



# THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

# The William Tyndale Story

From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T

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NOTE: Answer key is on page 25 of the Leader’s Guide.



## Bible Check-Up

*How much do you know about the Bible?*

1. \_\_\_\_ How many books are in the Bible? A. 3 John
2. \_\_\_\_ How many books are in the Old Testament? B. 2
3. \_\_\_\_ How many books are in the New Testament? C. Genesis
4. \_\_\_\_ How many words are in the shortest verse in the Bible? D. 4
5. \_\_\_\_ How many languages are estimated to exist worldwide? E. 27
6. \_\_\_\_ What is the first book of the Old Testament? F. 2,300
7. \_\_\_\_ What is the first book of the New Testament? G. 66
8. \_\_\_\_ What is the longest book of the Bible? H. Psalms
9. \_\_\_\_ What is the shortest book of the Bible? I. Amen
10. \_\_\_\_ How many books are Gospels (the story of Jesus' life)? J. 6,500
11. \_\_\_\_ What is the last word in the Bible? K. 39
12. \_\_\_\_ Approximately how many languages have portions of the Bible been translated into? L. Matthew



# Know Your Books

*All books are not created equal.*

*Cut out the books below and place them on the correct bookshelf.*



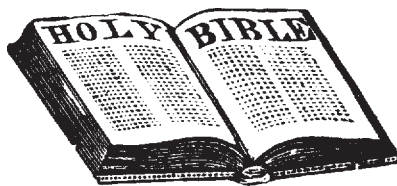
There is only one book that is true 100% of the time and will never change.



FICTION books are made-up stories, not necessarily based on historical facts.



NON-FICTION books are generally based on facts and are considered true. But they are subject to human error as well as new discoveries which may change the “facts” over time.



**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

**- 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

## Bible Translation Is Hard Work!

In the *Greek* language, **Colossians 3:16** looks like this:

ο λογος του χριστου ενοικειτω εν υμιν πλουσιως εν  
παση σοφια διδασκοντες και νουθετουντες εαυτους  
ψαλμοις υμνοις ωδαις πνευματικαις εν χαριτι αδοντες  
εν ταις καρδιαις υμων τω θεω

*William Tyndale* worked hard to translate the Greek into the English that was used in his time:

Let the worde of Christ dwell in you plenteously in all  
wisdome. Teache and exhorte youre awne selves in psalmes  
and hymnes and spretuall songes which have favour wt them  
syngynge in youre hertes to the lorde.

English has changed over the years. Here is a *modern translation* of the same verse:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and  
admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing  
psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts  
to God.

**Your Turn** – Try to re-write this verse in words that are even easier for you to understand. Can you write the verse in words that a preschool child could understand?

## Story Mix-Up

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



William and Humphrey Monmouth discuss smuggling books.



William and Will Roy escape from Germany just in time.



Richard can legally read the scripture to his son in English.



William and John Bell disagree about reading the Scriptures.



Richard's father is arrested for saying the Lord's prayer in English.



William works hard to translate the Scripture in Germany.



Cardinal Thomas Wolsey demands that William's books be burned.



William is betrayed and arrested in Antwerp, Belgium.

# Matching Game

Match the person on the left with his/her role in the William Tyndale Story in the column at right.



William Tyndale



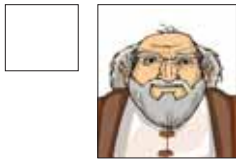
Will Roy



The Ploughman



Sir John



Peter Quentel



Cardinal  
Thomas Wolsey



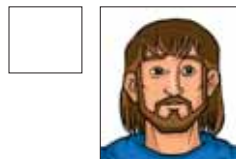
King Henry VIII



Lady Anne  
Boleyn



Henry Phillips



Richard

1. Befriends and then betrays William as planned.
2. Church leader who opposes new translation and writings.
3. Likes William's writings and convinces the king to ask William to come back to England.
4. Gives up his home and becomes a fugitive in order to translate the Bible.
5. Orders that Tyndale be found.
6. Richard's father, who is executed for saying the Lord's prayer in English.
7. After the laws are changed, this man is able to read the Bible to his children.
8. William lives in this man's home and tutors his children.
9. Goes with William as his assistant.
10. German printer who prints the translated Scriptures.

**"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." – Matthew 10:6**



## Dig into the Story!

*Questions to get you thinking and talking*

1. Why did William want to translate the Bible into English?
2. Why did William have to work secretly?
3. What risks did William take in order to complete his work? How did he face these difficulties?
4. How did other believers help William to achieve all that he did?
5. How has William's work and sacrifice helped others?
6. How has this story affected your appreciation of the Bible? How can you help others to understand the importance of the Bible?
7. How can you give the Bible an honored place in your life?
8. When you read the Bible, do you find it easy or hard to understand? Do you have someone who can help you understand parts that are confusing?



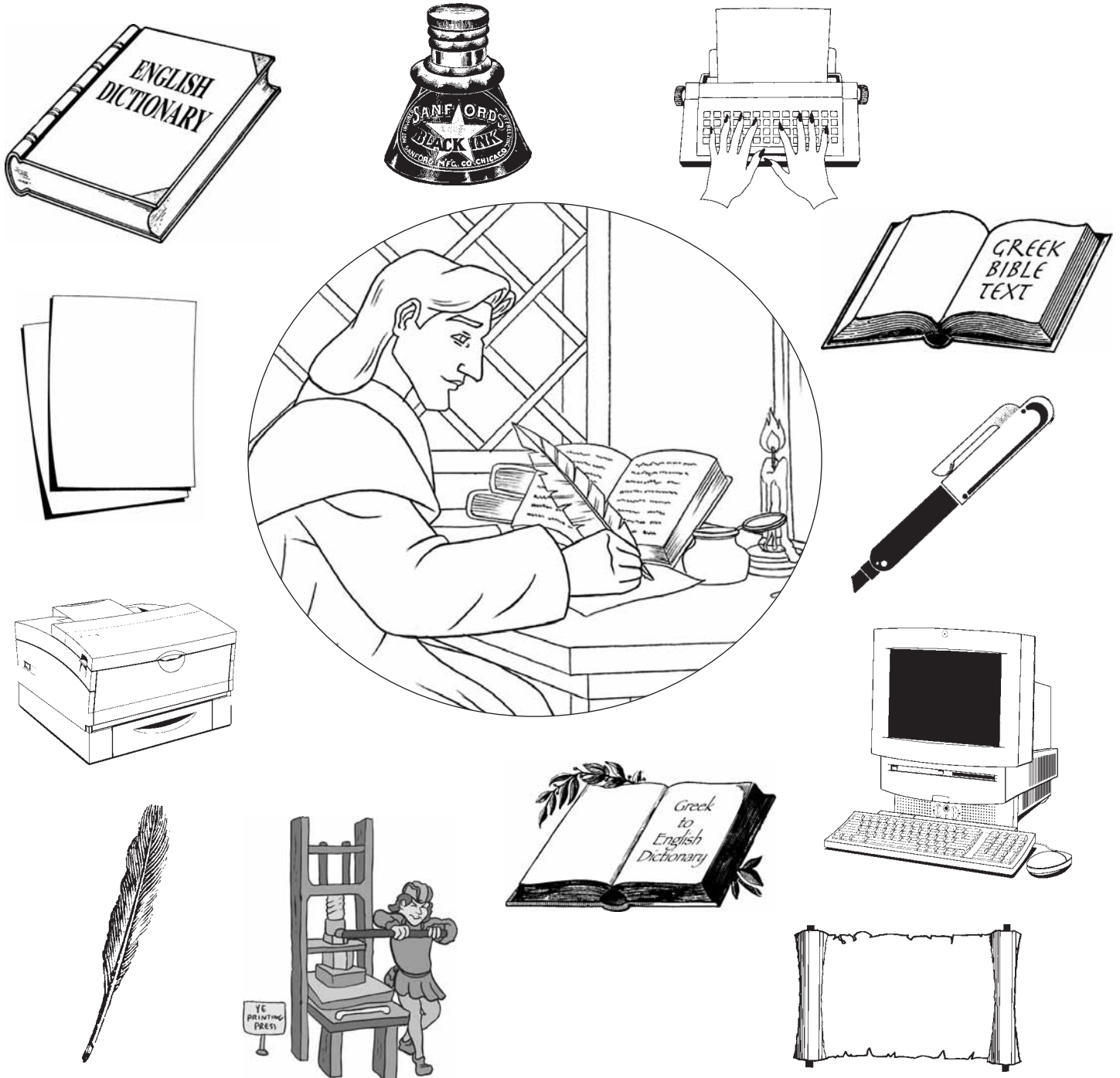
## Dig Deeper

*Thinking through some tough issues*

1. Can you imagine attending a church service and not being able to understand what is being said? Now suppose you didn't even have a Bible that you could read and understand. How might these circumstances affect your faith?
2. The original Old Testament Scriptures were written mostly in Hebrew, with some in Aramaic (the languages of the common people). It was translated into Greek in 250 – 100 BC by Jewish scholars. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek, which is what the common people spoke or read at the time. Why do you think these languages were used?
3. Why might it be good to read Scripture in its original language? Do you think the original Scripture writers meant their books to only be read and understood in these languages? Why or why not?
4. The church and government authorities thought that only educated people could understand the complexity of the Bible. That is one of their reasons for wanting to keep the Scripture only in Latin (only educated people could read Latin). Do you agree with their logic?
5. William Tyndale's books were printed as "pocket books." They were small enough to fit in a pocket. Why did it make sense for him to choose this size for his books?
6. Even though portions of the Bible have been translated into over 2,300 languages, there are still 2,700 different groups of people (known as "people groups) who don't have the privilege of reading the Scripture in their own language. What barriers can you think of that might be preventing the Bible from being translated into all languages? What specific steps can you take to help further Bible translation efforts worldwide?

# William's Translation Tools

Circle the items William can use to work on his translation.  
Be sure that the things you circle were available in 1525!



**"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." – Psalm 119:105**

## Foreign Language Interview

*Invite someone who is fluent in a foreign language to your classroom for an interview.*

*Here are some sample questions you can ask:*

1. What languages can you speak?
2. Where did you learn to speak this foreign language? How long did it take to learn this language?
3. Are you also able to write in this language? Is it harder for you to speak or to write in a foreign language?
4. Have you ever translated portions of the Bible into another language?
5. Why would translating the Bible be more difficult than translating other types of writing?
6. Can you say the Lord's Prayer for us in another language? Can you teach us to say "Jesus Loves Me" in this language?
7. How does knowing another language help you to spread the Gospel?

**"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household."**

**Ephesians 2:19**

# Translation Fun— You Be the Translator!

Use the code below to translate the Bible verse.

















“ \_\_\_\_\_






















\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_


















































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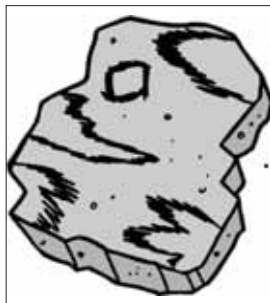
\_\_\_\_\_ 28:20 (NIV)

**Discuss:** How might William Tyndale have been comforted from this promise? Are there times when this verse could be a comfort to you?

# The Bible in Many Forms

*Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1455 and promptly put it to good use. The first book ever printed was the Latin Bible. Before that, the Bible was written on a variety of different materials. Here are pictures of various media that have been used over the centuries to record the Bible. See if you can put them in order from oldest to newest by labeling them beginning with number 1.*

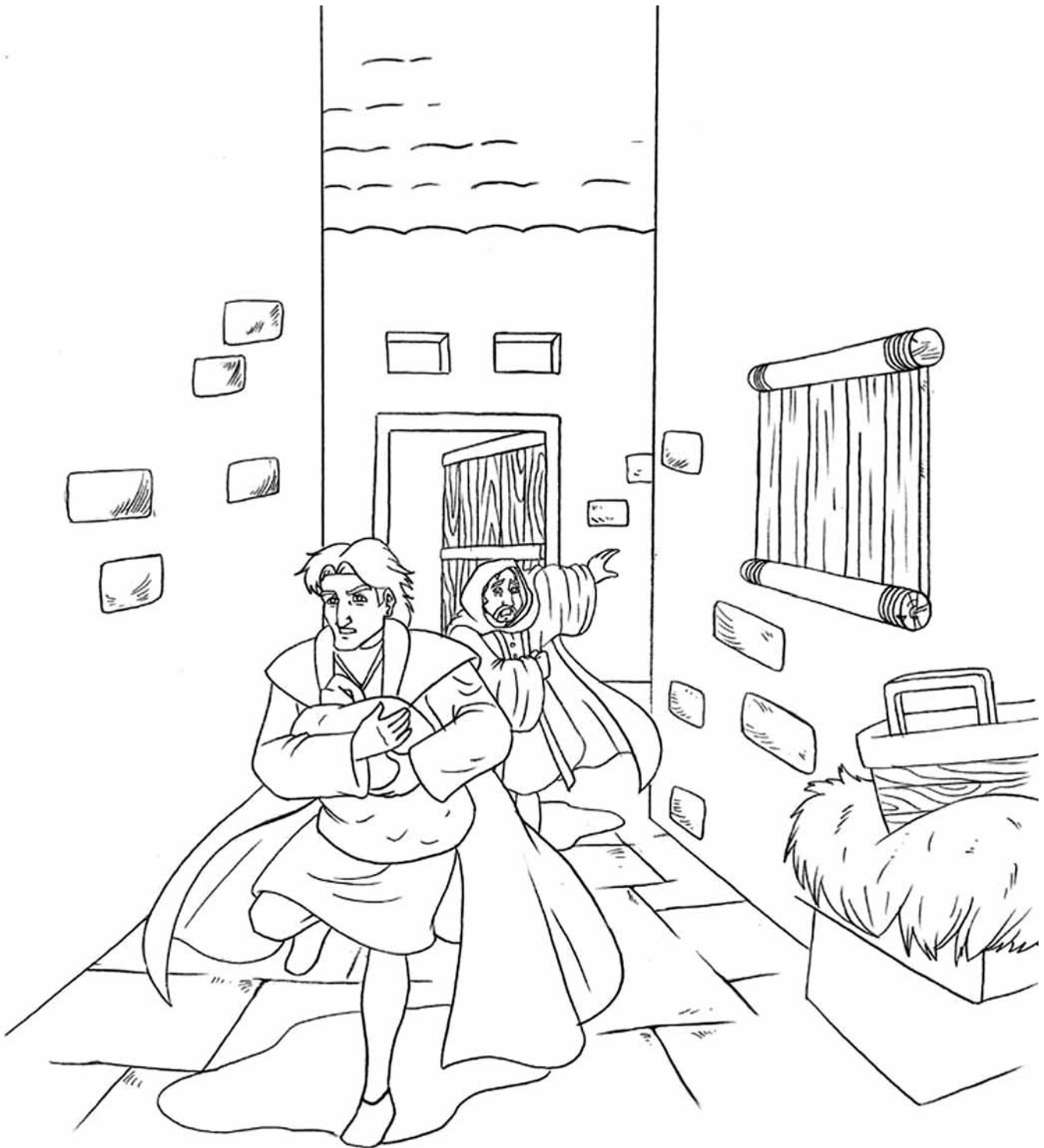


## Color the Scene #1



**“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)**

## Color the Scene #2



**“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” – James 1:12 (NIV)**

## Color the Scene #3



**“You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.”  
– Revelation 2:3 (NIV)**

## Color the Scene #4



**“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”**

**– Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)**