock at their door. It was Evangelist!
He said to the children,
“The King calls you to come to the Celestial City—this very day!
You must join Christian and all the King’s people
in the place where the sun never sets,
where happiness never ends,
and where no more tears are shed.”



“Oh, how I wish that was true!” Christiana said.
“But how can I know the King will accept me?”

Evangelist pulled a letter from his pocket.
“The King knew it would be hard for you to believe,
so he sent this letter.”

The letter smelled sweeter than a field full of flowers.
Christiana read these words in golden ink:
“My child, I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Come dwell in my city, eat at my table,
and live with my people forever and ever.”

“Oh, would you take us there?” Christiana said.
“It’s not an easy path to the King’s City.”

PREVIEW “It is a difficult path,” Evangelist said.
“But the bitter must come
before the sweet.”



PREVIEW

Evangelist told them, “You must take the path your brother took.
Follow the light all the way to the Narrow Gate.
Many of the King’s servants are ready to help you along your journey.”

Evangelist remembered Christian’s journey and all the difficulties he faced.
He knew the trials that these young ones must face.
He cried, but his tears were mixed with joy,
for he also knew the great happiness that lay ahead of them.



PREVIEW

That morning in the City of Destruction was unusually bright and beautiful as Christiana and her brothers left their home. They left everything behind to follow the King's path.



The first steps of their journey were light and joyous, and they sang together:
*Freed from death and saved from wrath,
As pilgrims we travel upon the King's path.
Onward and upward to Zion we go.
We'll seek the King's City—our forever home.*

Chapter 1 Summary

In this chapter we see the work of the Holy Spirit as he prepares the children's hearts to receive the King's Word. Through Christian's influence, his family desires to become pilgrims like him. Christiana feels the weight of her sin, though she doesn't have a burden on her back like Christian did. In John 16:8, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit "will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

In Christiana's dream, she sees a scroll containing all the bad things she's ever done. This scroll is like God's law, which reveals our sin to us (Romans 7:7). God's Spirit uses God's law to convict us of sin, so we can learn that we need a Savior who can free us from the judgment our sin deserves (Galatians 3:24). Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are hardened to God's truth and we can't see the beauty of the Gospel.

Knowing that only the King can save them, Christiana, Jude, and Eli leave their home to follow the King's path. When Jesus called his disciples, he told them to leave everything behind and follow him (Luke 14:25-33). Salvation is a free gift from God that leads to an eternal reward (Ephesians 2:8-9)—yet following Jesus is costly in this life. Christians may experience many difficulties in this life, but there is an eternal reward awaiting all who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus for salvation.

Understanding the Allegory

1. What did Christiana's dreams represent?
2. Why did Christian's family decide to become pilgrims?

Applying the Allegory:

3. How does God's law help us understand our sin and need for a Savior?
4. Evangelist said, 'the bitter must come before the sweet.' What does this mean?
5. Has God called everyone to turn from their sin and follow him?

