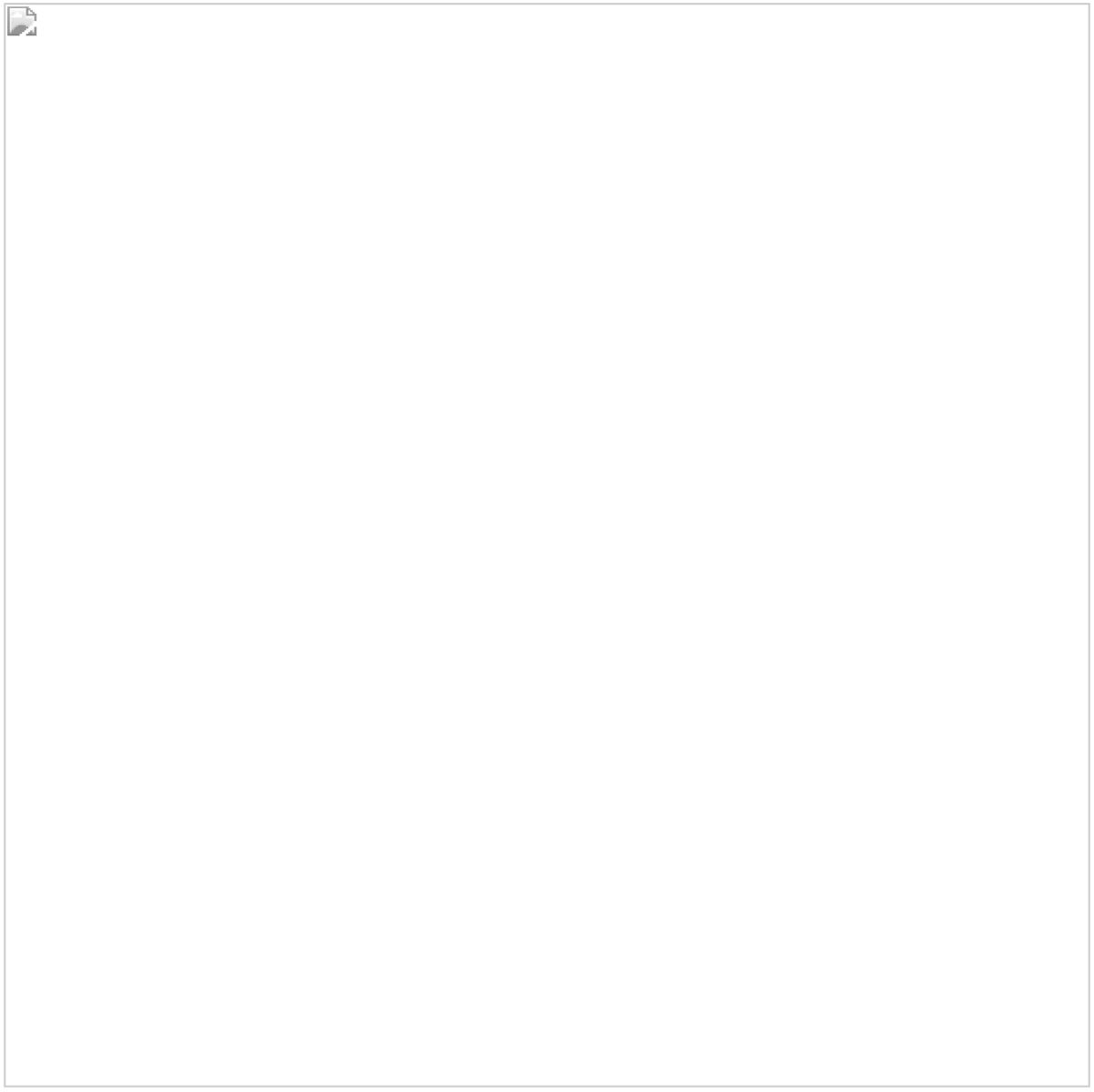
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Pilgrim's Progress

From This World to That Which Is to Come

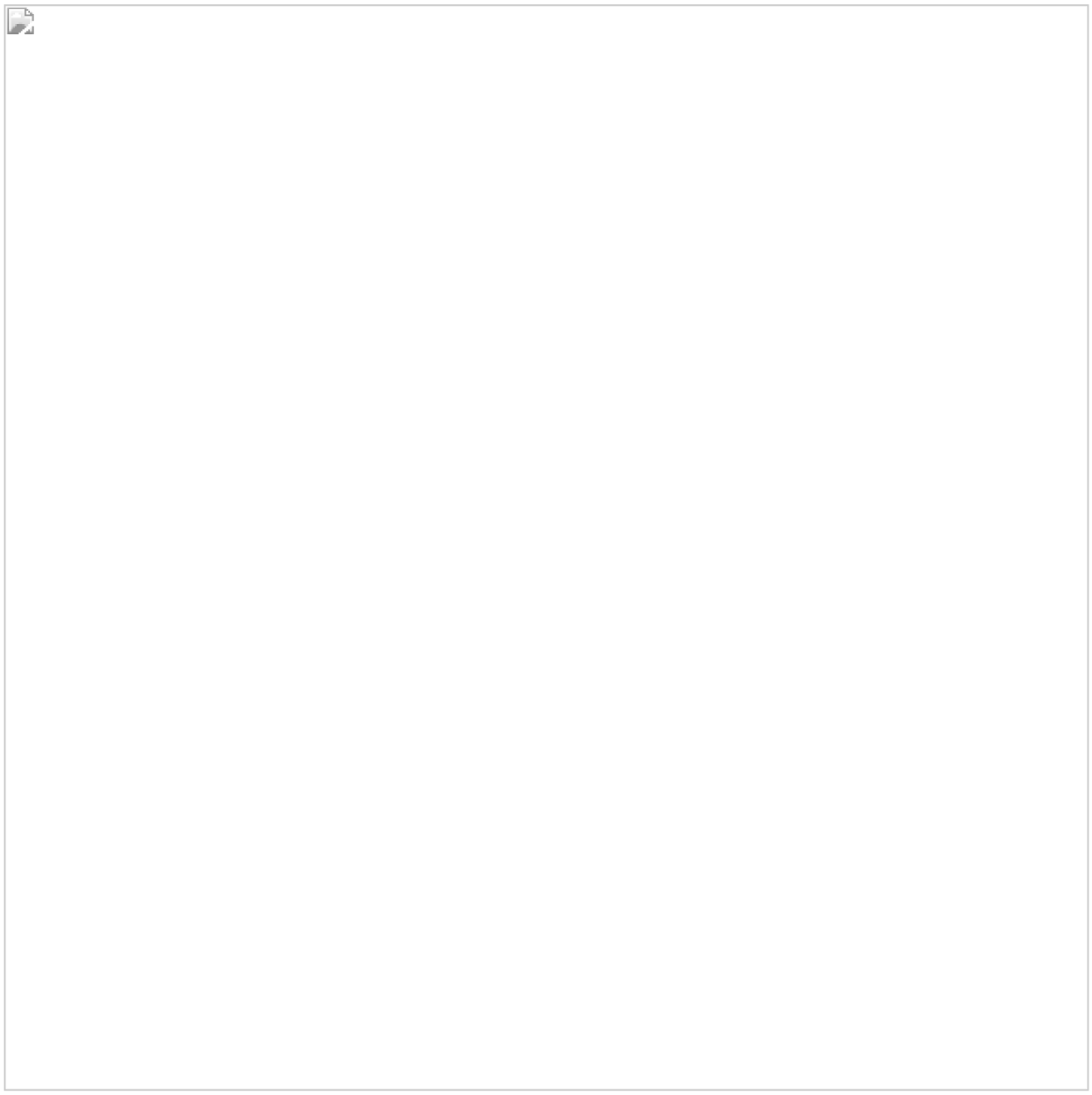


By John Bunyan

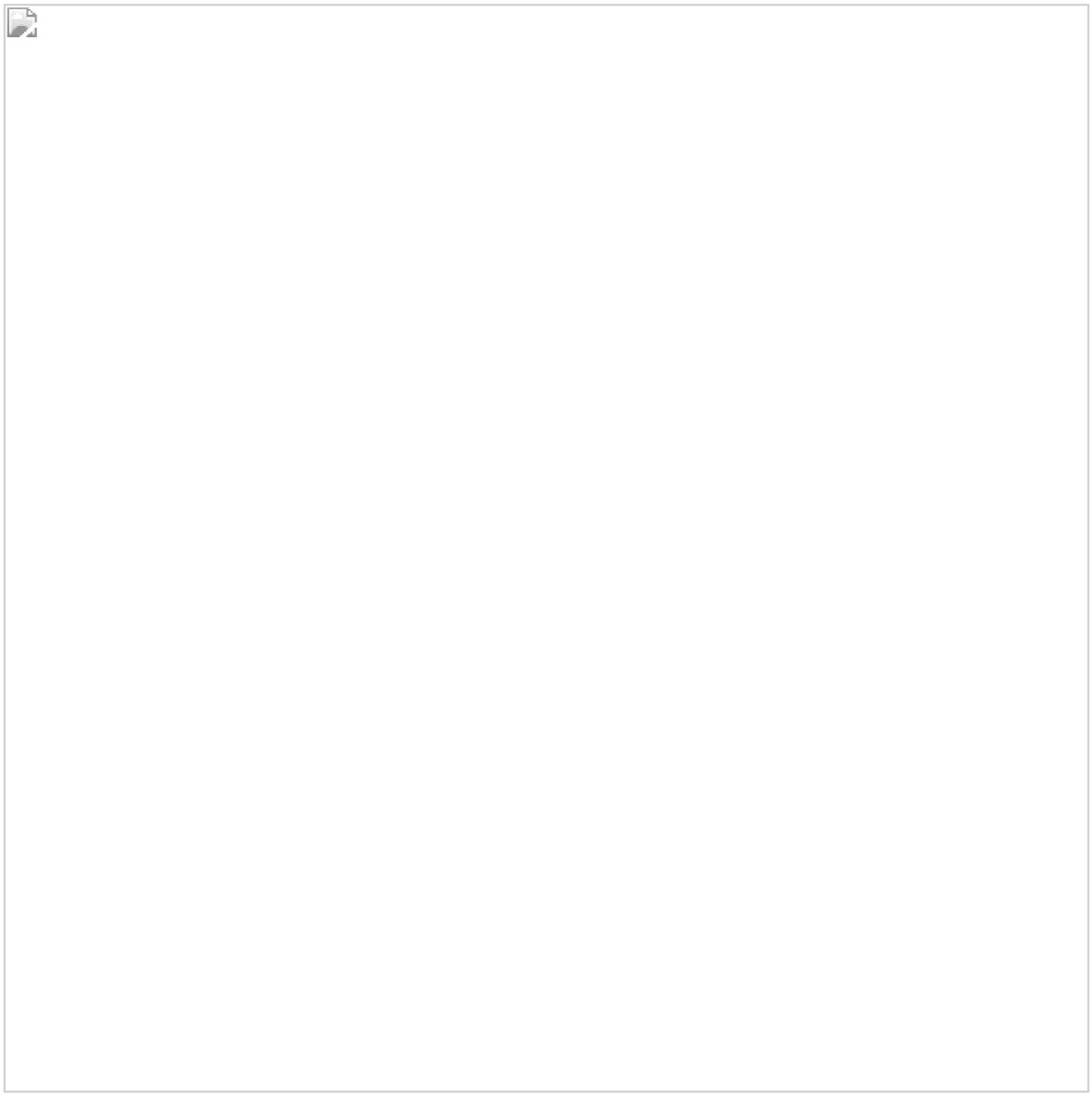
TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever gone on a long trip to somewhere you had never been? What was it like?

This book belongs to _____



A Man with a Great Burden



The storyteller fell asleep and “dreamed a dream.” He saw a man in ragged clothes, with a book in his hand and a great burden on his back. The man’s name was Christian.

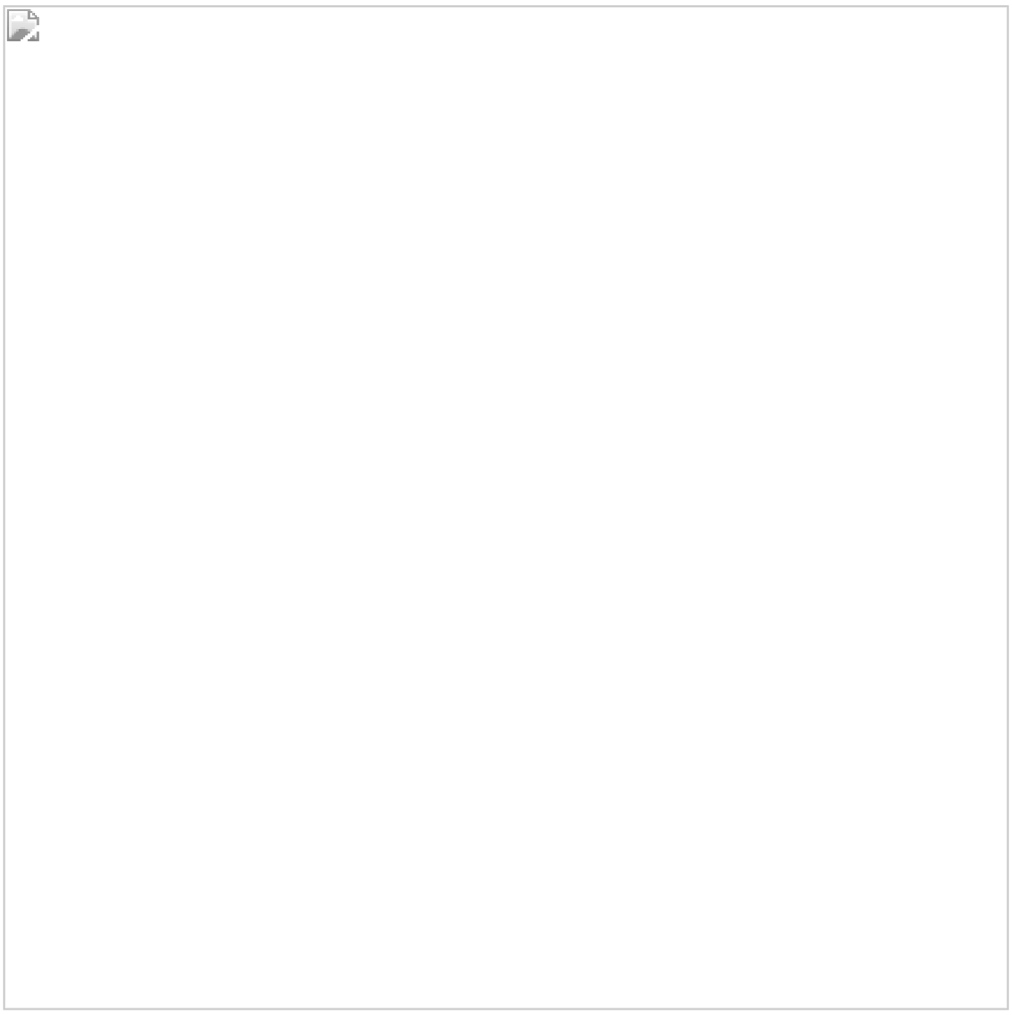
Christian read his book and cried, “What shall I do?” His city was in danger, and he did not know how to escape. He told his wife and children, but they thought he was not well and hurried him off to bed.

The night did not help. In the morning he walked alone in the fields, reading, until he cried out, “What shall I do to be saved?”

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever carried something very heavy? What was it, and what was it like to carry it?

A Man with a Great Burden · another picture



Think about it

1. What was on Christian's back?

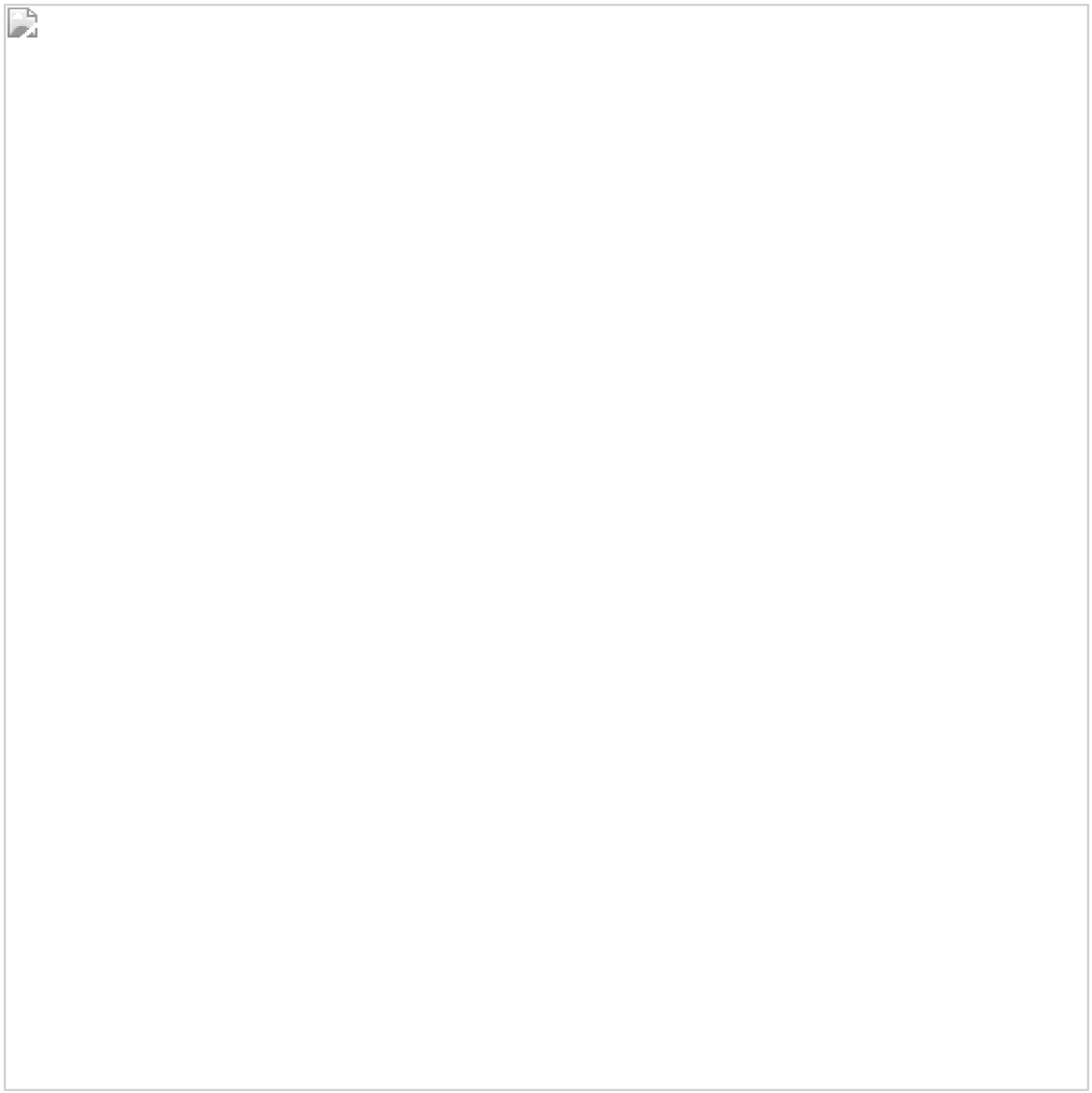
- ○ A great burden
- ○ A bag of apples
- ○ A baby goat

2. What did Christian hold in his hand?

- ○ A book
- ○ A sword
- ○ A lantern

3. Why do you think Christian could not rest, even at night?

The Shining Light



A man named Evangelist came and asked why Christian was crying. Christian said he was afraid and did not know which way to go.

Evangelist gave him a paper roll: “Flee from the wrath to come.” Then he pointed across a wide field. “Do you see yonder wicket-gate?” “No.” “Do you see yonder shining light?” “I think I do.”

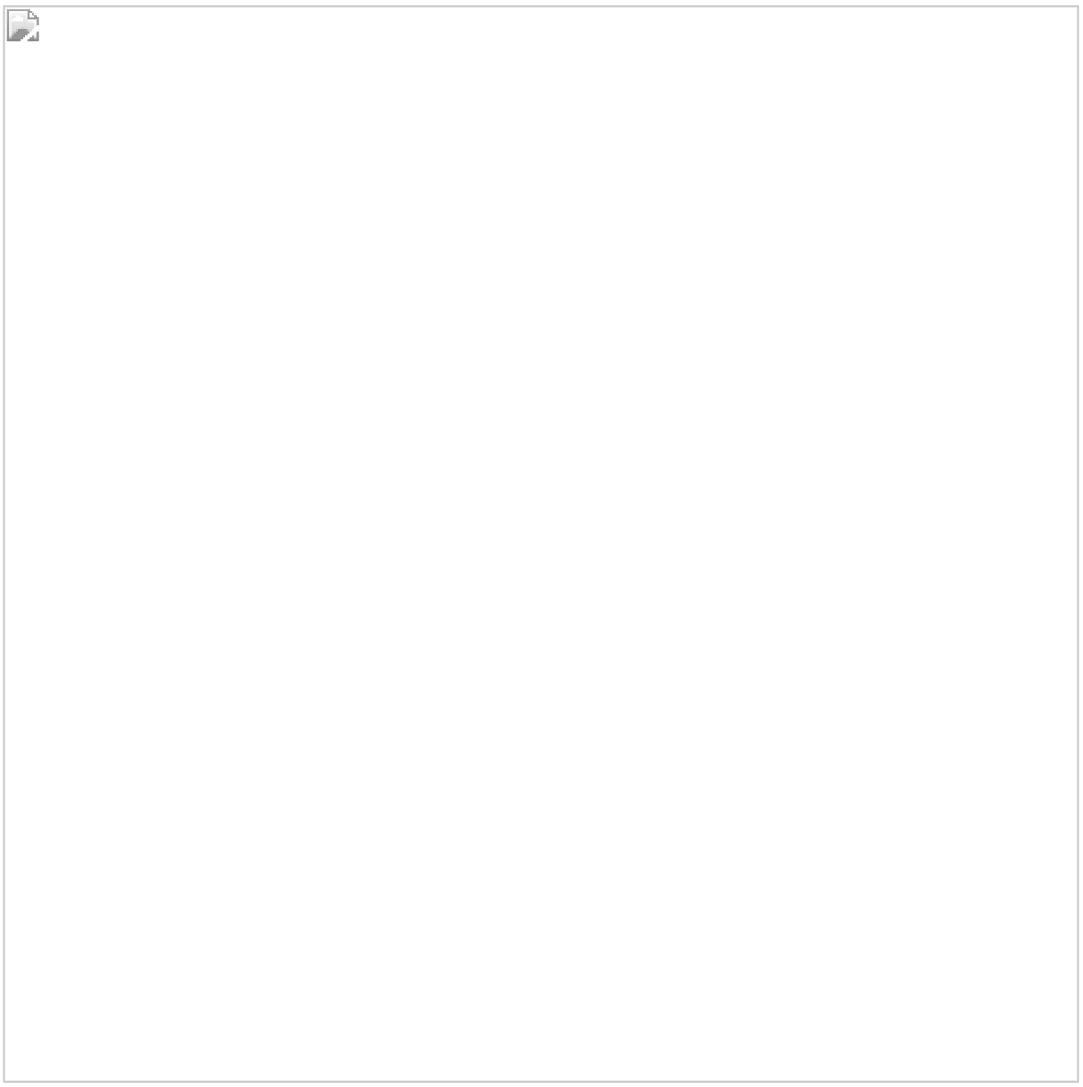
“Keep that light in your eye,” said Evangelist, “and go up directly thereto.”

Christian began to run. His wife and children cried after him to come back, but he put his fingers in his ears and ran on, crying, “Life! life! eternal life!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Evangelist gave Christian a light to look at. What helps you know which way to go?

The Shining Light · another picture



Think about it

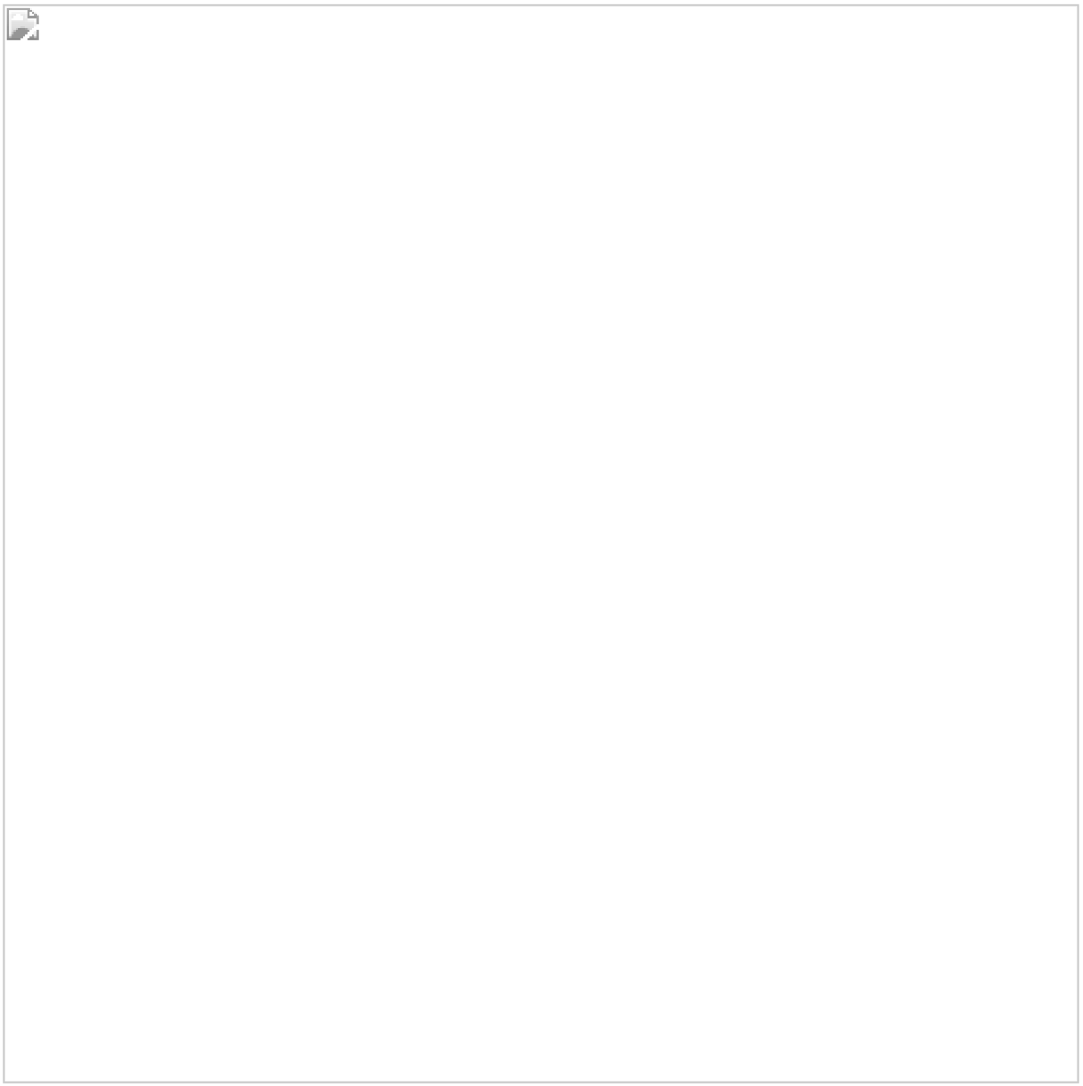
1. What did Evangelist tell Christian to keep in his eye?

- ○ The shining light
- ○ A tall tree
- ○ A red flag

2. What did Christian do when his family called him back?

- ○ Put his fingers in his ears and ran on
- ○ Turned around and went home
- ○ Sat down and waited

Obstinate and Pliable



Two neighbors ran after Christian to bring him back: Obstinate and Pliable.

“Be content, good neighbours, and go along with me,” said Christian. Obstinate asked if he should “leave our friends and our comforts behind us.” But where Christian was going, there was “enough and to spare.”

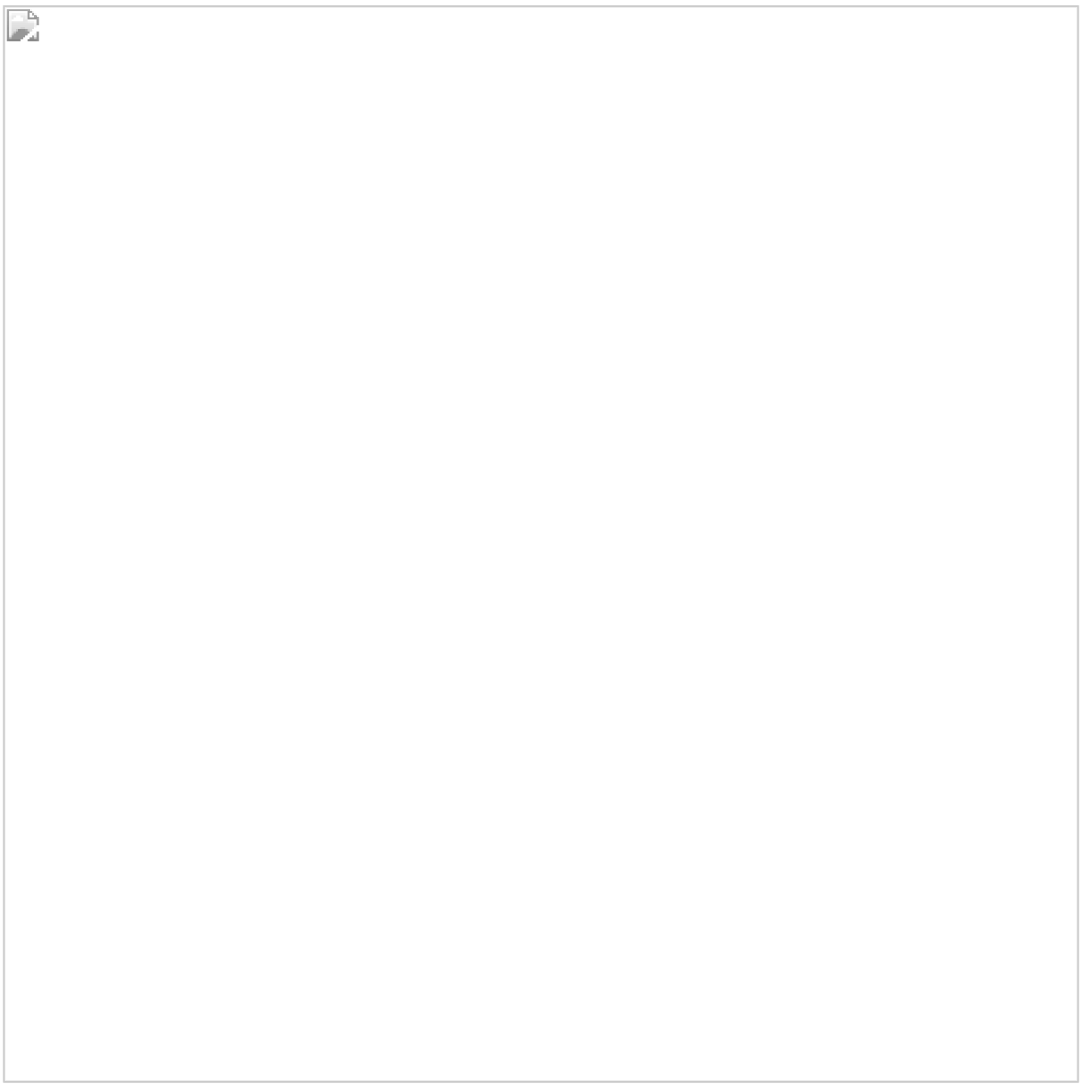
Obstinate said “Tush!” and “away with your book,” and went home. But Pliable said, “my heart inclines to go with my neighbour.” So the two walked on together.

Christian told him of the place ahead, where “He that is owner of the place will wipe all tears from our eyes.” Pliable said it was pleasant to hear.

TALK ABOUT IT

Obstinate said no and went home. Pliable said yes and came along. Have you ever had to choose whether to follow a friend somewhere new?

Obstinate and Pliable · another picture



Think about it

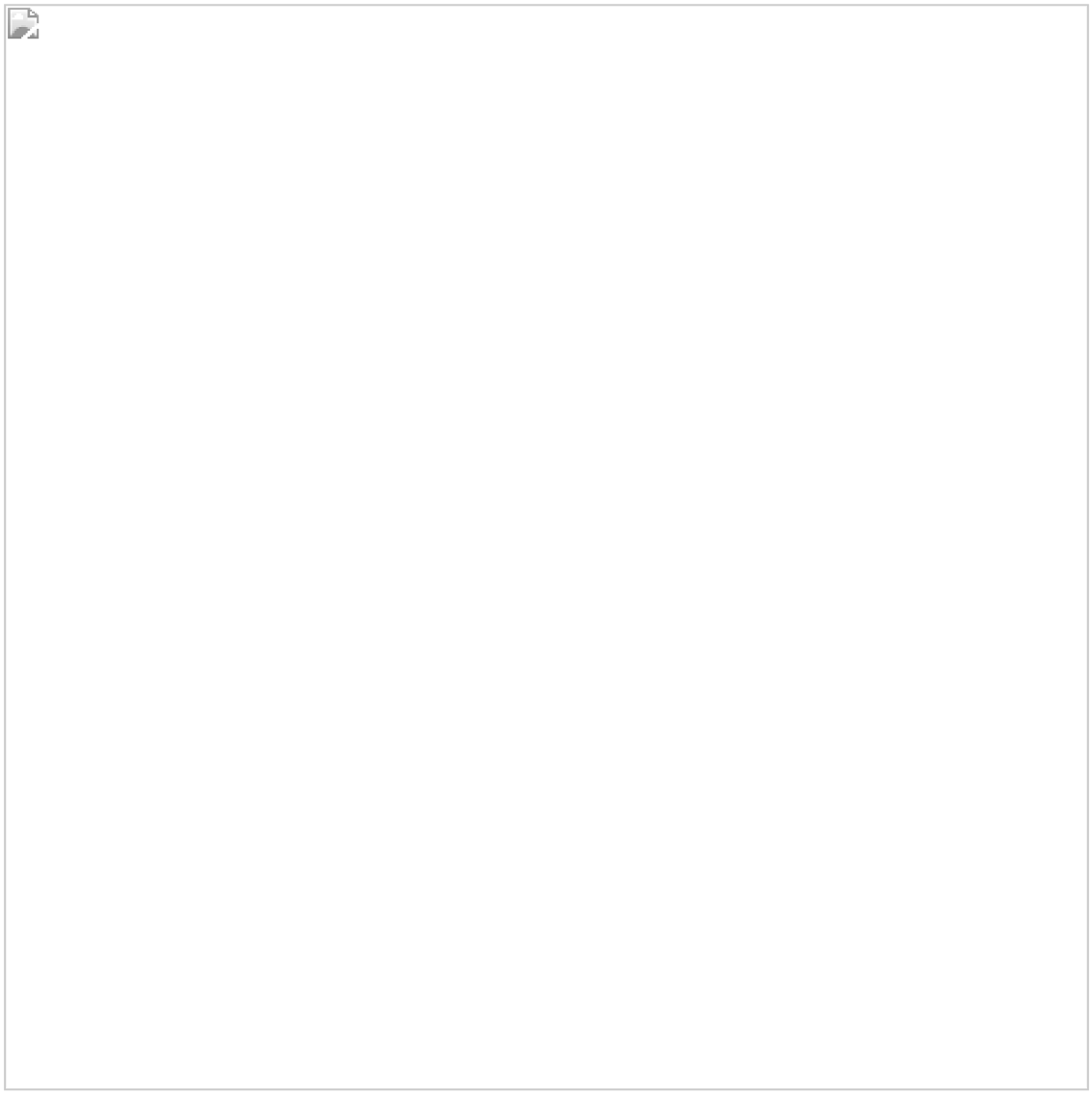
1. Who went back home?

- ○ Obstinate
- ○ Pliable
- ○ Evangelist

2. Who walked on with Christian?

- ○ Pliable
- ○ Obstinate
- ○ Giant Despair

The Slough of Despond



Not looking where they went, the two fell into a muddy bog called Despond.

Christian began to sink, for his burden was heavy. Pliable said, “Is this the happiness you have told me all this while of?” He struggled out on the side nearest his own house and went home. Christian never saw him again.

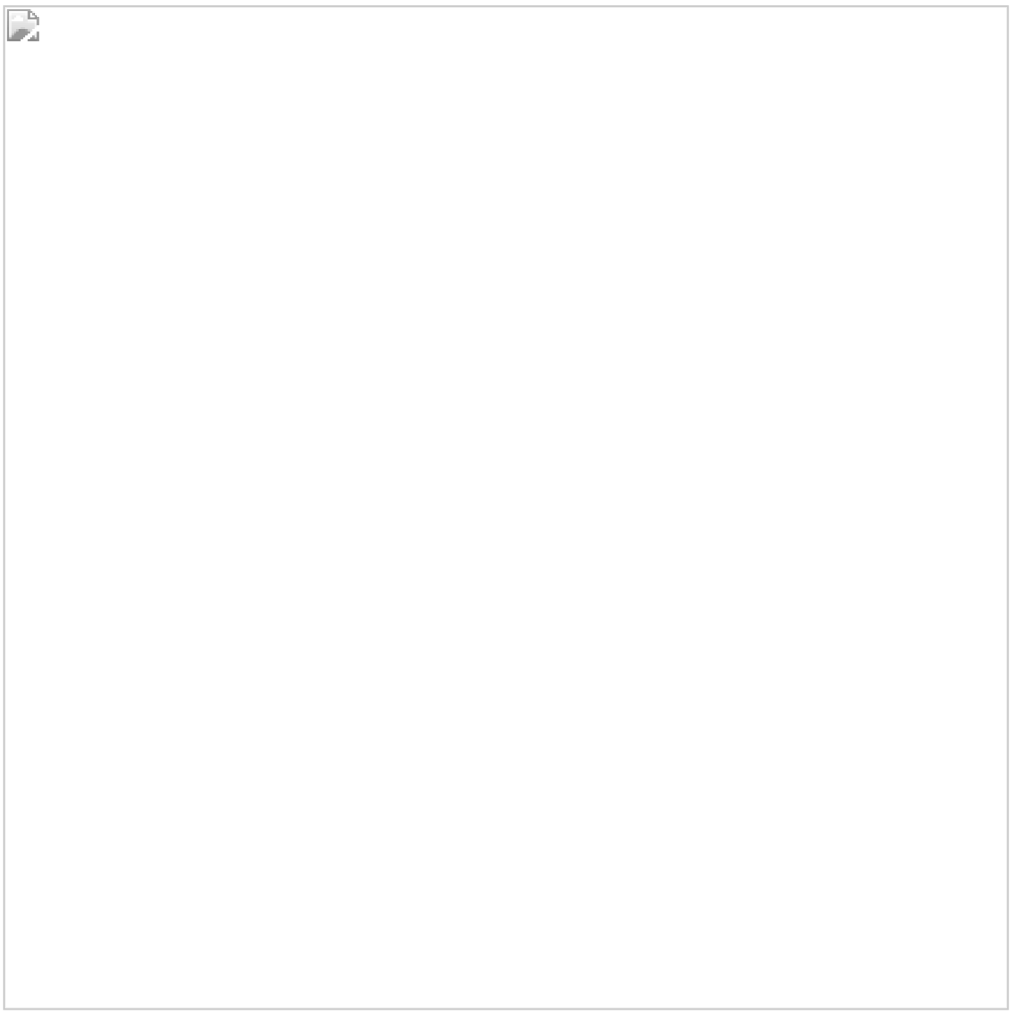
Then a man named Help came and asked, “But why did not you look for the steps?” “Fear followed me so hard,” said Christian, “that I fled the next way, and fell in.”

“Give me thy hand,” said Help. He pulled Christian out onto firm ground.

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian was stuck, and Help gave him a hand. When have you needed someone to pull you out of a hard spot?

The Slough of Despond · another picture



Think about it

1. What happened to Pliable?

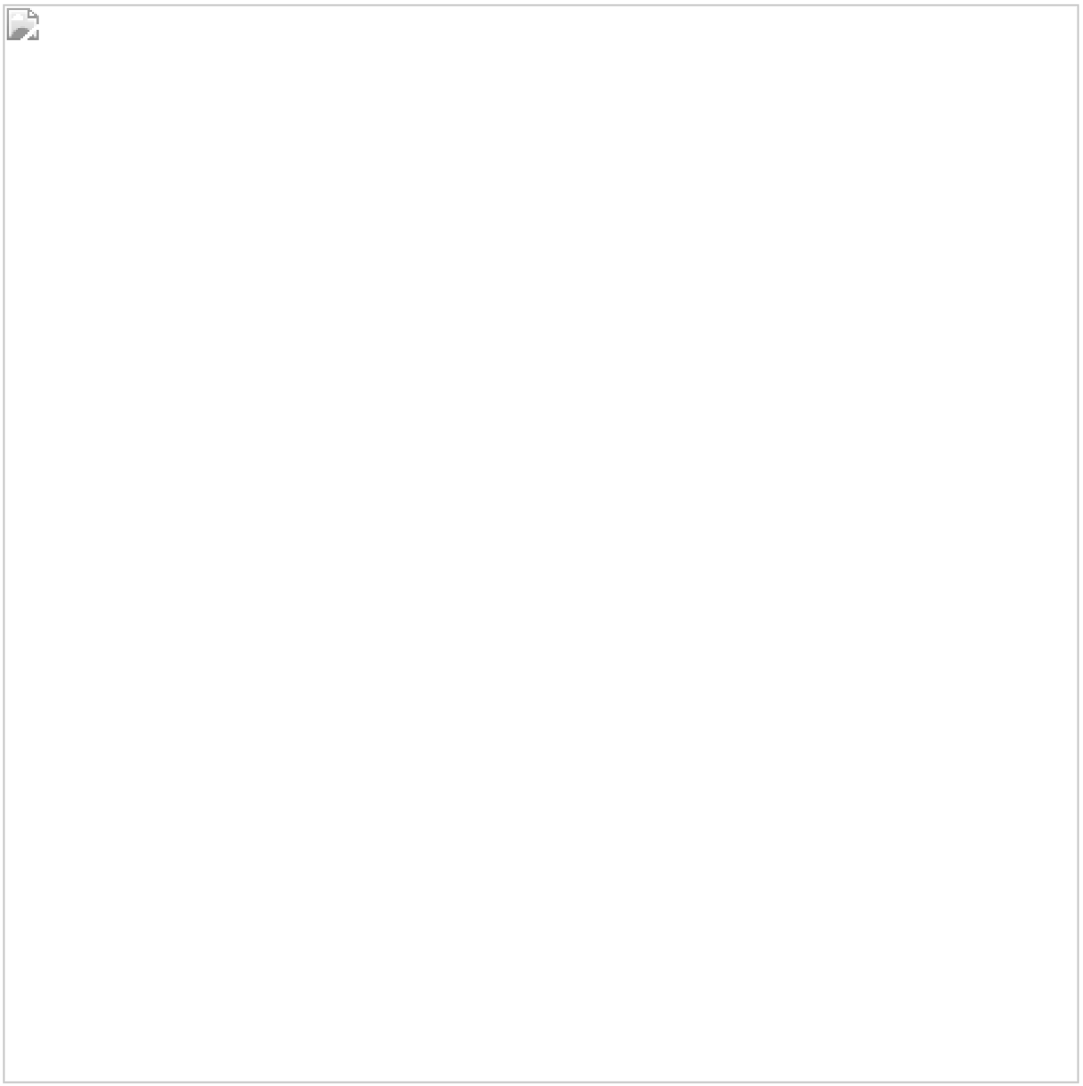
- ○ He climbed out and went home
- ○ He reached the gate
- ○ He fell asleep

2. Who pulled Christian out of the bog?

- ○ Help
- ○ Evangelist
- ○ Obstinate

3. What do you think makes a person want to give up?

The Wicket Gate



Christian came to the gate. Over it were the words “Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” He knocked more than once or twice.

Good-will came and asked who was there. “Here is a poor burdened sinner,” said Christian. “I am willing with all my heart,” said Good-will, and opened the gate.

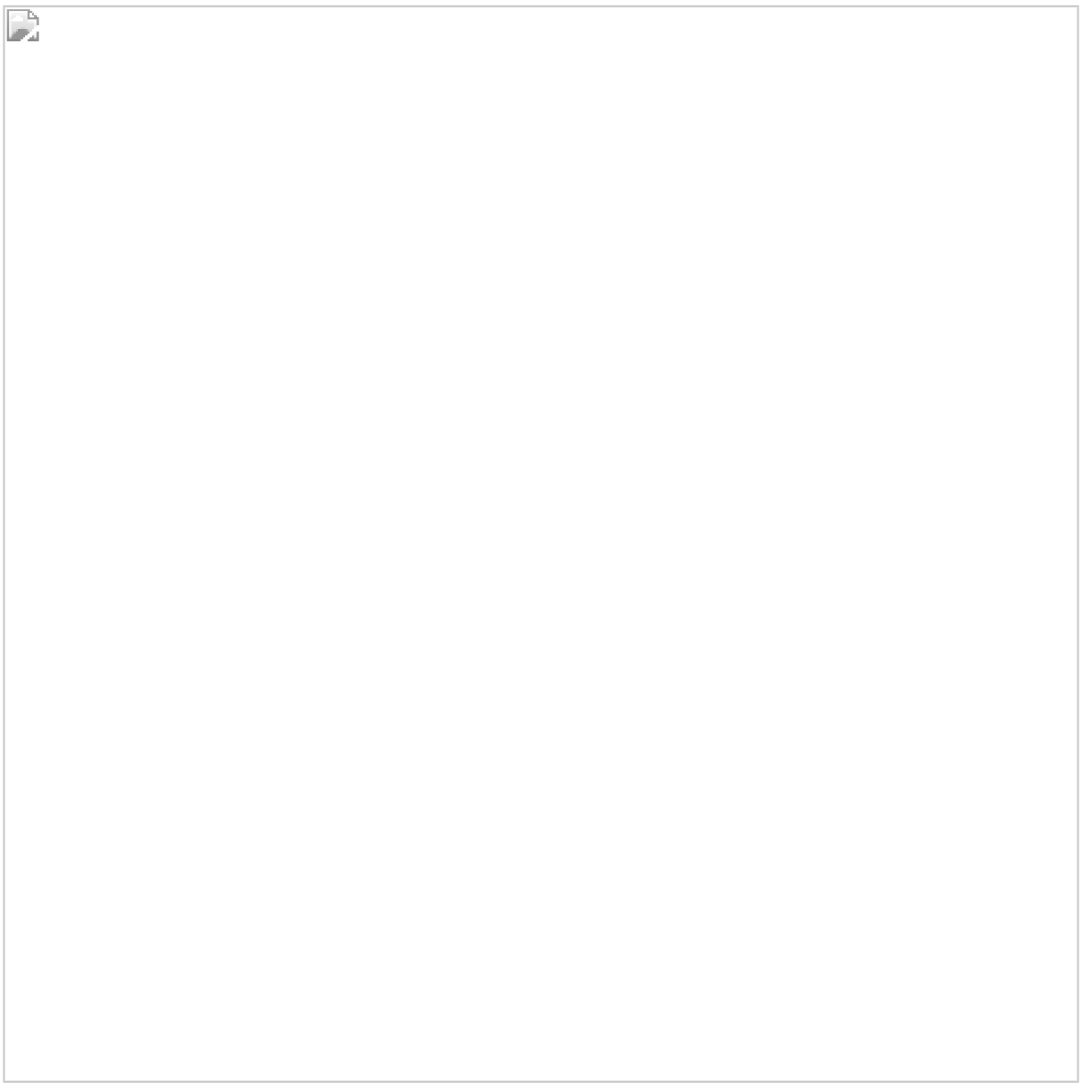
“An open door is set before thee, and no man can shut it,” he said. “They are in no wise cast out.”

Christian asked about his burden. Carry it a little longer, said Good-will, until the place of deliverance, where “it will fall from thy back of itself.” Then he showed him the narrow way.

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian knocked more than once. What is something you keep trying even when it is hard?

The Wicket Gate · another picture



Think about it

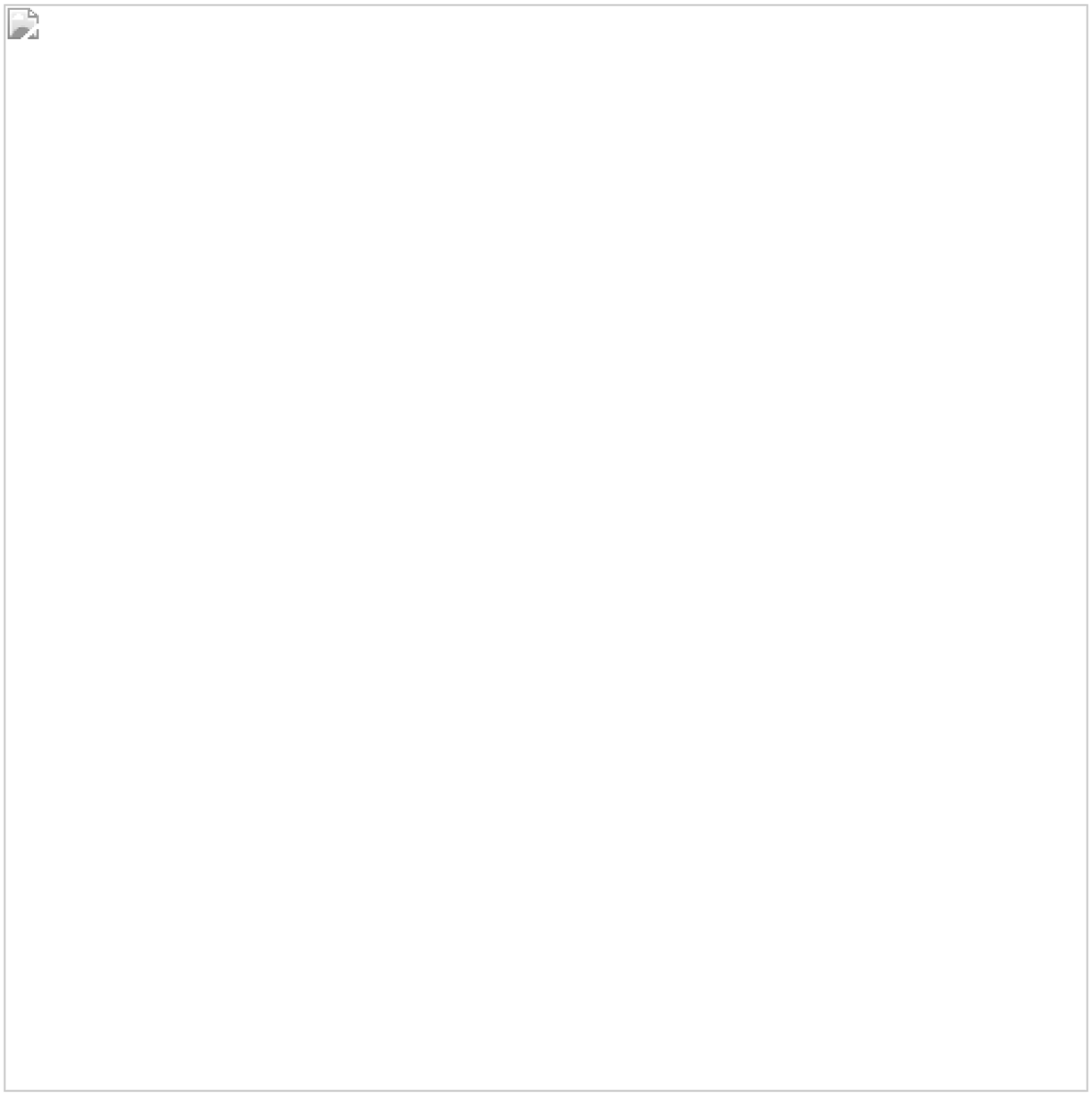
1. What was written over the gate?

- ○ Knock, and it shall be opened unto you
- ○ Keep out
- ○ Go back home

2. What did Good-will say about Christian's burden?

- ○ Carry it a little longer; it will fall off at the place of deliverance
- ○ Throw it in the mud
- ○ It was not heavy

The Cross



The road had a wall on both sides, called Salvation. Christian ran along it.

At a little rise stood a cross, with a tomb below. As Christian reached it, his burden came loose, tumbled from his back into the tomb, and he never saw it again.

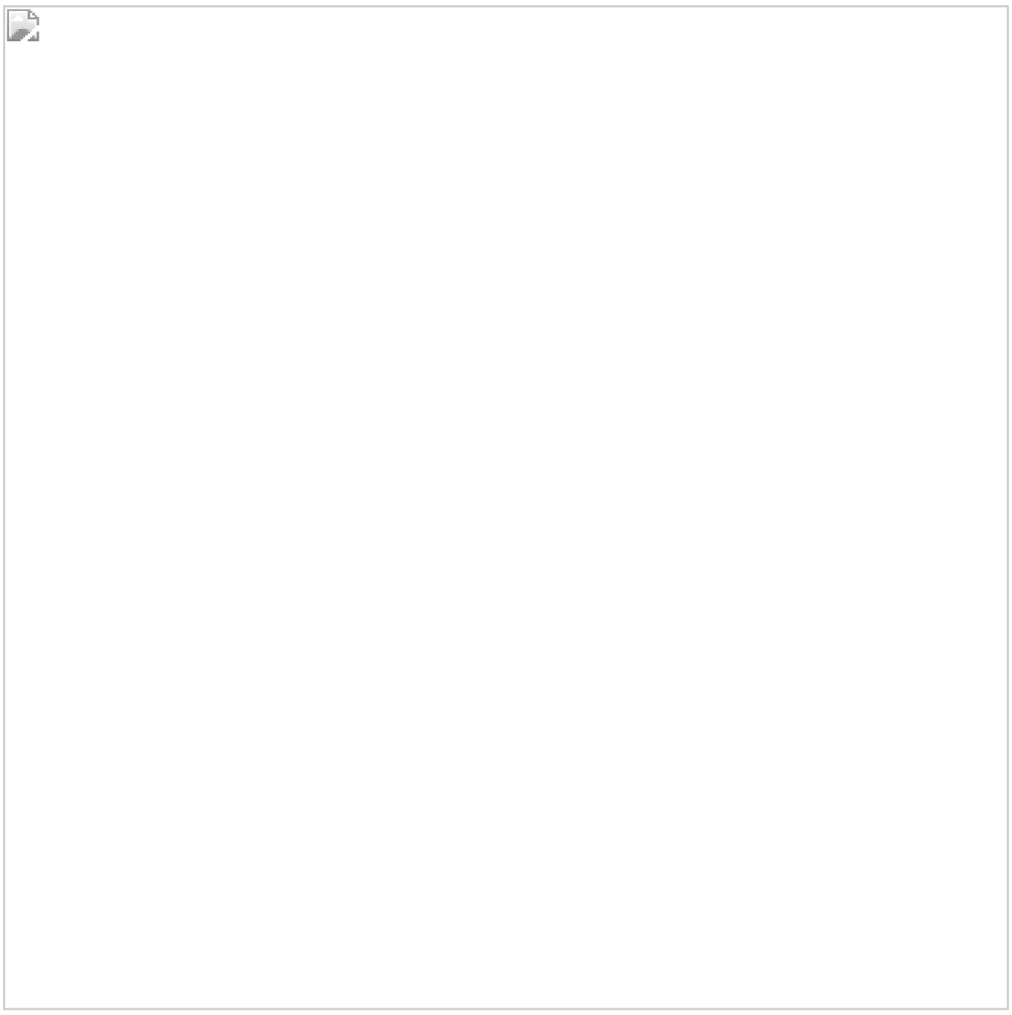
“He hath given me rest by his sorrow, and life by his death,” he said, and tears ran down his cheeks.

Three Shining Ones came. “Thy sins be forgiven thee,” said the first. The second gave him new clothes for his rags. The third gave him a sealed roll. Christian gave three leaps for joy, and went on singing.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think Christian felt when the burden fell away?

The Cross · another picture



Think about it

1. What happened to Christian's burden at the cross?

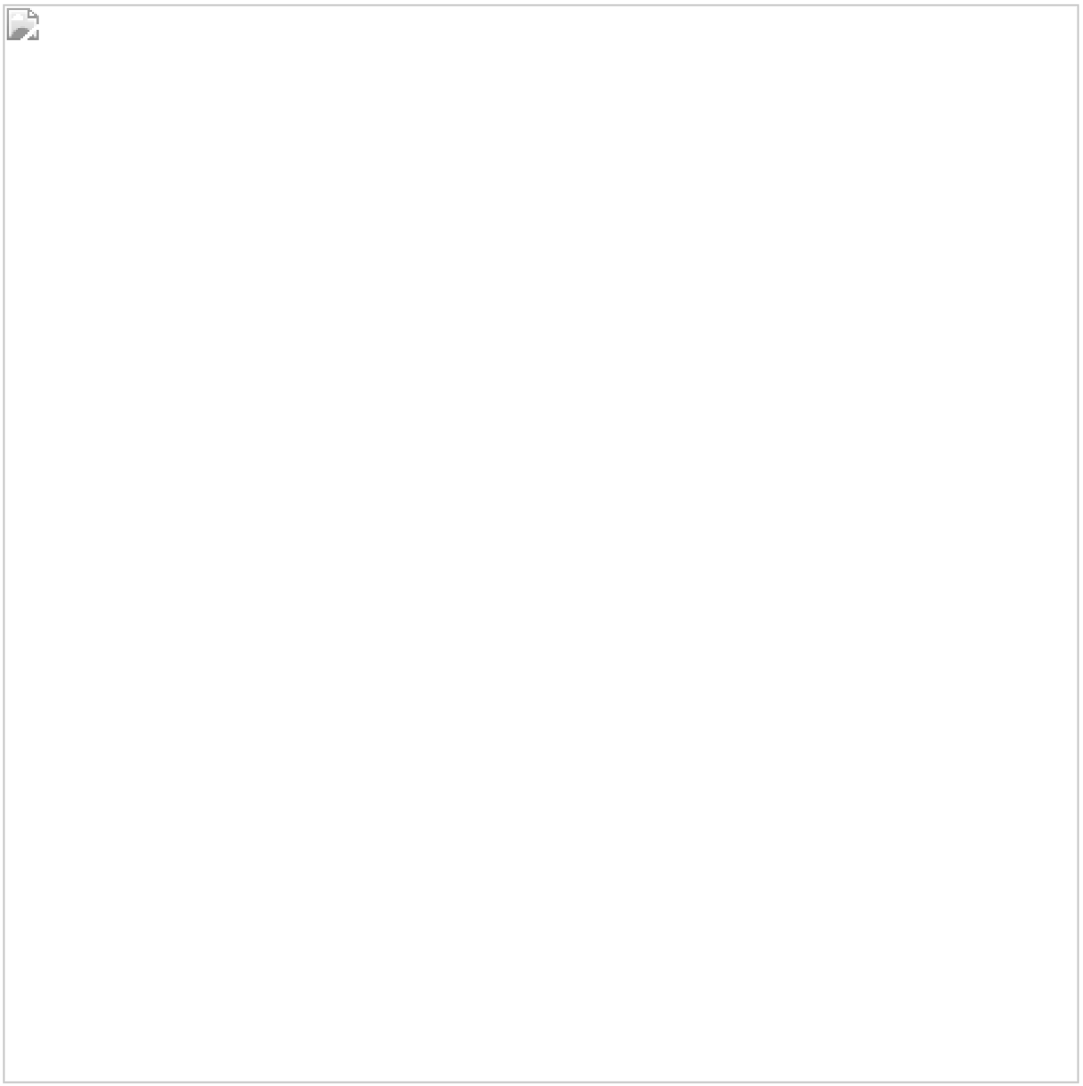
- ○ It fell off and tumbled into the tomb
- ○ He gave it to a friend
- ○ It grew heavier

2. What did the Shining Ones give Christian?

- ○ Forgiveness, new clothes, and a sealed roll
- ○ A horse
- ○ A sack of gold

3. Why do you think Christian gave three leaps for joy?

The Hill Difficulty



Next came the Hill Difficulty. Two roads went around it, but the narrow way went straight up.

Christian sang that it was “Better, though difficult, the right way to go” than an easy wrong one. The steep hill made him climb on hands and knees.

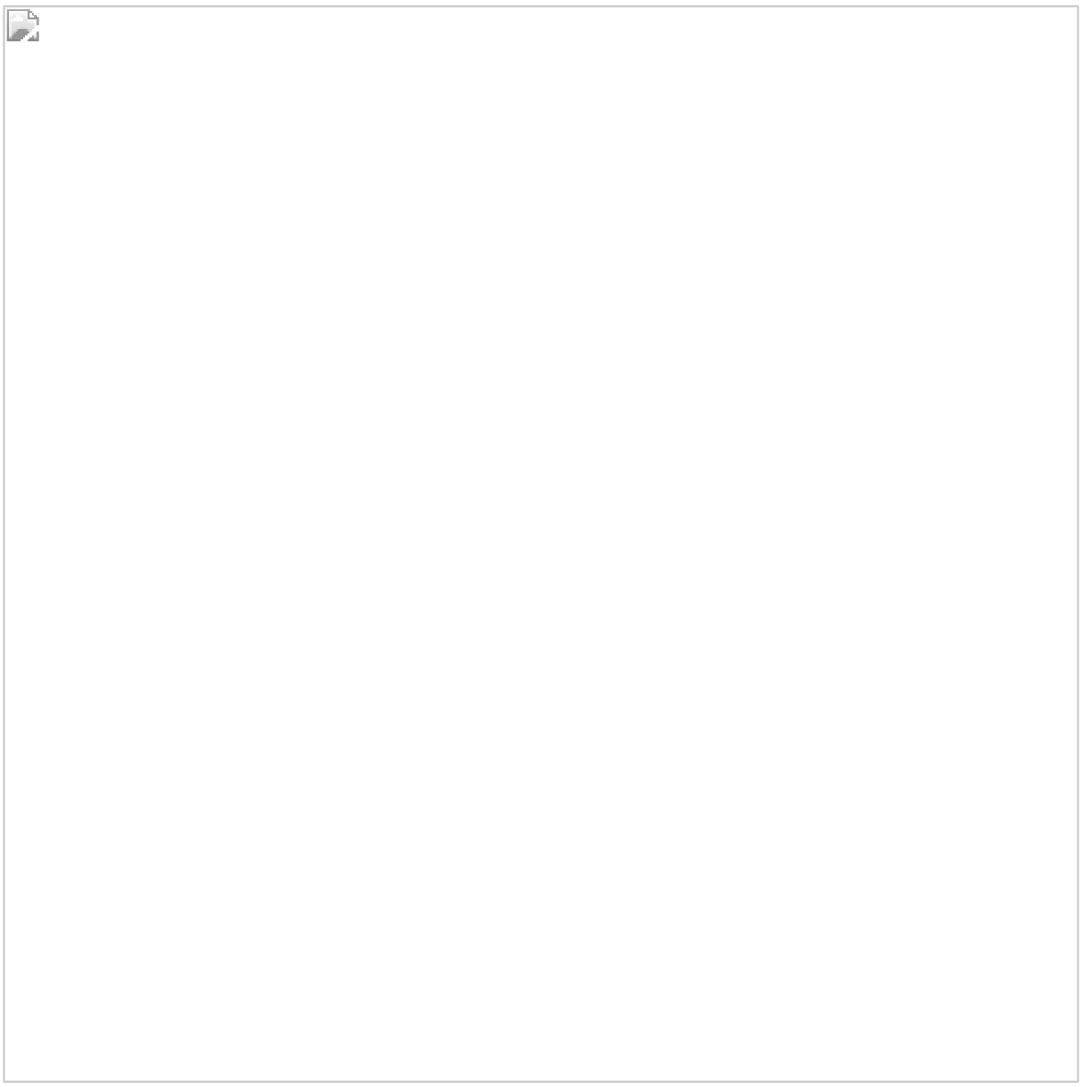
Halfway up was an arbour for tired travelers. Christian sat down, read his roll, fell fast asleep, and the roll slipped from his hand. Someone woke him, and he sped on to the top.

There Timorous and Mistrust came running back. “Just before us lie a couple of lions in the way,” said Mistrust. But Christian said, “I will yet go forward.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Timorous and Mistrust turned back. Christian kept going. What helps you keep going when something is hard?

The Hill Difficulty · another picture



Think about it

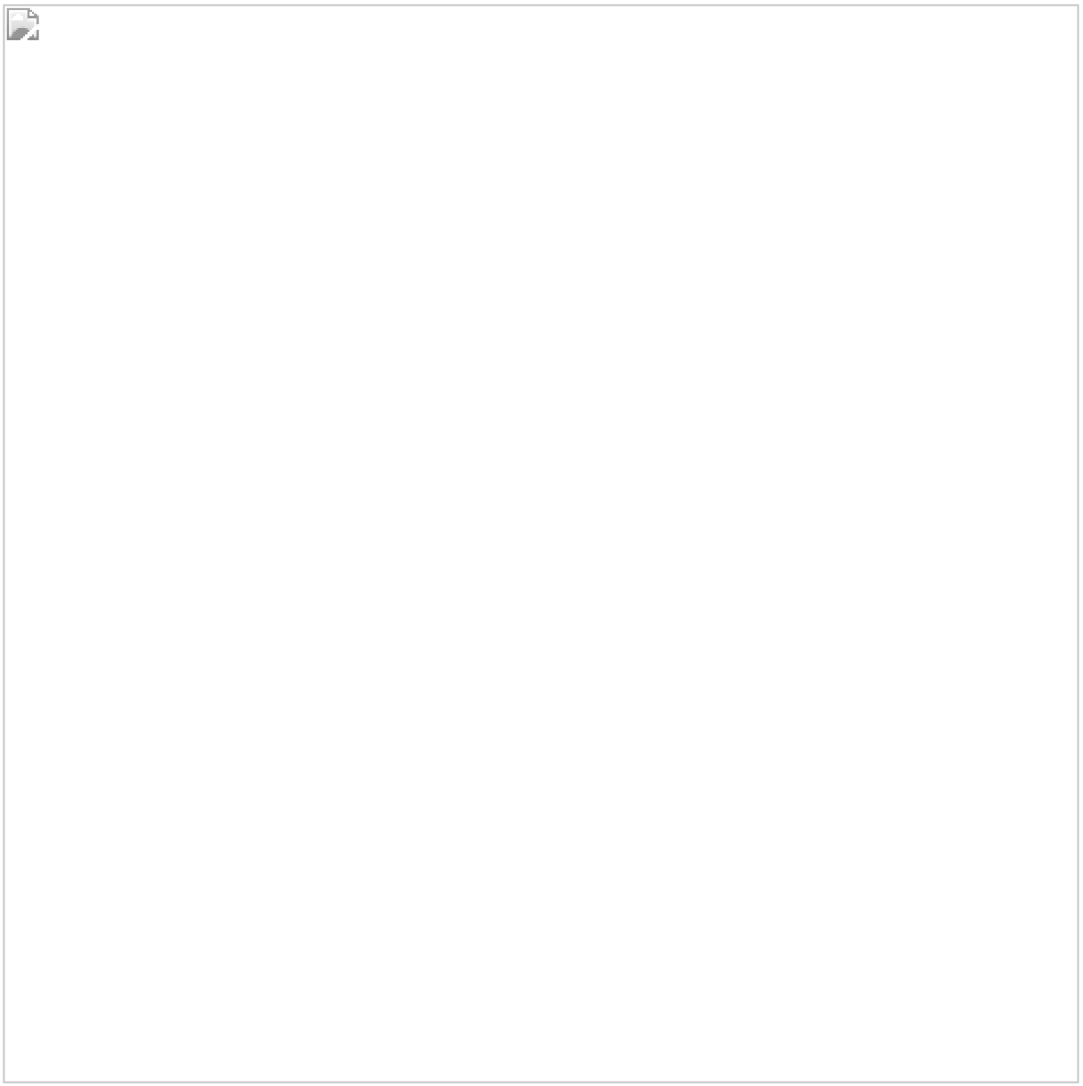
1. What happened when Christian rested in the arbour?

- ○ He fell asleep and his roll slipped out of his hand
- ○ He met a lion
- ○ He built a house

2. What did Christian say when Timorous and Mistrust ran back?

- ○ I will yet go forward
- ○ I will go home
- ○ Let us all take a nap

The Palace Beautiful



At the top Christian's roll was gone! He went back to the arbour and found it under the seat.

At sunset he saw a grand house called Beautiful, with two lions in the path before it. Christian wanted to turn back, but the porter, Watchful, called, "Fear not the lions, for they are chained."

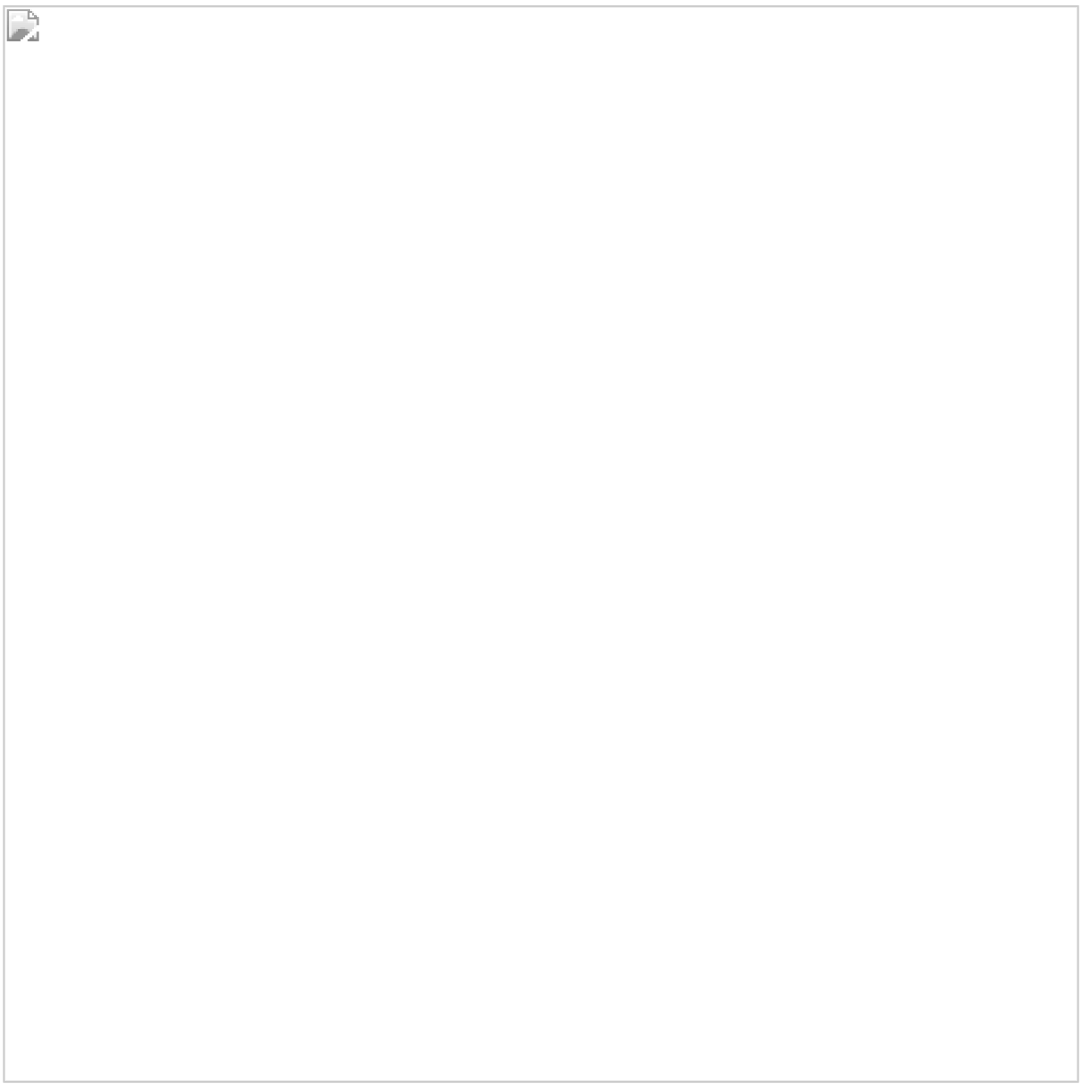
Inside, they said, "Come in, thou blessed of the Lord," and gave him supper. He slept in a big room with a window toward the sunrise. Its name was Peace.

They showed him armour made for pilgrims and far-off hills called the Delectable Mountains, then sent him on with bread, wine, and raisins.

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian was afraid of the lions, but they were chained. When have you been afraid of something that turned out to be safe?

The Palace Beautiful · another picture



Think about it

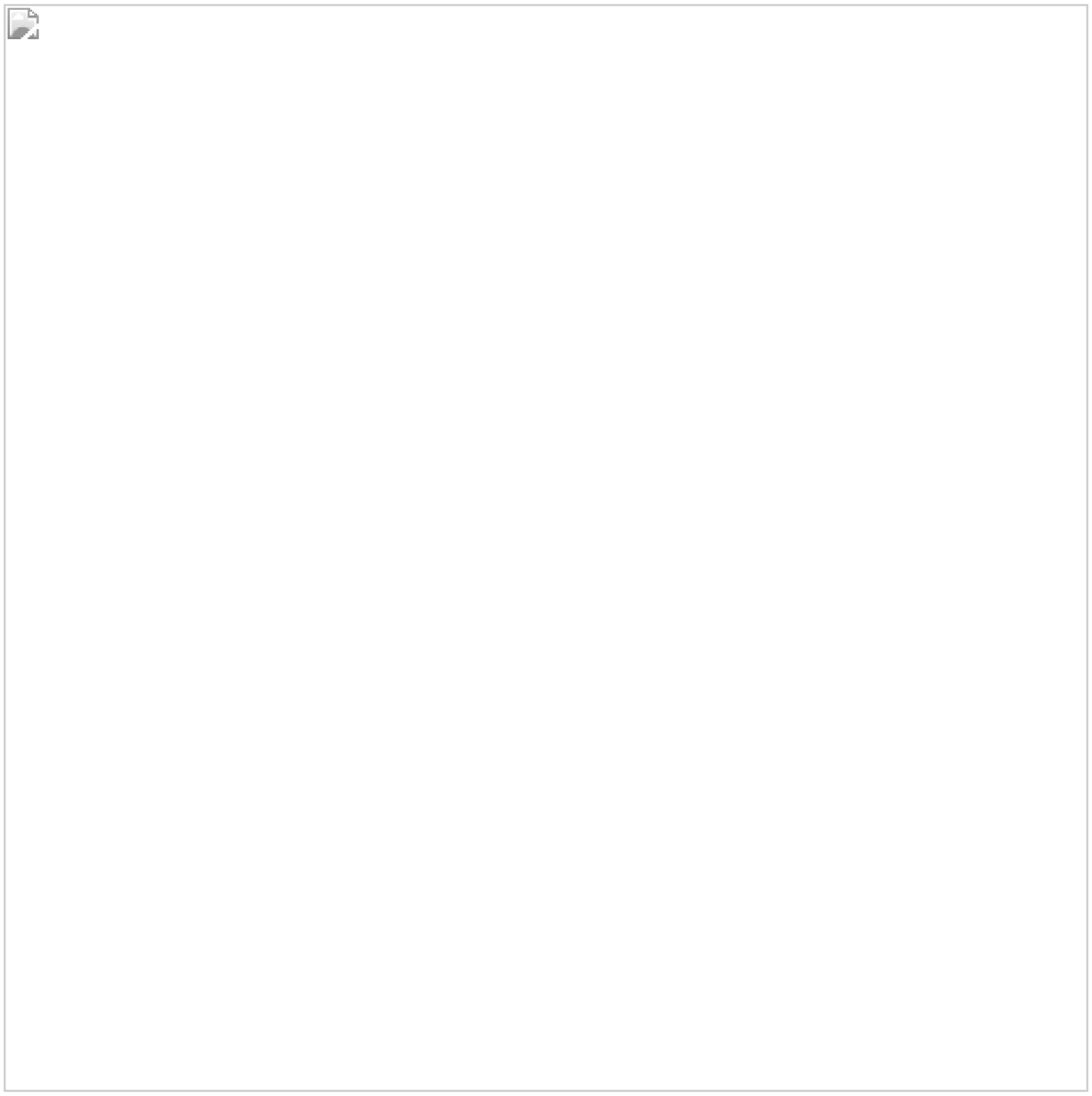
1. What was true about the lions?

- ○ They were chained
- ○ They were friendly
- ○ They were asleep

2. What was the name of the room where Christian slept?

- ○ Peace
- ○ Sunrise
- ○ Hill

Apollyon



In the Valley of Humiliation a monster met Christian: Apollyon, with scales like a fish, wings like a dragon, feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion.

Apollyon said, “thou shalt go no further,” but Christian stood his ground “in the King’s highway.”

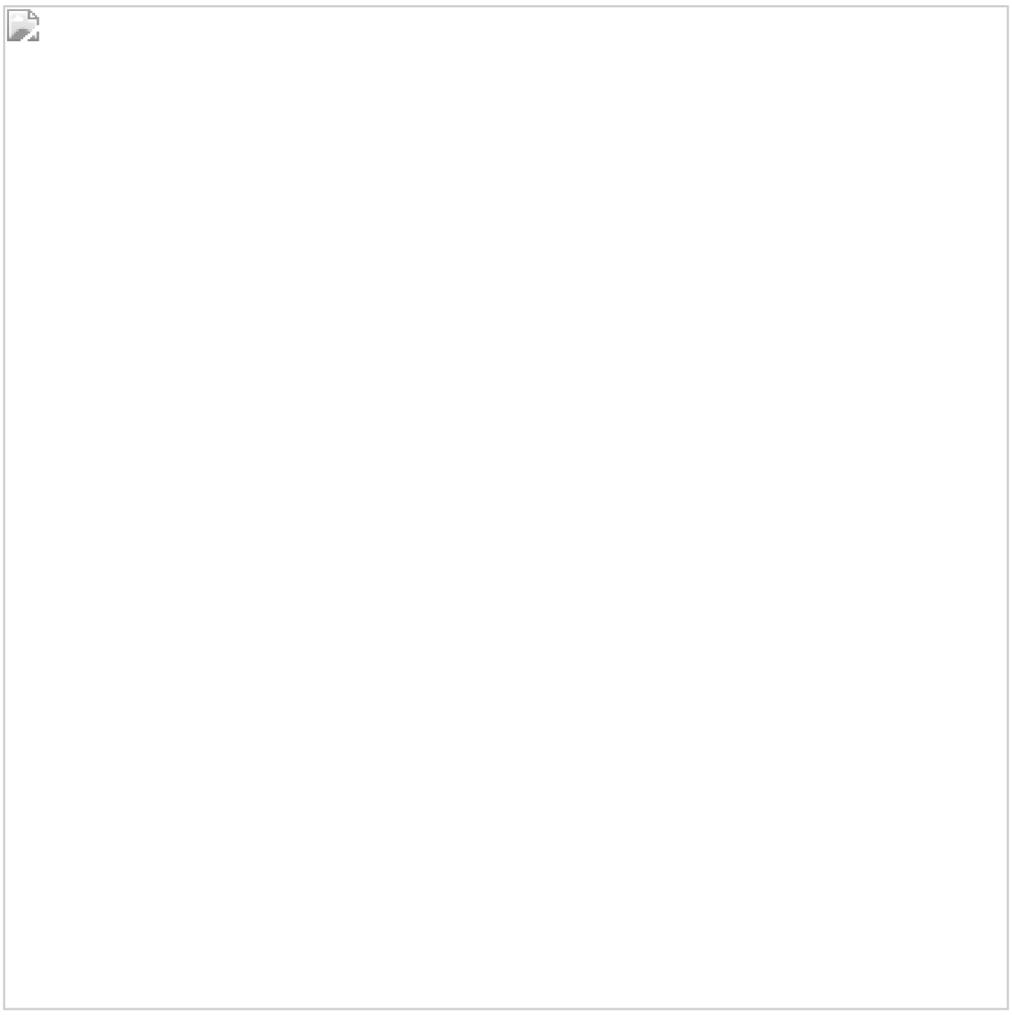
They fought half a day. Knocked down, Christian lost his sword but caught it. “Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall I shall arise.”

He drove Apollyon back: “We are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” Apollyon spread his wings and sped away. A hand held out leaves from the tree of life, and he was healed at once.

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian said, “when I fall I shall arise.” What does it mean to get back up after you fall?

Apollyon · another picture



Think about it

1. What did Apollyon do in the end?

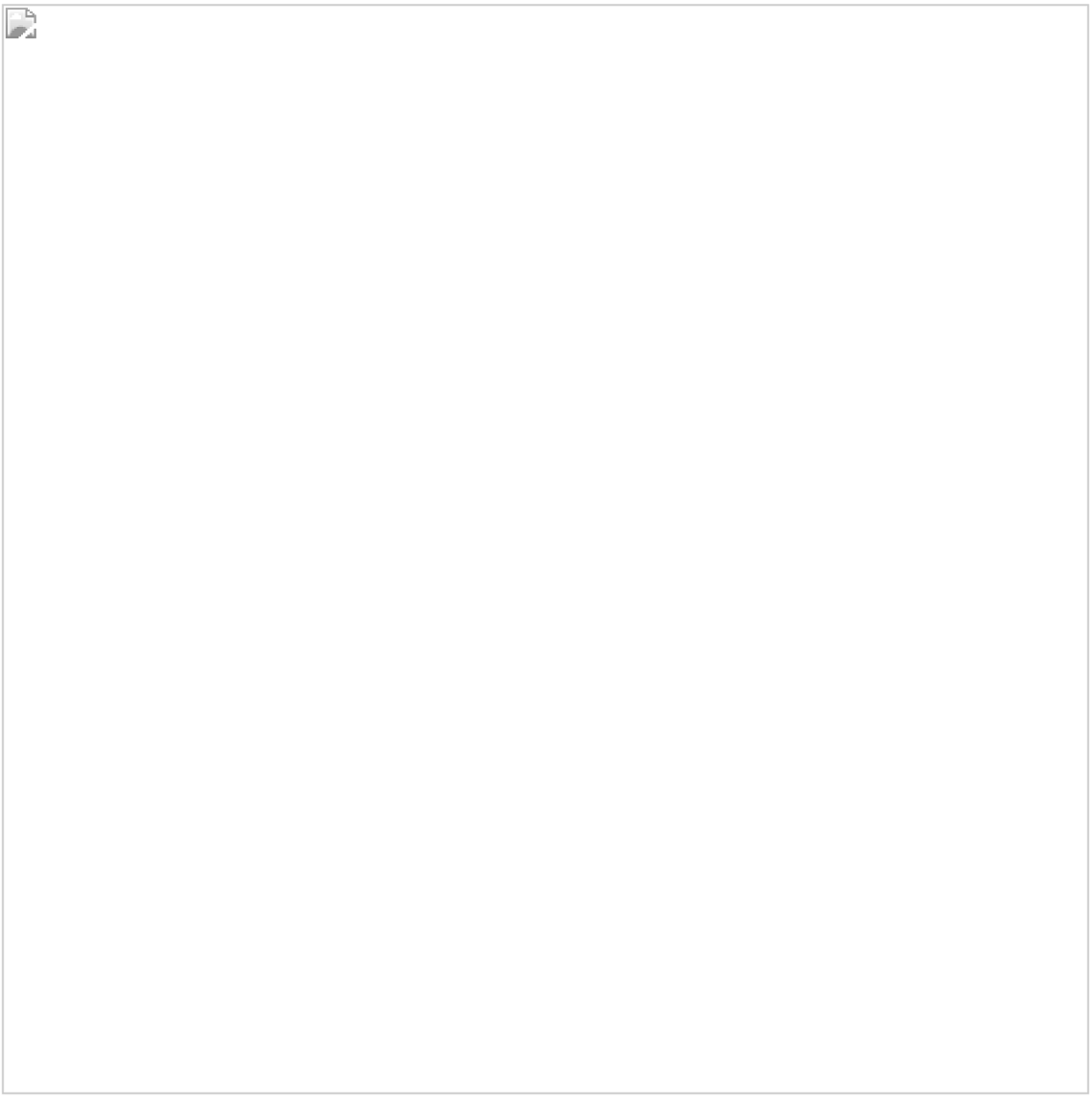
- ○ Spread his wings and flew away
- ○ Became Christian's friend
- ○ Fell asleep

2. What healed Christian's wounds?

- ○ Leaves from the tree of life
- ○ A bandage from Help
- ○ A drink of water

3. What do you think gave Christian the courage to stand his ground?

Faithful



Christian climbed a little rise and saw Faithful ahead on the road, a man from his own town. Christian called out, “Ho! ho! So-ho! stay, and I will be your companion!”

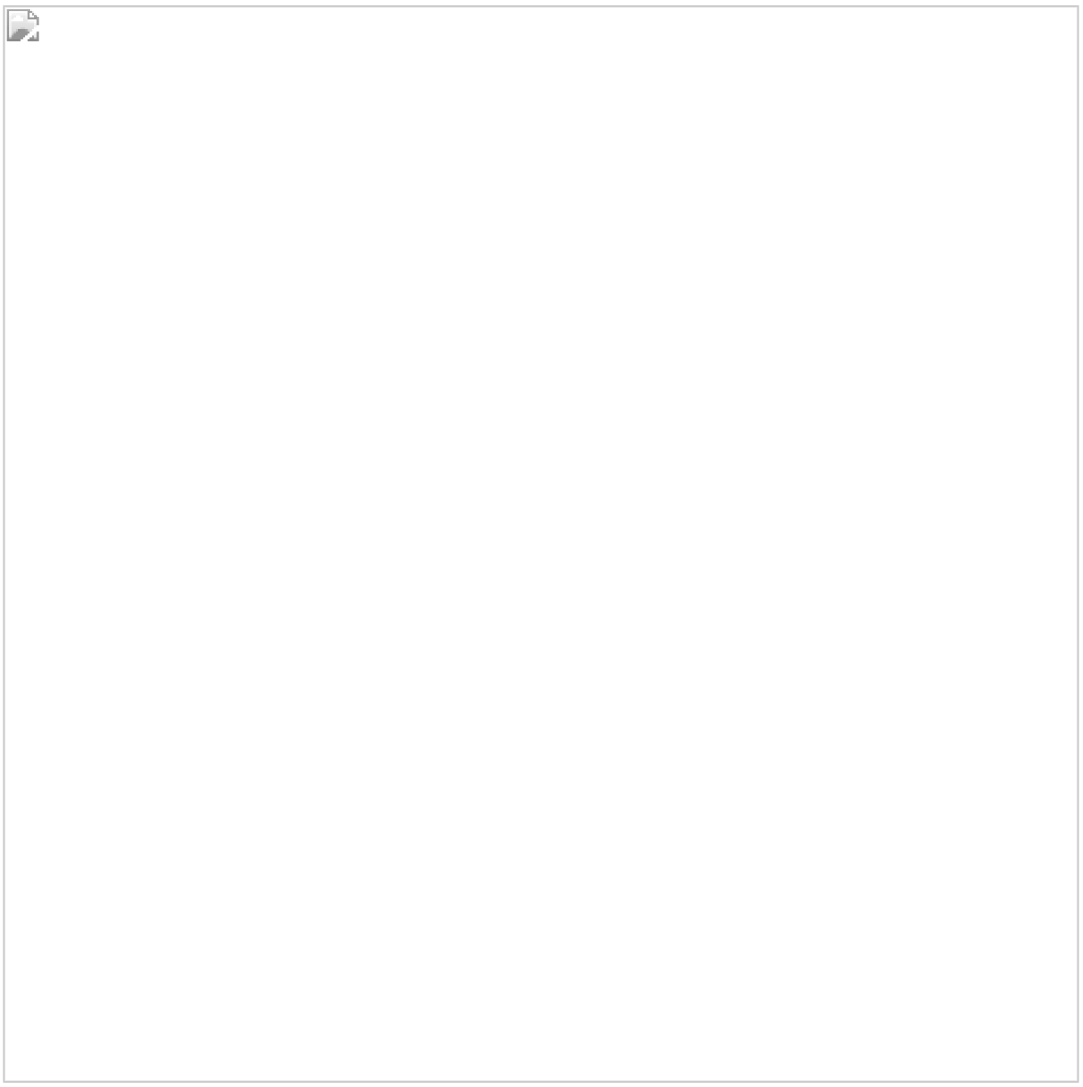
Christian ran up and passed him, “so the last was first.” Proud, he did not watch his feet. He stumbled and fell, and could not rise until Faithful helped him.

After that they “went very lovingly on together.” Evangelist met them again and warned of a town ahead where they would be badly treated. “Be you faithful unto death,” he said, “and the King will give you a crown of life.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian was proud when he passed Faithful, and then he fell. Has a friend ever helped you up?

Faithful · another picture



Think about it

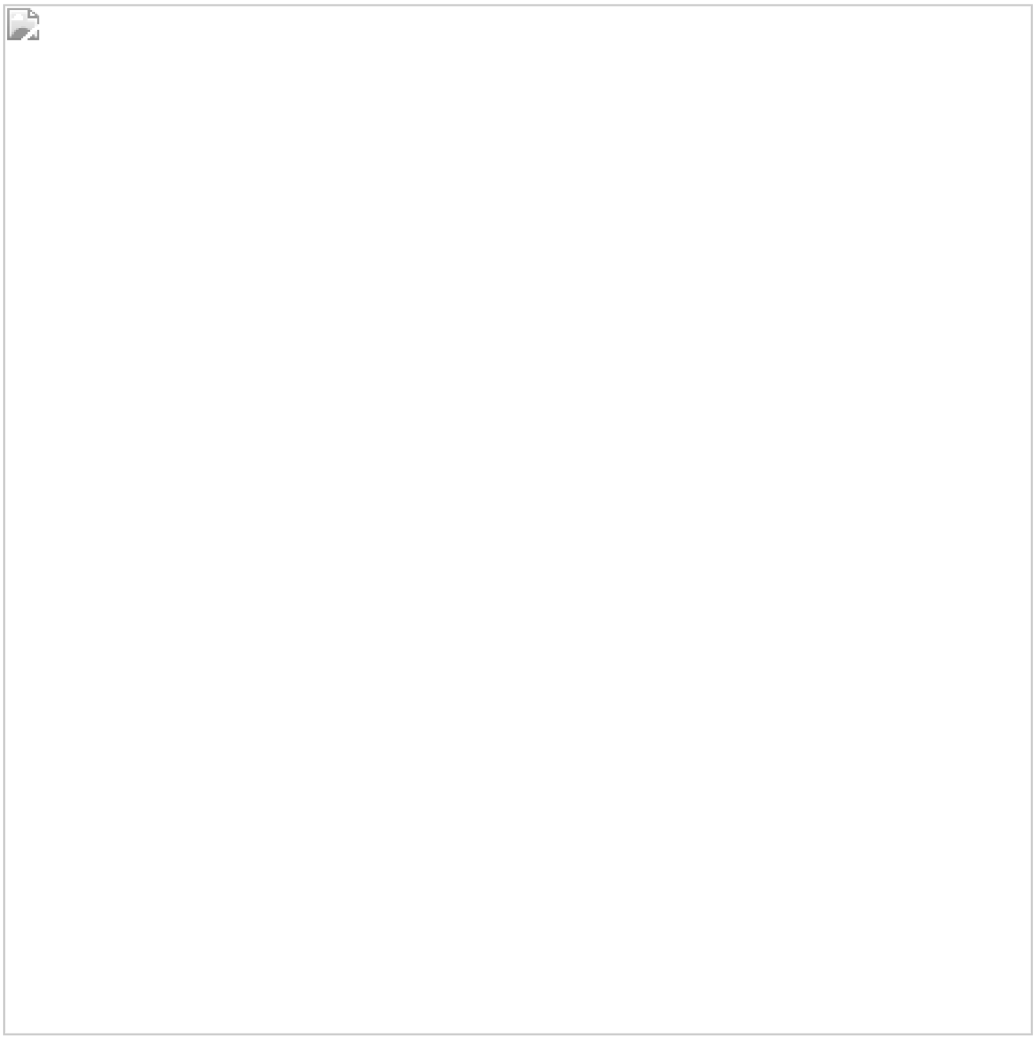
1. Who helped Christian get up when he fell?

- ○ Faithful
- ○ Pliable
- ○ Apollyon

2. What did Christian call out when he saw Faithful?

- ○ Stay, and I will be your companion
- ○ Go home
- ○ Give me your hat

Vanity Fair



Soon the friends came to the town of Vanity, where a fair went on all year. It was "lighter than vanity," and "all that cometh is vanity." Houses, land, titles, silver, gold, and pearls were for sale.

The road to the Celestial City ran right through it. Even the Prince of princes once walked through it, and bought nothing.

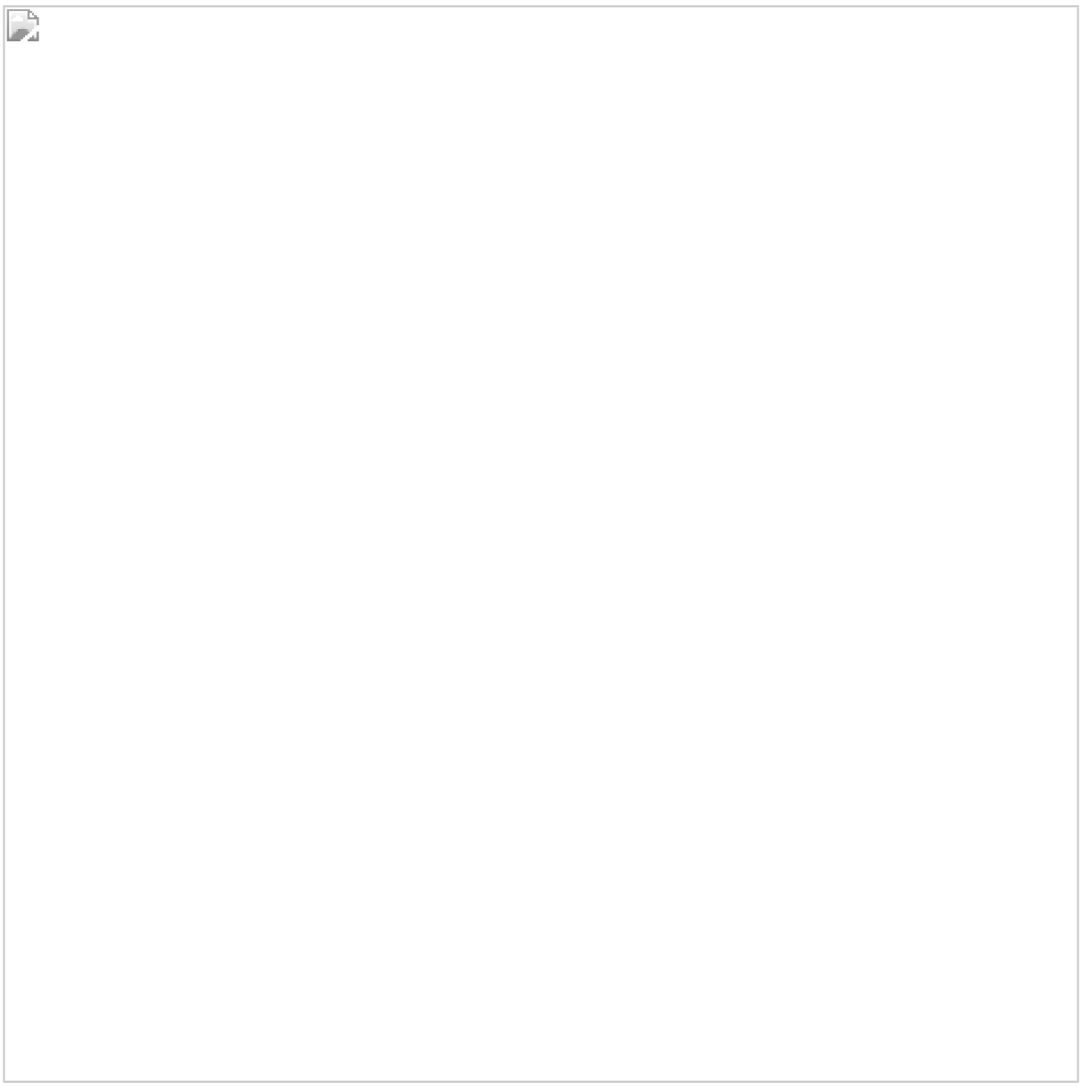
The whole fair stared at the two pilgrims, so different in clothes and speech. When sellers called, they put their fingers in their ears, said, "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity," and looked upward.

"What will ye buy?" someone mocked. They answered gravely, "We buy the truth."

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian and Faithful were not tempted by the shiny things for sale. What is something people want a lot that does not last?

Vanity Fair · another picture



Think about it

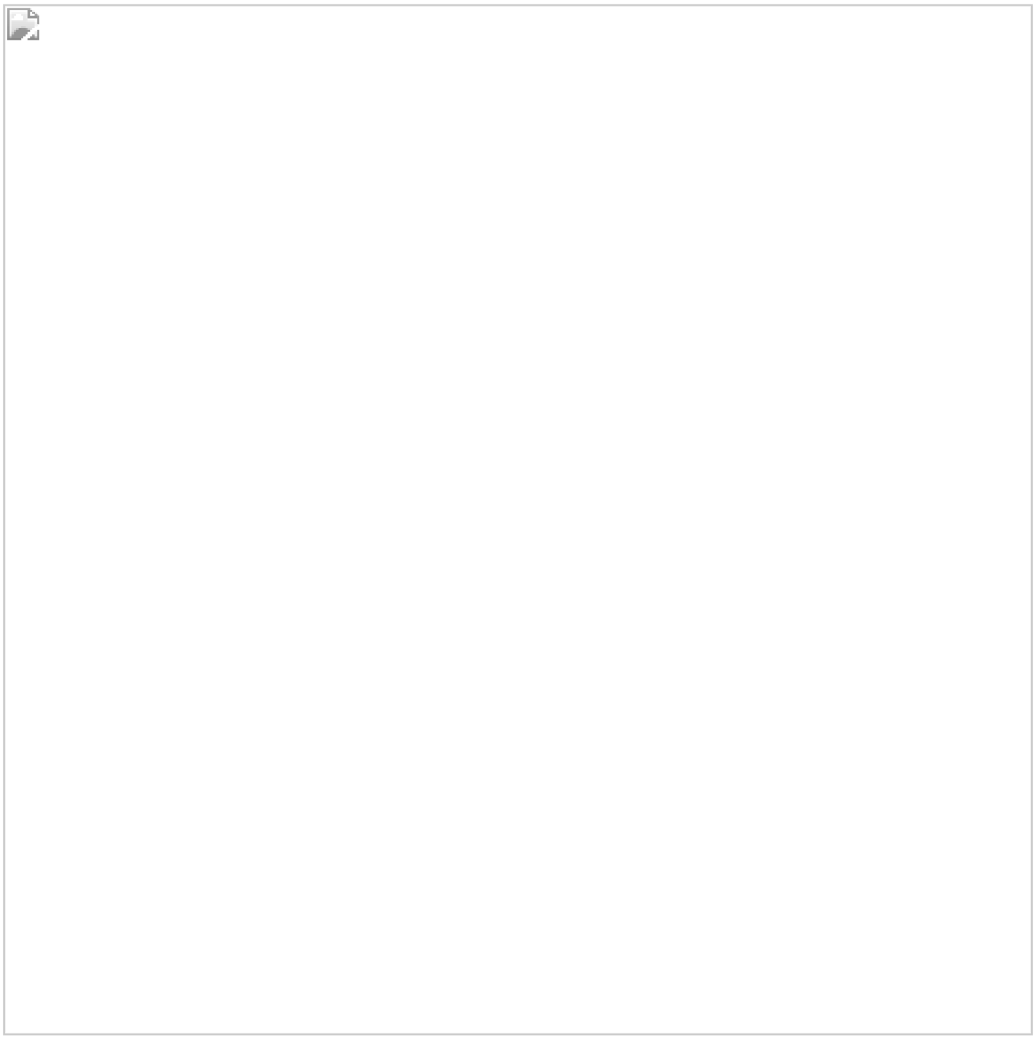
1. What did the pilgrims say they wanted to buy?

- ○ The truth
- ○ Silver and gold
- ○ Sweets

2. What did Christian and Faithful do when sellers called to them?

- ○ Put their fingers in their ears and looked upward
- ○ Bought everything
- ○ Ran away

Faithful and Hopeful



The crowd grew angry and put Christian and Faithful in a cage. But the pilgrims gave “good words for bad, and kindness for injuries done,” and some in the fair took their side.

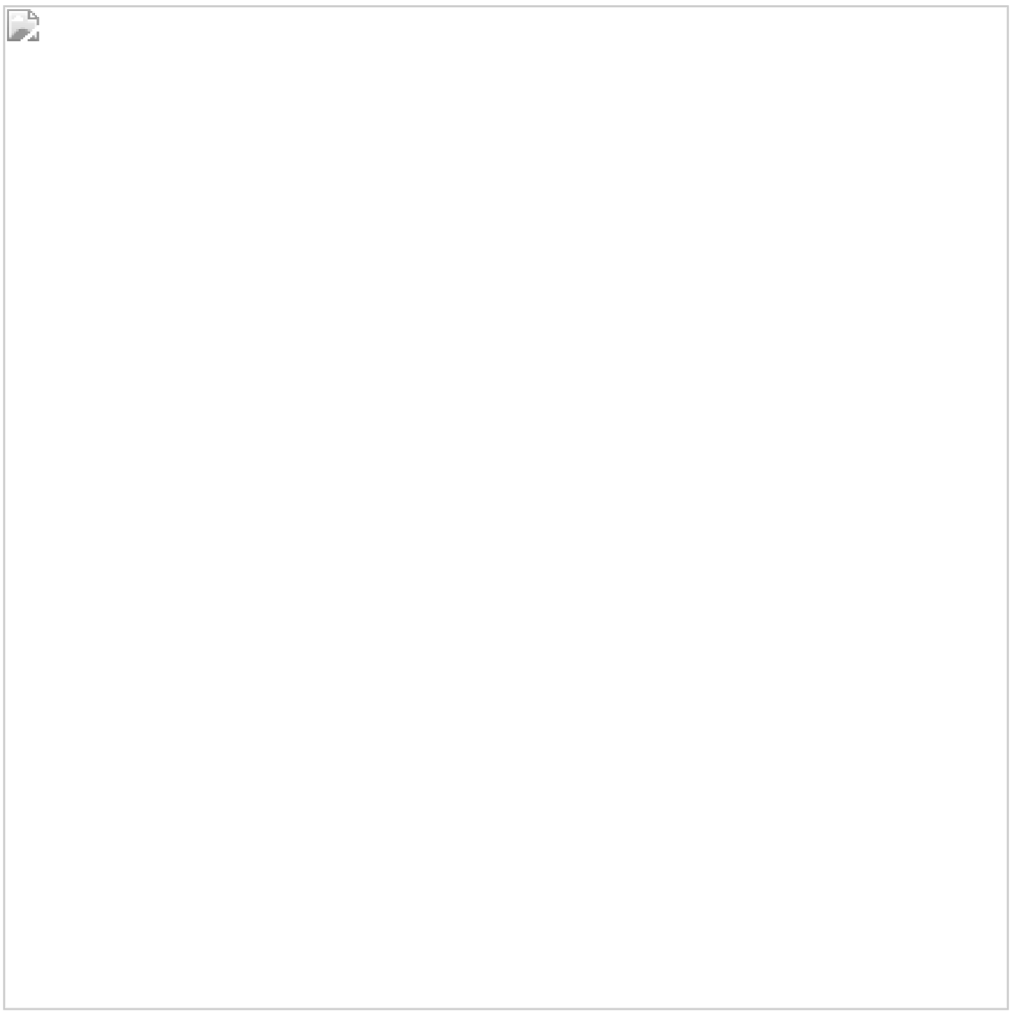
In the end the people of the town put Faithful to death.

But Bunyan saw a chariot and horses waiting behind the crowd. Faithful was taken up through the clouds, “the nearest way to the Celestial Gate.” Christian sang, “Sing, Faithful, sing, and let thy name survive.”

Christian escaped from prison and went on, but not alone. Hopeful had watched how the two spoke and acted even in trouble, and he joined Christian as his companion.

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian and Faithful answered unkind words with kind ones. What might happen if you did the same?



Think about it

1. Who became Christian's new companion?

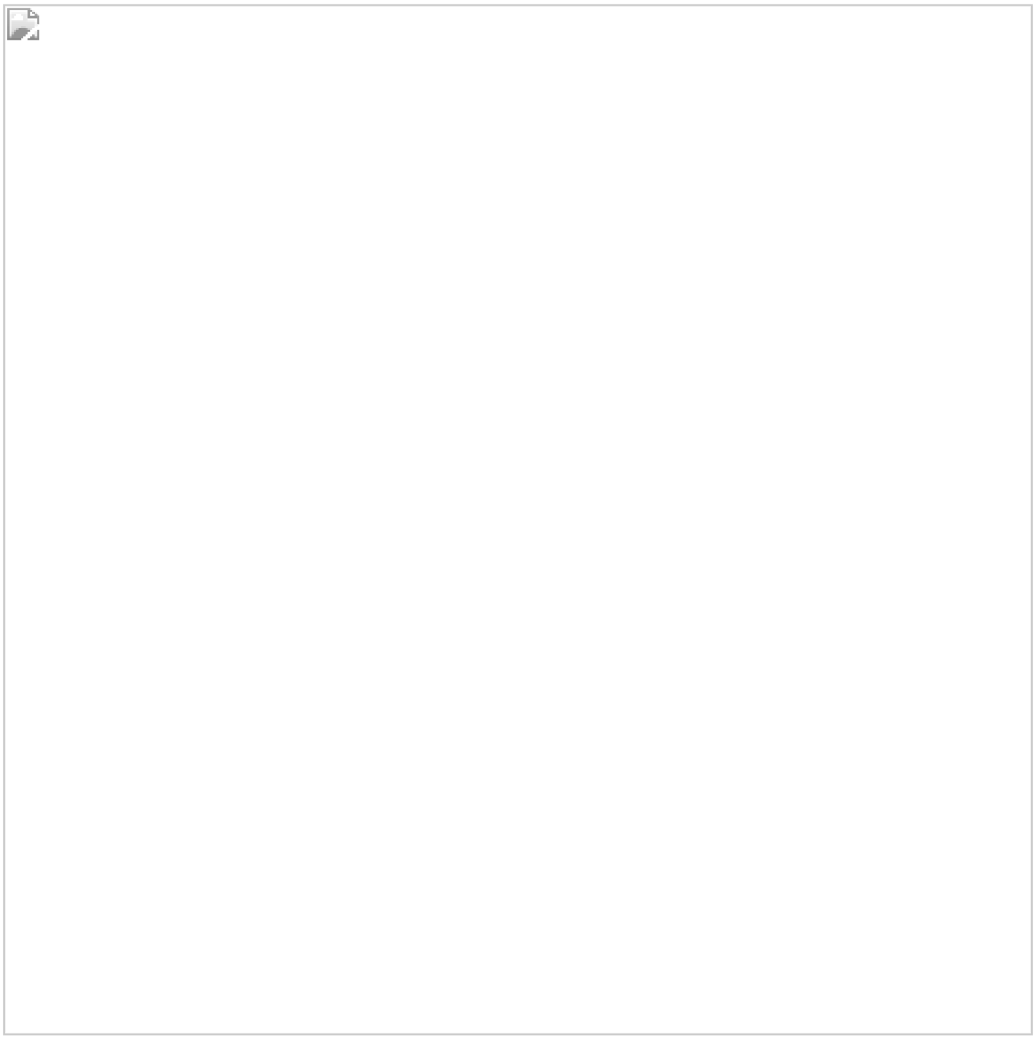
- ○ Hopeful
- ○ Obstinate
- ○ Timorous

2. How did Christian and Faithful treat the people who were unkind to them?

- ○ With good words and kindness
- ○ They shouted back
- ○ They hid

3. Why do you think some people in the fair took their side?

Doubting Castle



The road grew rough. Beside it a stile led into By-path Meadow. “Here is the easiest going,” said Christian, and Hopeful followed him over.

Night came with rain, and they lost the way. “I am sorry I have brought thee out of the way,” said Christian. “Be comforted, my brother, for I forgive thee,” said Hopeful.

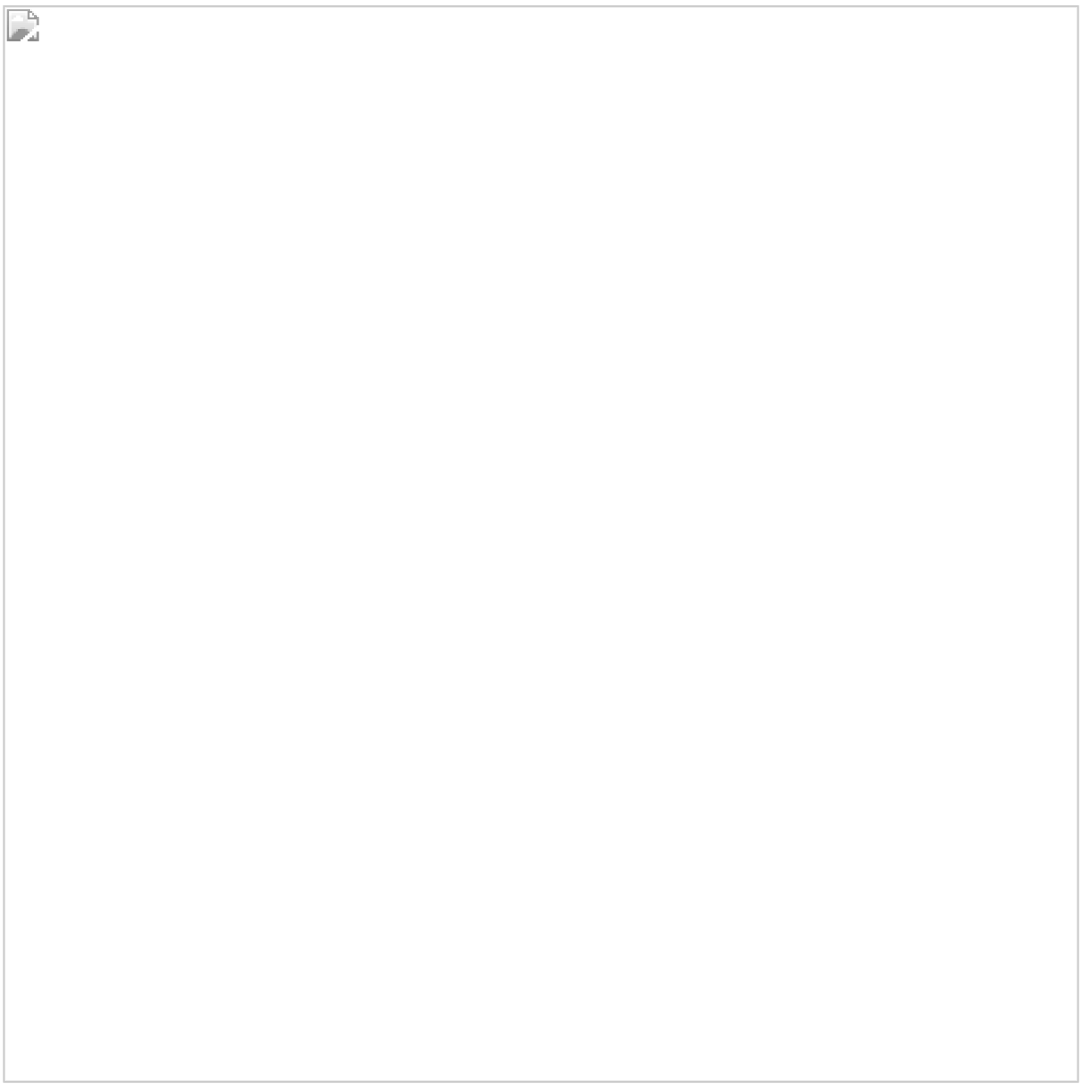
Giant Despair found them asleep near Doubting Castle. “You have this night trespassed on me,” he said, and shut them in a dark dungeon without bread or water.

“My brother, let us be patient, and endure a while,” said Hopeful. “All the law is not in the hand of Giant Despair.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian said sorry, and Hopeful forgave him. What makes it hard to say sorry? What helps you forgive?

Doubting Castle · another picture



Think about it

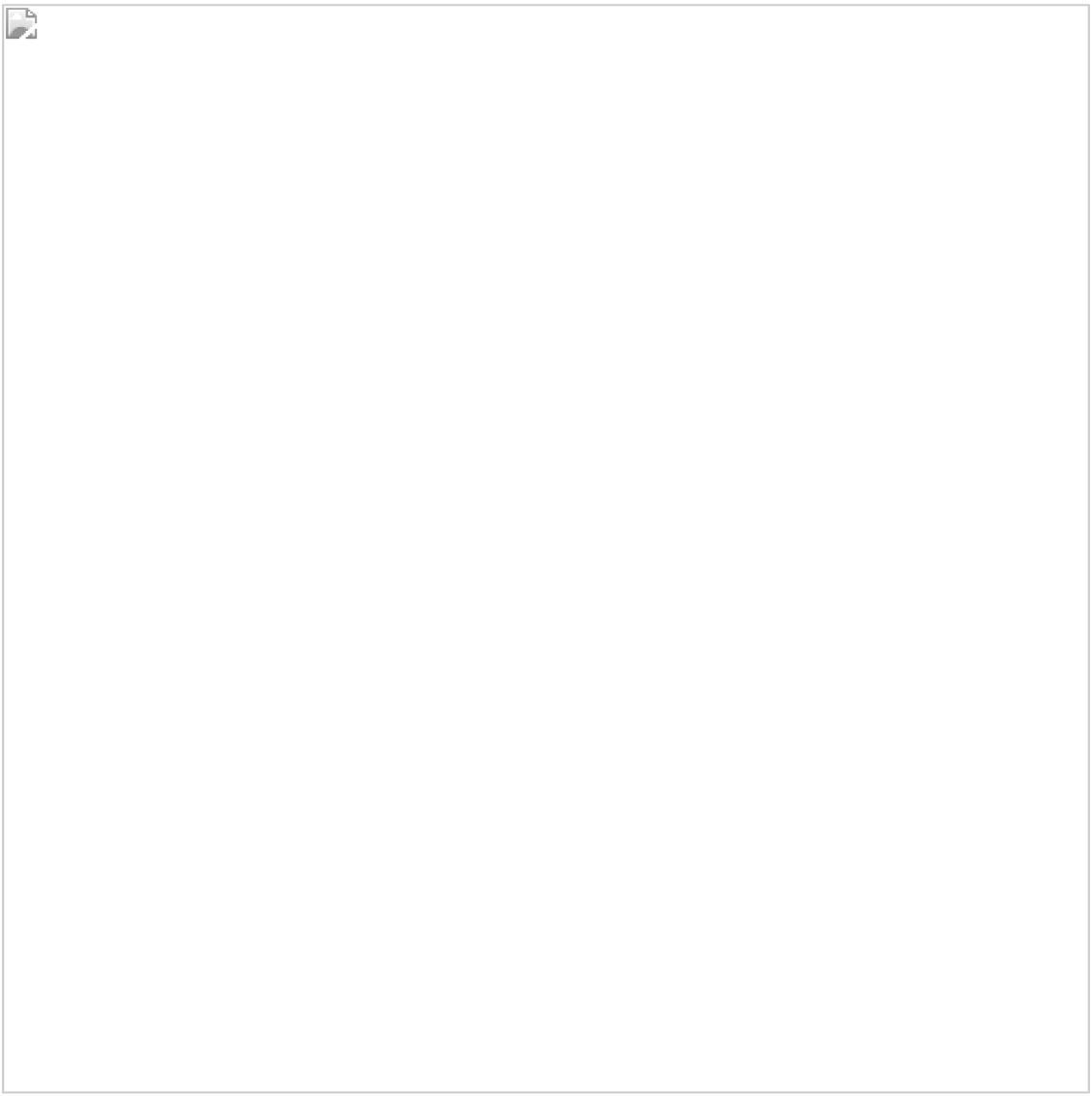
1. How did Christian and Hopeful end up on the Giant's land?

- ○ They left the road for an easier path
- ○ The Giant invited them
- ○ They were looking for him

2. What did Hopeful say to keep Christian going?

- ○ Let us be patient, and endure a while
- ○ Let us give up
- ○ Let us sing

A Key Called Promise



Near midnight the two began to pray, and prayed until almost daybreak.

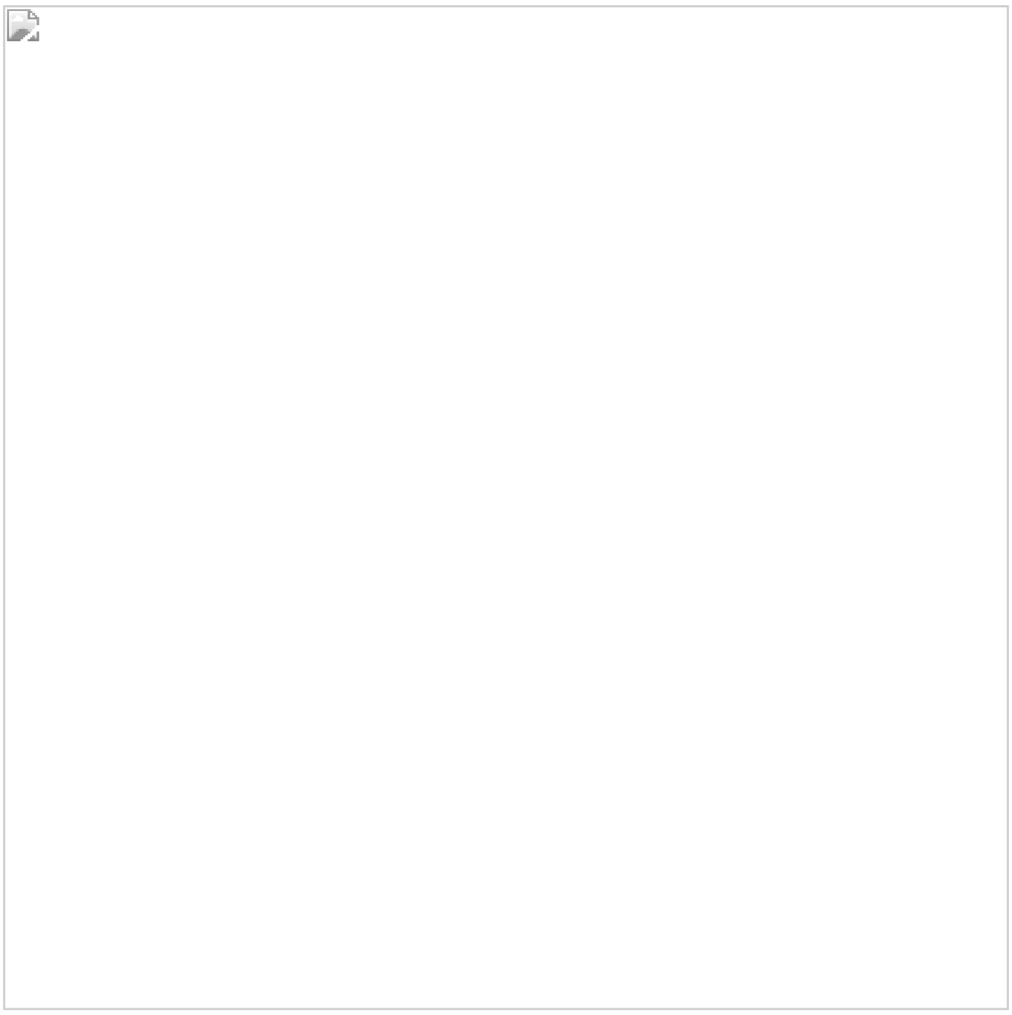
Then Christian cried that he was a fool to lie in a dungeon when he could walk free. “I have a Key in my bosom called Promise,” he said, “that will, I am persuaded, open any Lock in Doubting Castle.”

The dungeon door flew open, then the outer door, then the iron gate. It creaked and woke Giant Despair, but his legs failed him.

Safe on the King’s highway, they set up a pillar by the stile to warn others: “Over this stile is the way to Doubting Castle.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian had the key with him the whole time. What is something good you know that is easy to forget when things feel dark?



Think about it

1. What was the name of the key?

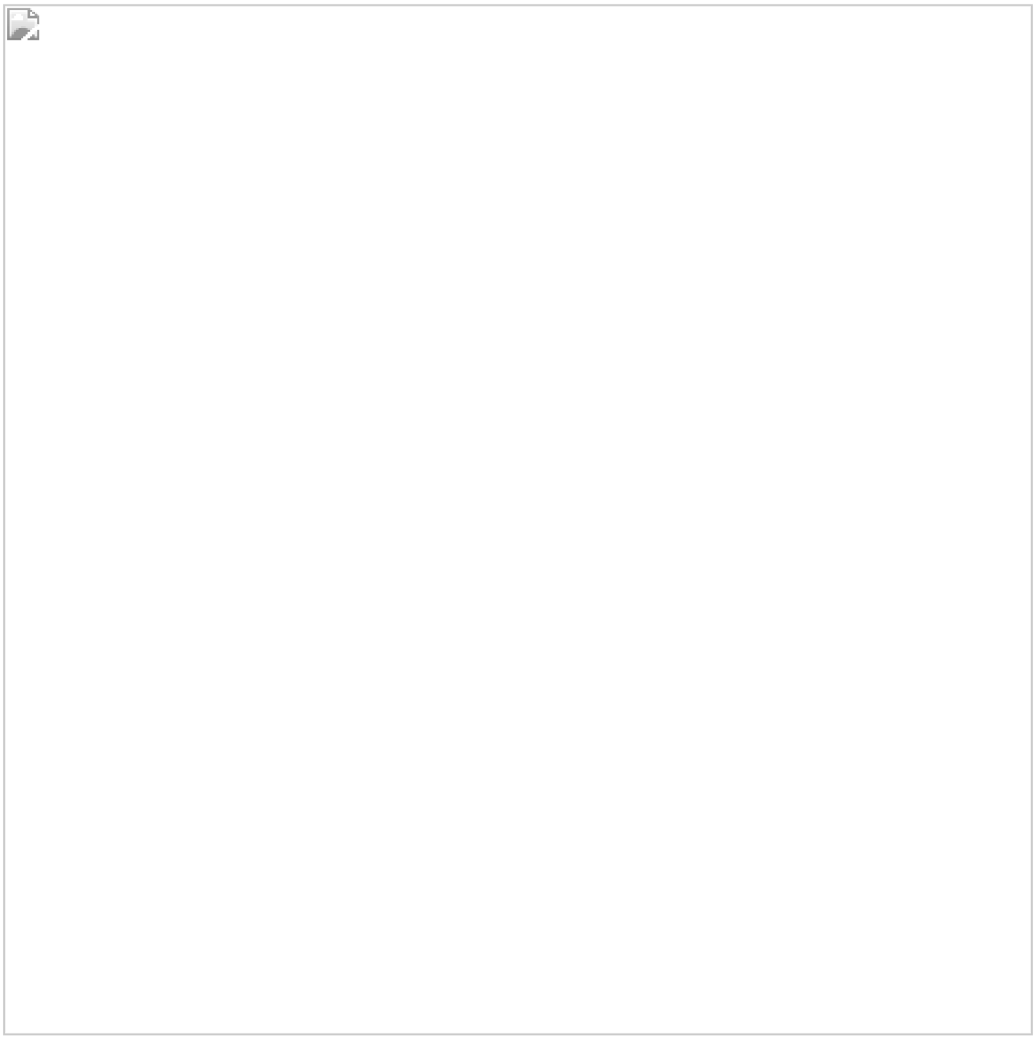
- ○ Promise
- ○ Hope
- ○ Gate

2. Where was the key all along?

- ○ In Christian's coat, near his heart
- ○ Under the dungeon bed
- ○ With Giant Despair

3. Why do you think they put up a pillar by the stile?

The Delectable Mountains



Christian and Hopeful came to the Delectable Mountains, with gardens, orchards, vineyards, and fountains. They drank, washed, and ate freely from the vineyards.

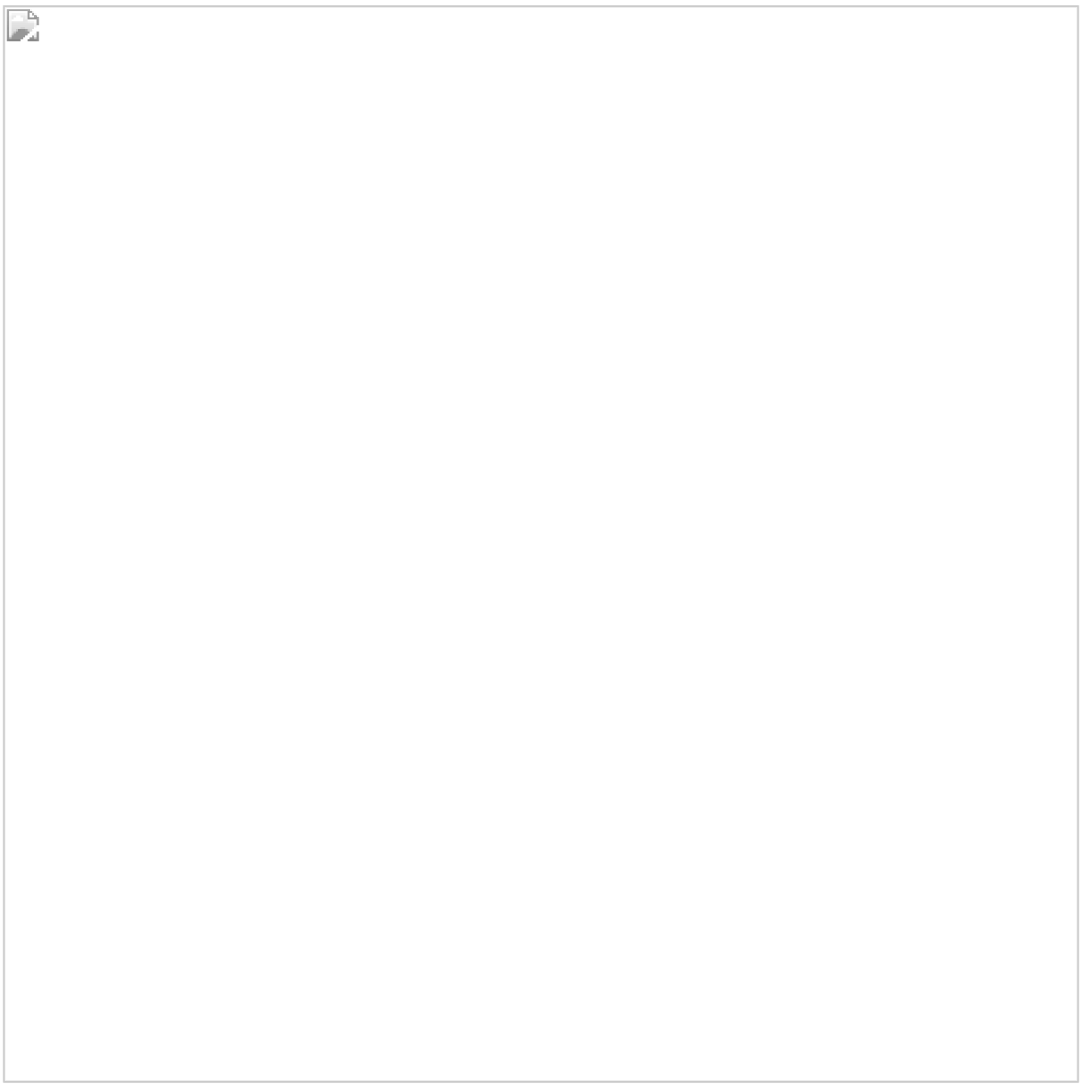
On top, shepherds fed their flocks beside the highway. “Is this the way to the Celestial City?” asked Christian. “You are just in your way.”

The shepherds were Knowledge, Experience, Watchful, and Sincere. They led the pilgrims to their tents and said, “Welcome to the Delectable Mountains.”

From a hill called Clear they looked through a “perspective glass” toward the city. Their hands shook, but they thought they saw “something like the gate.” Then the shepherds sent them on with a note of the way.

TALK ABOUT IT

The shepherds welcomed two tired pilgrims with food and rest. How could you welcome someone who is tired?



Think about it

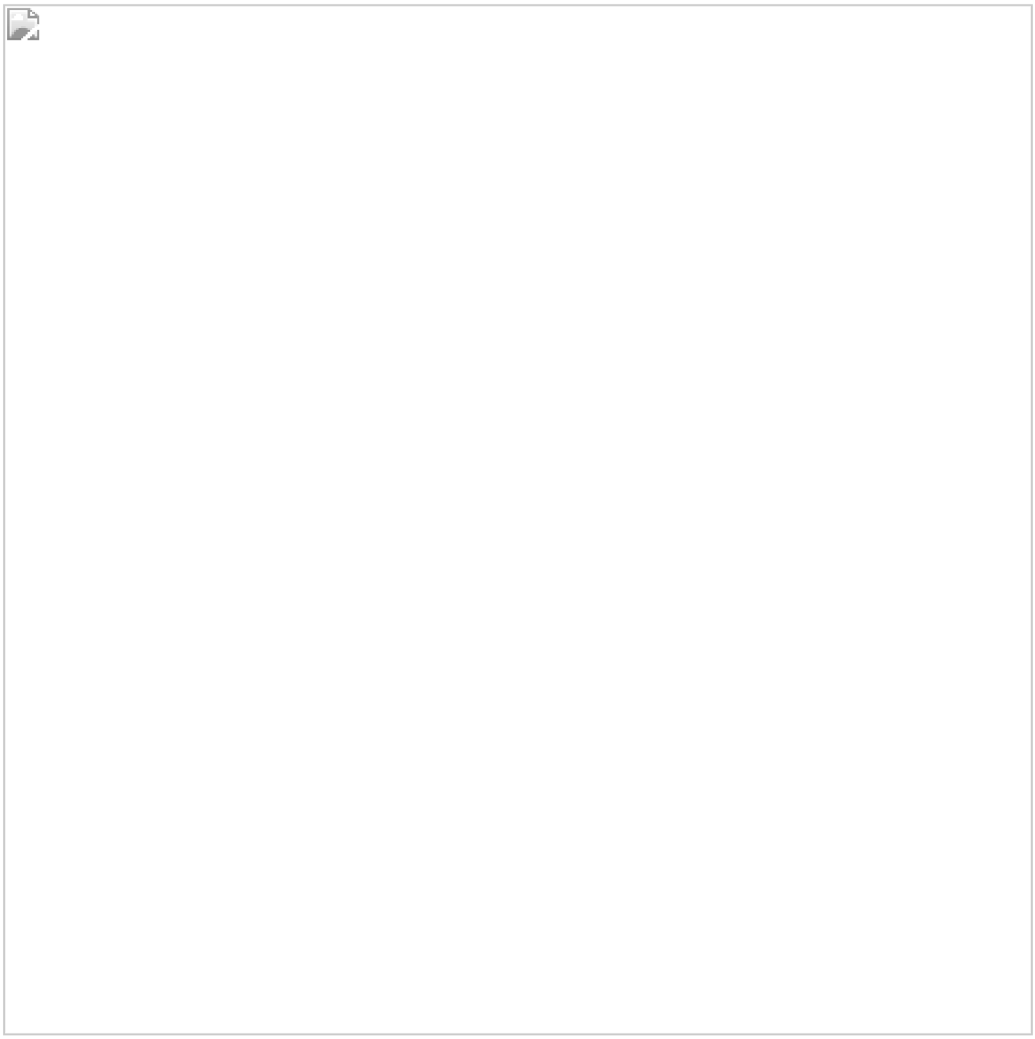
1. What did the pilgrims see through the shepherds' glass?

- ○ Something like the gate of the city
- ○ A giant
- ○ A river of milk

2. Which of these was one of the shepherds?

- ○ Sincere
- ○ Obstinate
- ○ Timorous

The River



In the land of Beulah “the sun shineth night and day.” They could see the city shining ahead.

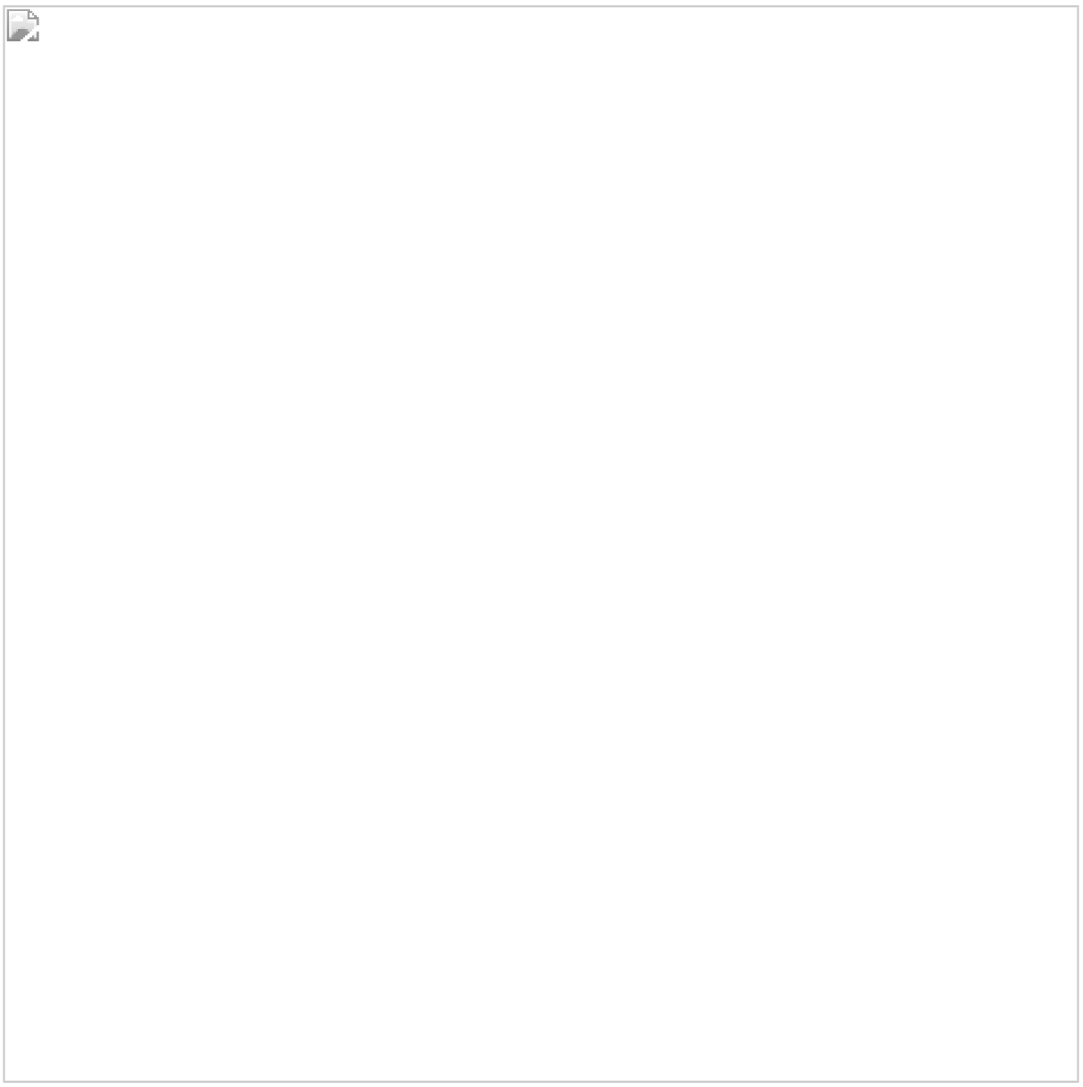
Between them and the gate ran a river with no bridge, and they had to go through.

They stepped in, and Christian began to sink. “I sink in deep waters,” he cried. But Hopeful held up his head. “Be of good cheer, my brother, I feel the bottom, and it is good.”

Then Christian cried, “Oh, I see him again!” He heard the words, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee.” He found ground under his feet, and they got over.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hopeful held Christian up when Christian could not stand. Who helps you when you are afraid?



Think about it

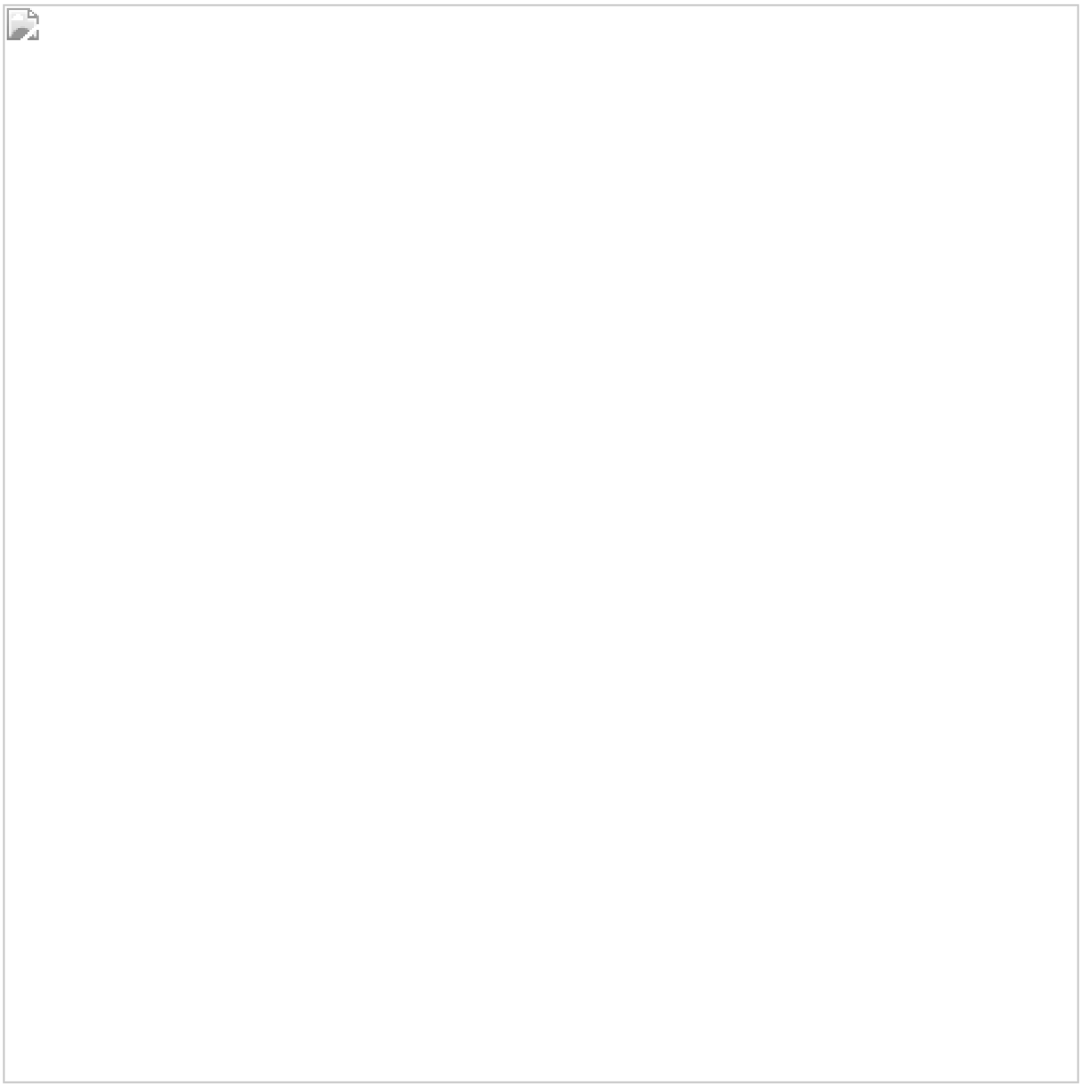
1. Who held Christian's head above the water?

- ○ Hopeful
- ○ Help
- ○ Faithful

2. What did Christian find under his feet at last?

- ○ Ground to stand on
- ○ A boat
- ○ A bridge

The Celestial City



The Shining Men led them up the hill, higher than the clouds, yet they climbed with ease. Trumpeters gave them “ten thousand welcomes.”

At the gate the pilgrims gave in the rolls they had been given at the beginning. The King read them and commanded the gate to be opened.

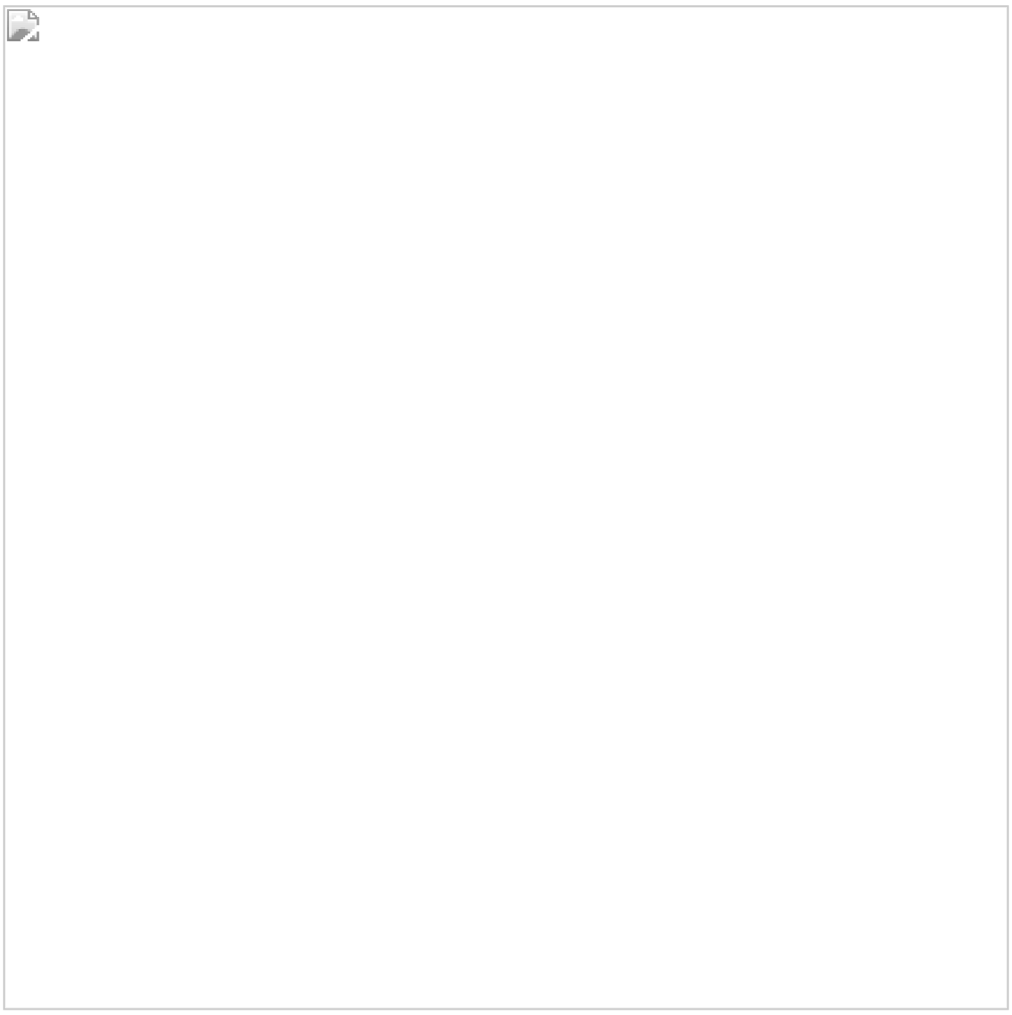
Christian and Hopeful went in, and their clothes shone like gold. They were given harps and crowns, and a voice said, “ENTER YE INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD.”

The dreamer looked in after them and saw that “the City shone like the sun.” “So I awoke, and behold it was a dream.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Christian’s long road had friends and helpers all along it. Which part of the journey would you most like to hear again?

The Celestial City · another picture



Think about it

1. What did Christian and Hopeful give in at the gate?

- ○ The rolls they were given at the beginning
- ○ Gold coins
- ○ Their shoes

2. What was said to them as they went in?

- ○ Enter ye into the joy of your Lord
- ○ Go back
- ○ Wait here

3. Which helper along the road would you most like to meet? Why?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

Free to read, color, and print in the Book Library

Made with love by Love is a Habit