

World Champions

OM New Zealand's newsletter for children who want to make a difference in God's World!



Country focus: Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic, known to locals as *al-Jumhuriyya al-Arabiyya as-Suriyya*, is home to about 20 million people. Even though many people think countries in the Middle East, like Syria, are dangerous places, Syria is actually

one of the safest countries in the world, with very little crime. More than 9 out of 10 people in Syria are Muslims and there are not many Christians at all. People are allowed to have Bibles and go to church in Syria, which is great—but the sad thing is that millions of people have never heard of God's kindness before. They think that Jesus was a prophet and don't know that he came to save people from their sins. Syria needs World Champions!



God shows His kindness to children in Syria!

Even though many Syrian children have never heard about how Jesus loves them, God is powerful and He finds many ways to show His kindness to them! One way He does this is through using people and their talents:

Travelling drama teams have been able to visit hundreds of Syrian children in Sunday Schools and clubs to present the story of the Good Samaritan to them, as well as letting them know how much God loves them.

How else does God show His kindness?

Well, read this amazing story:



Years ago, a young girl lived in Damascus. She had a very special dream one night. In her dream she was told to believe in Jesus and turn away from her sins. She never forgot the dream but did nothing about it. When she grew up, she went to live in America. She was reminded again of her dream and became a Christian!

She started to study at a Bible College, and one day a man who had once been a missionary in Syria came to speak to the students. She spoke with him afterwards and they were both amazed to find out that at the time she had her dream, he lived very close to her.

He would walk up and down her street a lot and pray that God would show Himself to the people living in that street through dreams!

Topic:
God's kindness

Bible reading:

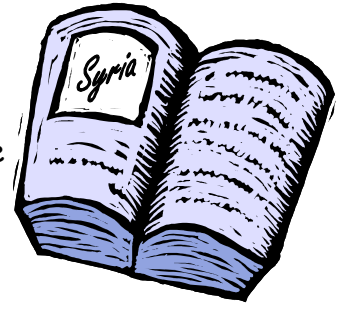
Acts 9:1-30

God shows his kindness to Saul as he travels to Damascus in Syria. Even though he was making trouble for Christians, God appeared to him in a bright light and his life changed forever...



Syria in the Bible!

You may know more about Syria than you think! Use the Bible references to fill in the names of famous people in the Bible who had something to do with Syria. Then find the names in the word-find. The letters that are left over will spell out this month's memory verse.



_____ told his servant to go back to Syria, where he was born, to find a wife for his son, _____. *Genesis 24:2-4, 10*

_____ was also sent to Syria to find a wife— he ended up with two! *Genesis 28:6*

Jacob had _____ sons while he lived in Syria. *Genesis 35:23*

One had a colourful coat when he was a boy, and he ended up becoming governor of Egypt. His name was _____. *Genesis 41:46*

A donkey spoke to _____, who was from Syria. *Numbers 22:22-35; 23:7*

L G N O B E D J M A L A A B M
H U A A V O O S H S H C O A D
S W A L M S C S N U S A H H A
O U E S E A I A W K I A N D V
H W C P E L A S J I R S S B I
T Y H S E C U N O B M I I N D
G T O S A S A V A E A L L P E
O P L E E M T I T U S A X V V
F Q U J O L A B L Y I O T A H
F L J F S K D D I P H D O L I

Draw a picture of your favourite character here:

2:11
(CEV translation)

_____ was commander of the Syrian army. He had leprosy and God used _____ to heal him. *2 Kings 5:1-14*

King _____ even became ruler of _____, Syria's capital city. *1 Chronicles 18:6*

News about _____ spread all over Syria, and people came to him to be healed. *Matthew 4:24*

A bright light blinded _____ on his way to Damascus. *Acts 9:3*



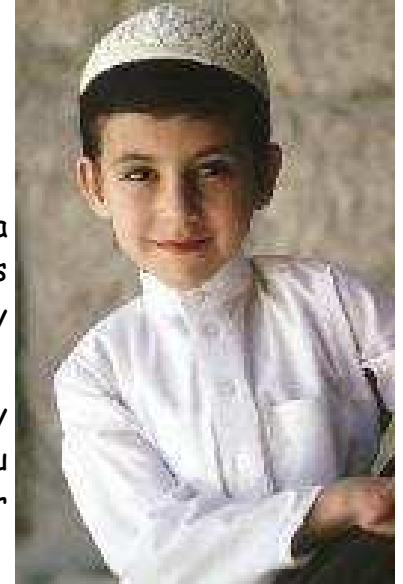
World Champions... Pray!

Do you want God's kindness to be shown in Syria?

What could you make to remind you to pray for Syria?

Muslims in Syria have to pray five times a day. They kneel on a special carpet and bow down low to the ground. The sad thing is that many of them don't know about God's kindness and only pray because that is what they are supposed to do.

Maybe you would like to remember to pray for people in Syria by getting your own special prayer carpet. You could ask mum if you could use one of her old towels. Put it on the ground and whenever you see it, remember to pray for Syria!



Don't be chicken... learn the Chicken Song!

You can learn a popular song that children sing in Syria! Can you write it in Arabic too?

Hassissan.....

shu hulween

Amma yaduru hawla

ummon mabsuteen

Sherbu may

alu khay

Rafa 'u rason hamadu

rabbon mabsuteen

والصيحان شو حلوين

عما يدوروا حول أمّن مبسوطين

شربوا مّيّ قالوا خيّ

رفعوا راسنّ حمدوا ربّن مبسوطين

These chickens...

How they are beautiful

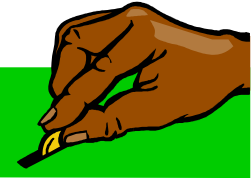
They are walking around

their mother happily

They drank water

and said Wow Yum Yum

*They raised their heads
and thanked God happily*



World Champions... Give!

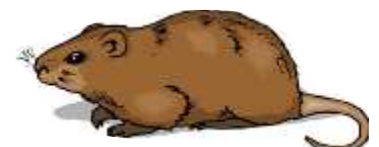
God shows His kindness to us in many ways. With many children in Syria, as well as in New Zealand, He has used people working in Sunday Schools and youth clubs to teach and share His kindness.

Who are the people who show you God's kindness? Why not give them something back to thank them? You could make a special card for one of your teachers or leaders. You may also want to save to give a money gift to your Sunday School or youth club that they can use to buy things that will help them share about Jesus with children.

Have you got any other ideas?

Did you know...

- All pet hamsters have Syrian blood! A single female wild golden hamster was found with a litter of 12 young in Syria in 1930. These hamsters were bred and their children are the hamsters people keep as pets today!
- The most popular sport among children in Syria is soccer.
- The world's first coffee-house was opened in Damascus in 1530!





World Champions... Go for it!

Do you know that because God is kind, we should be kind too? He has given us His Holy Spirit to change us into the type of people He wants us to be. Hold the page upside-down in front of a mirror to see how the Holy Spirit changes us:

kind, patient, brave, self-controlled, gentle, faithful, and loving. The Holy Spirit makes us into these things.

Sometimes it is difficult to be these things. But the great news is that God is powerful and kind enough to change lives—and He is powerful and kind enough to change yours too!

Pray now and ask God to keep changing you into a kinder person. Think of what you can do today to show others kindness and... **Go for it!**

Christmas in Syria!



Christian children in Syria enjoy celebrating Christmas, just like we do. As well as celebrating the birth of Jesus, they also love getting presents. A traditional story says that instead of someone like Santa bringing presents, the smallest camel of the wise men bears the gifts.



The story goes that this camel was so small that he was exhausted when the wise men were following the star to find Jesus. But he too wanted to see the baby, so he refused to give up. When he got there, he was rewarded with new strength.

When Syrian children think of him now, they remember that even those of us who are small and weak are special to God!



'World Champions' is made by OM New Zealand, where we want people of all ages to be a part of the wonderful things God is doing around the world. Why not contact us and see how else you can get involved?

DC '6cl '+*, , &
A Ubi _Ui '7]hm
5i W`UbX`&&(%
BYK 'NYU'UbX'

Phone: \$- '- &, '\$, \$&
Email:]bZc'bn4 ca 'cf [
www.om.org.nz