

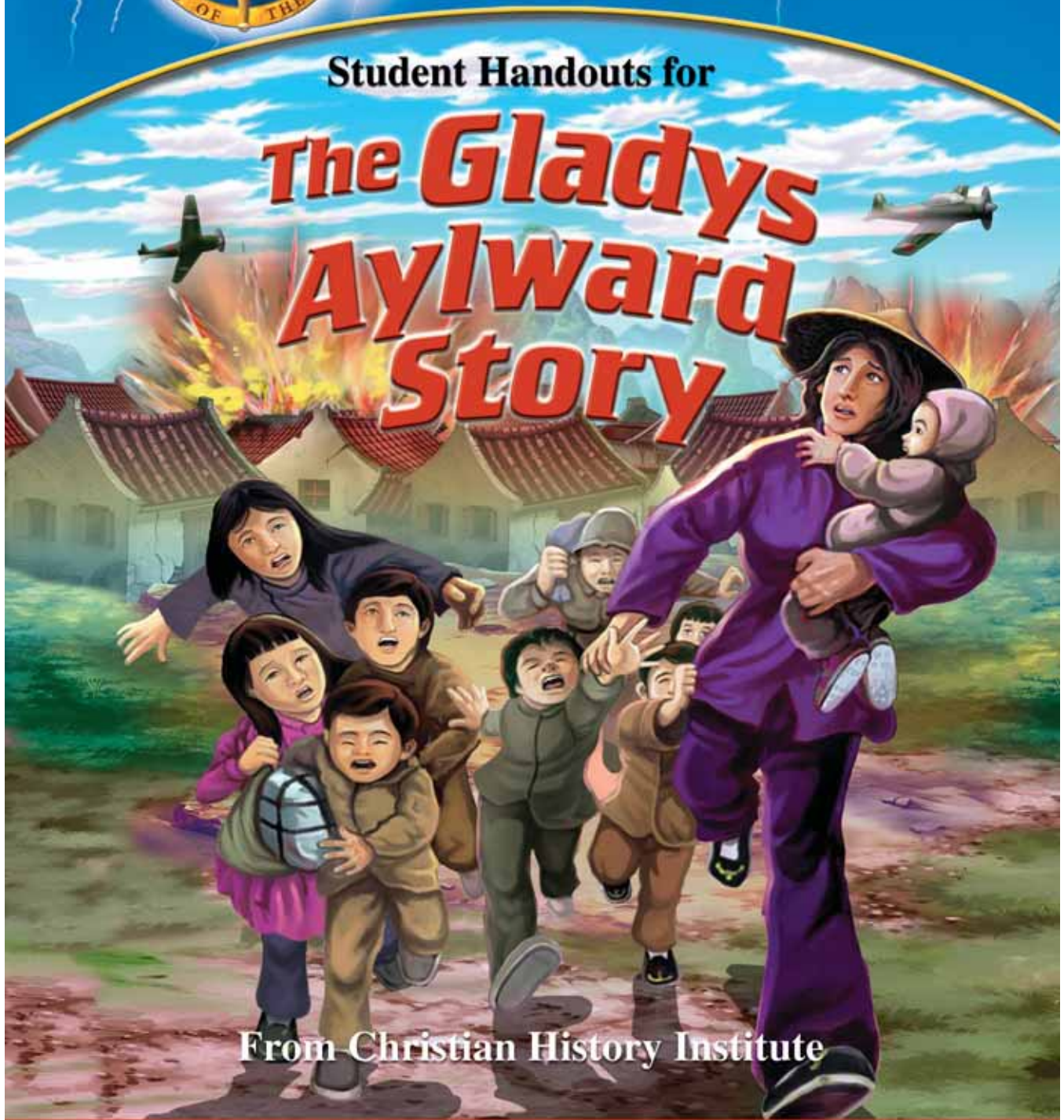


THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

The Gladys Aylward Story



From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T

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NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on page 20 of the Leader’s Guide.



What Does That Mean?

*Can you guess the meaning of these words from The Gladys Aylward Story?
Try this page before and after you watch the video.*

- ___ 1. Muleteer
 - a. A cross between a mule and a reindeer, commonly used in China at Christmas time.
 - b. A sloping stable used to house mules during the coldest season.
 - c. A driver of a mule train.

- ___ 2. Riot
 - a. A privilege given to all, no matter what their social class.
 - b. A noisy, violent disturbance usually related to a cause.
 - c. A special lotion used to deter Chinese mosquitos.

- ___ 3. Foreign Devil
 - a. A type of sea urchin with a poisonous stinger.
 - b. A sinfully rich chocolate cake, shipped from overseas.
 - c. A name the Chinese called foreign missionaries to their land.

- ___ 4. Mandarin
 - a. A delicious spread made with orange fruit.
 - b. A high ranking Chinese official.
 - c. A dance performed during a Chinese festival.

- ___ 5. Refugee
 - a. A person who leaves their home in order to find safety.
 - b. Someone who will not do what is required of them, thereby jeopardizing the safety of others.
 - c. An official who oversees a sporting event.

- ___ 6. Foot Binding
 - a. The process of tightly wrapping feet to prevent normal growth.
 - b. A rare book binding originally produced by stamping the pages down tightly with the feet.
 - c. Setting the footnotes of a research paper in bold type.

- ___ 7. Ah-we-dei
 - a. The Chinese words for "I need to use the potty."
 - b. The Chinese words for "I'm hungry."
 - c. The nickname the Chinese gave to Gladys Aylward, meaning "The Virtuous One."



Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you thinking and talking

1. What barriers did Gladys Aylward encounter in her journey to become a missionary?
2. How did God provide for Gladys when Mrs. Lawson died and there was no money to run the inn?
3. How did Gladys respond when children or babies were left in her care without warning?
4. What hardships and dangers did Gladys and the children face during their 100-mile journey? What dangers might they have faced if they had not taken the trip? Do you think they made the right choice?
5. How did Gladys and the children keep their spirits up during their long walk? What do you do when you are running low on energy and feeling down?
6. In the video, when did you see Gladys questioning whether God would see them through? How did God answer their need? Can you think of a time when you had trouble trusting God?
7. What do you think is Gladys Aylward's most lasting legacy or impact on the world?



Dig Deeper

Thinking through some tough issues

1. When going to China, Gladys knew she would be more effective if she fit in with their culture. What steps did she take in order to fit in with the Chinese? When might you find yourself in a situation where you choose to “fit in” in order to share the Gospel?
2. Contrary to “fitting in” would be deciding to keep certain parts of your self unchanged, even in a foreign culture. Name some things that Gladys did NOT change when living in China. What parts of your self would you never want to change in order to “fit in”?
3. Gladys seemed to see God as a source of help during her trials, not as the cause of her trials. What is the difference?
4. Before arriving in China, Gladys’ idea of missionary work was to “save souls.” How do you think Gladys expected to do this? What was Mrs. Lawson’s plan for reaching the Chinese?
5. What other options did Gladys have when she decided to take the 100 children on the dangerous 100 mile journey? Imagine you are Gladys and have the responsibility of caring for the children. What choice would you make? Would you be able to put the needs of others above your own?



Hidden Dangers

On their one-hundred-mile trek, Gladys and the children faced many dangers and hardships. Some of them are hidden in this puzzle for you to find.

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

WORD BANK:

Wolves	Hunger	Soldiers	Exhaustion	Mountains	Rivers
Sickness	Injury	Bombings	Dehydration	Sore feet	Bruises

Discuss: Imagine you are on the journey with Gladys. Which of these things would frighten you the most? Would you have gone with Gladys or taken your chances with the enemy attack?



Back Packer's Interview

Invite someone who is experienced in backpacking or hiking to share his or her experiences with your class. Use the following questions to help get the discussion flowing.

1. When did you take your first back packing trip? Where did you go?
2. What was your longest trip?
3. What kinds of things do you take along on your trips? How heavy is your backpack? How long can you carry it?
4. Where do you sleep when you are out in the woods?
5. What kinds of things do you eat? What if you run out of food? How do you stay hydrated?
6. What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you on a wilderness trip?
7. What kind of wildlife have you seen?
8. Have you ever gotten injured or sick on a trip? What did you do?
9. What is the best thing about backpacking?
10. How do you come closer to God during backpacking trips?
11. Would you have been able to survive what Gladys and the children did?



Pack Your Bags!

Imagine you are moving to a new home, but there is no moving van, no car, no bus to take you there! You will be walking many miles and carrying the things you need, so you must pack carefully.

Write in the boxes some things you would pack.

Choose one book:

Choose one music CD:

Choose one photo:

Choose something that brings you comfort:

Choose some clothing:

Choose something special to you:

Choose something fun:

Choose a favorite food treat:

Pack one quart of water to help you get through the first day of walking!

Discuss: Why did you choose the things you did? What important items would you have to leave behind? How long would you be able to carry your bag?



Story Mix-Up

*These pictures of Gladys' story are all mixed up.
Number the pictures in the correct order.*



After many weeks of travel, they are turned away at Sian.



Gladys works for the Mandarin as his official "Foot Inspector."



Gladys begins a 100-mile journey to take over 100 children to safety.



Gladys relies on God to help bring peace during the prison riot.



When Gladys first arrives in China, she works with Mrs. Lawson to open an inn for muleteers.



Finally, the city of Fu-Feng welcomes the weary refugees.



When the war begins, Gladys cares for many abandoned children.



Gladys and the children face many dangers along the journey.



Gladys Aylward – Listening to God

Gladys learned to listen to what God was saying, even when others discouraged her. Compare the two columns and fill in the blanks:

People Said:

Gladys was not intelligent enough to go into missions, because she did poorly in school.

Gladys couldn't raise enough money to go to China.

Gladys should not attempt to cross Russia alone by train.

Gladys had "big feet," when compared to the Chinese.

Gladys was a little woman, who couldn't accomplish much.

Gladys would not be able to take 100 children over 100 miles to safety.

God Said:

Gladys was smart enough to learn the _____ language and customs.

If Gladys worked hard as a _____ and saved all she could, she would have enough.

He would protect her on the long, _____ journey.

Her feet would be used to provide income as foot _____ and to give her access to remote villages.

She is just the right size to reach the hardened men in the rough _____.

With God's help all things are _____.

WORD BANK:

possible Chinese dangerous inspector maid prison

Discuss: What would have happened if Gladys had listened to people instead of God?



God Answers Prayer!

Gladys Aylward relied on prayer throughout her life. We often want God to answer our prayers with a “yes” answer, but sometimes He answers in other ways. Here are some words that represent some ways God answers prayer. Try to figure out what vowel is missing from each one. HINT: All the words rhyme and the missing vowel is the same for each word!

N___

GR___W

SL___W

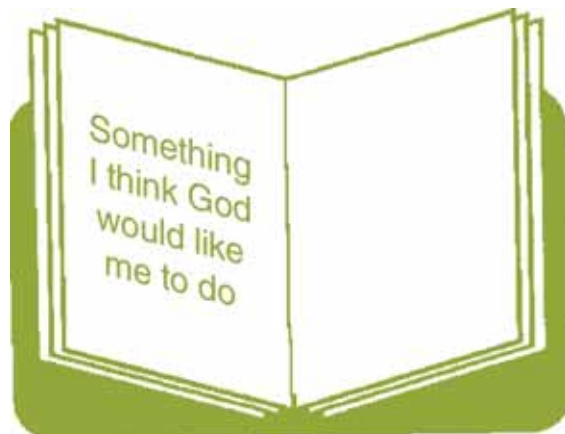
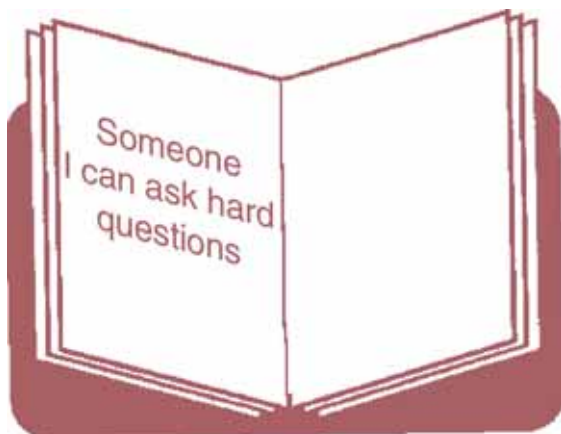
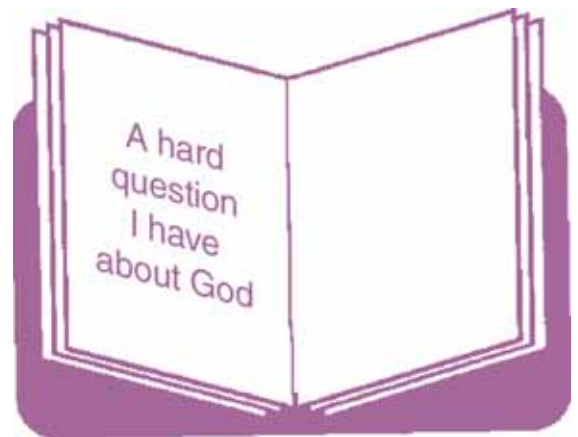
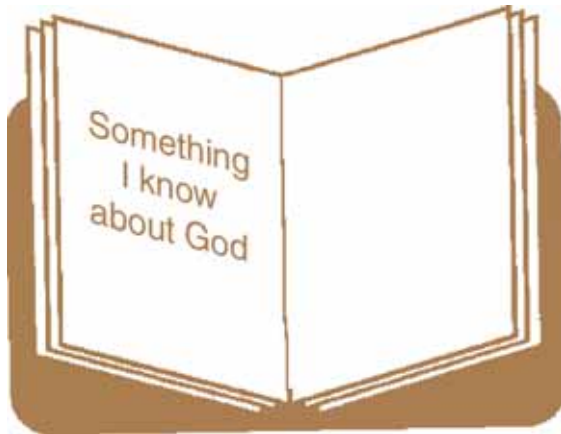
G___

Discuss: What is meant by each answer to prayer? When have you seen God answer prayer in one of these ways? Which answer is hardest to hear? The last one is another way of God saying, “Yes.” How might this word remind us of our responsibility when God answers “Yes” to our prayers?



My Faith Story

Gladys and Jeannie Lawson used Bible stories to reach the Chinese Muleteers. On the long journey over the mountain, Gladys shared stories of faith and God to encourage the children. We each have our own unique faith journey and faith story. The following questions will help you uncover some of your own faith story. After you answer the questions, practice telling your faith story to someone.



Color the Scene #1



**“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”
Isaiah 52:7**

Color the Scene #2



“The Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials.” 2 Peter 2:9a

Color the Scene #3



“Anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.” Mark 9:41