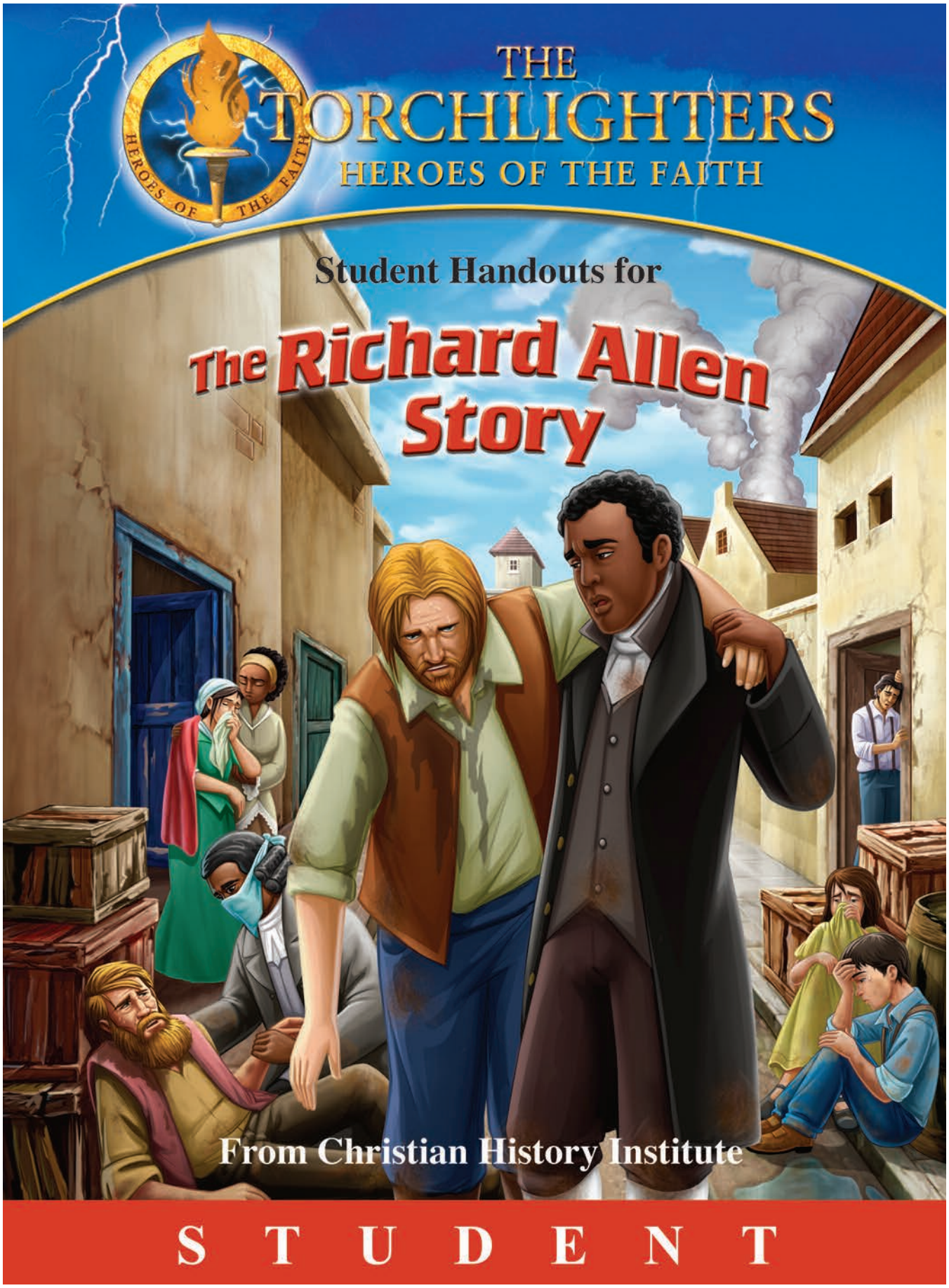
THE
TORCHLIGHTERS
HEROES OF THE FAITH
Student Handouts for
The Richard Allen Story
From Christian History Institute
STUDENT

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NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on p. 26 of the Leader's Guide.

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What do you already know about Paul?

Work together with your classmates to remember everything you already know about Paul. We will be learning more about him together in these lessons!

1. Who is Paul in the Bible? Is he in the Old Testament or the New Testament?

2. Do you remember how Paul first met Jesus? (If you cannot remember, read this amazing story in Acts 9:1–19)

3. Can you name any books of the Bible that mention Paul?

4. Can you name any books of the Bible that Paul wrote? Do you remember anything about these books?

Tracing Paul's Missionary Journeys

Following the directions below, draw arrows on the map to show the path Paul took on his first missionary journey. The first arrow has been placed for you.

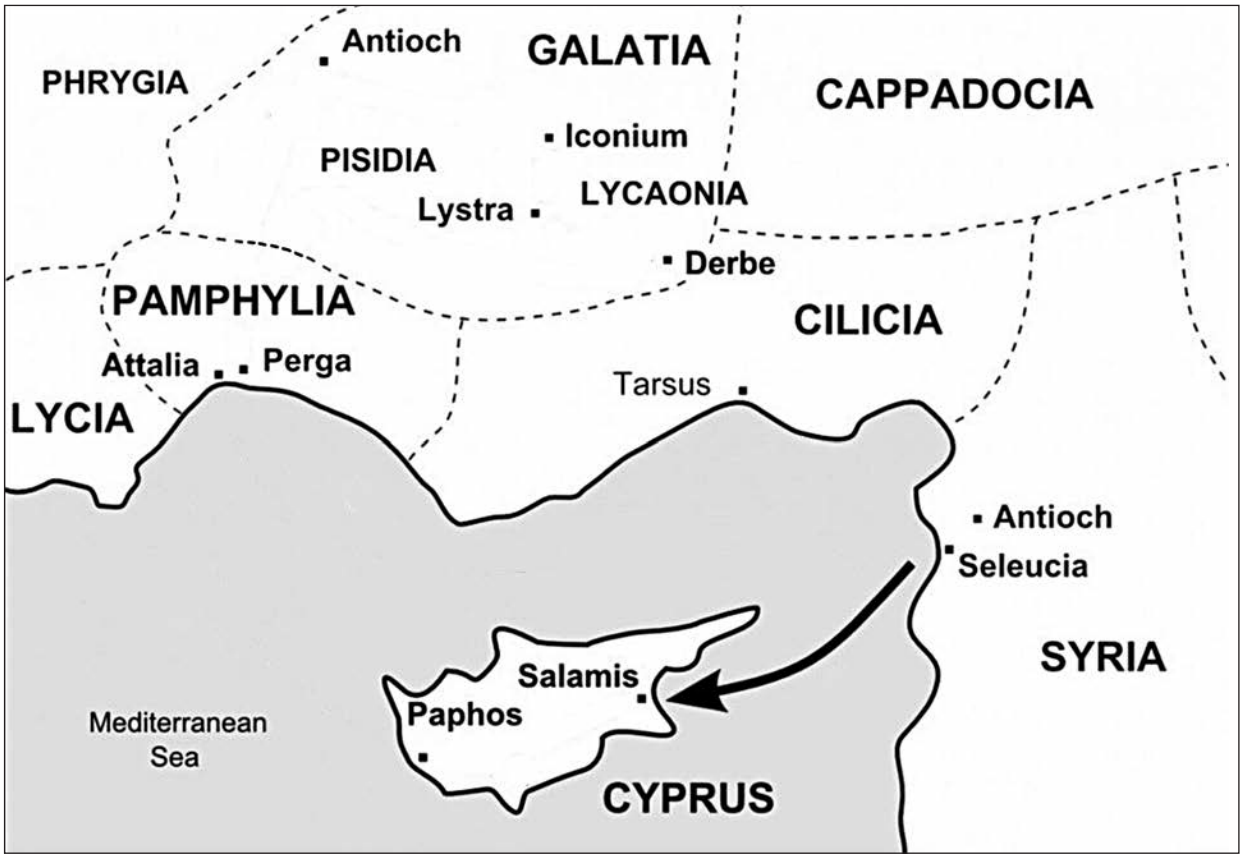


Image source: www.thebiblejourney.org

1. Paul, Barnabas and John Mark set out from Antioch. They sail from Seleucia to Cyprus, where they share the Good News in the synagogues at Salamis. (Acts 13:1-5)
2. They walk across Cyprus, preaching at Jewish synagogues until they reach Paphos, where the Roman proconsul believes the Good News about Jesus. (Acts 13:6-12)
3. They sail from Paphos to Perga on the coast of Pamphylia, where John Mark decides to return to Jerusalem. (Acts 13:13)
4. From Perga, Paul and Barnabas head inland to Antioch in Pisidia where Paul preaches a long sermon on being put right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 13:14-52)
5. The local Jews expel Paul from Antioch, so he and Barnabas move on to Iconium in Galatia. (Acts 14:1-4)
6. Facing a death threat in Iconium, Paul and Barnabas move on to Lystra in Lycaonia, where they heal a crippled man and the crowds think they are Greek gods. (Acts 14:5-18)
7. After being stoned and left for dead, Paul moves on to Derbe, where many become followers. (Acts 14:19-21)
8. Paul and Barnabas retrace their steps to Perga, strengthening the new believers. (Acts 14:21-24)
9. They sail back to Antioch in Syria from Attalia in 48 AD and tell the church all that God has done. (Acts 14:25-28)

Decoding the Letter

Answer these questions to help you make sense of the letter of Philemon.

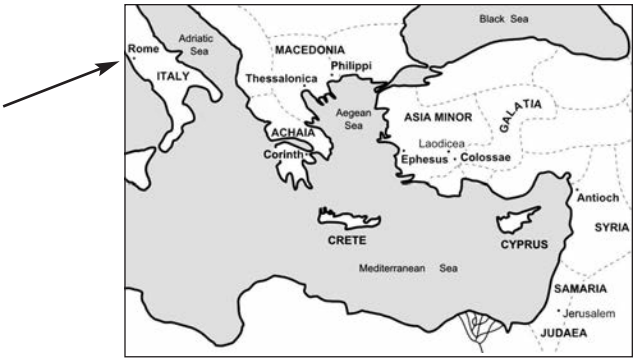
- Who wrote this letter?

- Who received this letter?

- Who is Onesimus?

- Who in this letter hosts a church in his own house?

- Where is Paul writing from?



- What does Paul want Philemon to do?

- How do you think Philemon felt when he got this letter?

What do you already know about Richard Allen's world?

Maybe more than you think! Here are some questions to get you started. Work together to see what you know. It's okay if you cannot answer every question! Write or draw anything that comes to mind to help you imagine Richard Allen's world.

1. Have you heard about the American Revolutionary War? What do you know about it?

    a. When did it take place?

    b. Who fought against whom?

    c. What was the result?

    d. Do you know anything else about that time period?

2. What you do you know about slavery in America?

3. Have you ever heard of an itinerant preacher? What do you think that means?

4. What is a plague or epidemic?

    a. Can you imagine an epidemic without modern hospitals?

    b. What do you think would happen?

    c. How would people feel?

Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you thinking and talking after you watch *The Richard Allen Story*.

1. How does Richard Allen come to faith in Jesus?

2. How do Richard and his brother become free from slavery?

3. After he is freed from slavery, what does Richard do?

4. What is the name of Richard's friend and helper in Philadelphia?

5. When they walk out of the church, where do Richard and his fellow church members worship?

6. When an epidemic comes to Philadelphia, what does Dr. Rush ask Richard and the African American community to do?

7. What does Reverend Wright say to Richard when he realizes Richard has been caring for him during his illness?

8. What do Richard and his companions do at the very end?

Dig Deeper

Thinking through hard questions

1. People constantly tell Richard Allen to "know his place." What do they mean? Where does Richard finally find his true place?

2. What prompts Reverend Wright to confess that he's been wrong in how he has treated Richard? Have you ever been mean or disrespectful to someone because they were different from you? What helped you to change your attitude toward that person?

3. In which two events in the story did Richard see God do a miracle that also required some work on his part? Have you ever experienced a time when God gave you something good and you also had to work for it?

4. When Richard Allen and Absalom Jones start the Free African Society they say, "Our goal is to develop leaders among ourselves. To be a help to each other and to our community!" How does your church community help each other and your community?

5. When Seth pushes Richard Allen and other Black church members out of the pews, they decide to walk out altogether instead of moving to the balcony. What do you think of their decision? Can you think of a situation in the world today where someone would leave instead of enduring prejudice?

Prayer for Someone Powerful

Paul is a good example for us because he shows us how to pray for people in power in the letter of Philemon. Reread Philemon 4–7. Then follow Paul's example by writing your own prayer for a leader in our day who says he/she wants to follow Jesus. Work alone or with a partner to choose a Christian leader and write your own prayer. Use the following questions to help you think about what you will pray:

1. What will you thank God for in this leader?

2. What request will you make of God on behalf of this leader?

3. What will you say to God about how this leader has encouraged you?

Now put this all together in a prayer, and speak your prayer to God.

Story Mix Up

Number the pictures of the Richard Allen Story
in the correct order.

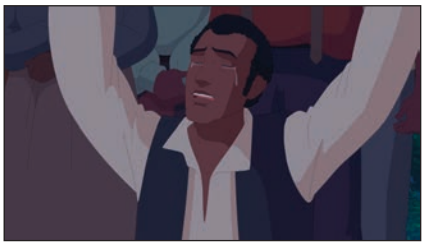
Richard works to buy his freedom.

Richard prepares for the new church to be built.

Stokeley Sturgis surrenders his life to Jesus.

Richard and fellow Black members walk out of St. George's Methodist Church.

Richard and the congregation help people during the pandemic.



Richard comes to faith in Jesus.

Richard travels as an itinerant preacher.

Richard preaches in the blacksmith's shop.

Siblings in Christ Interview

Use these questions to help you learn how your guest has learned to welcome other Christians as brothers and sisters and receive help from them as well.

1. How have you experienced God's people as a family in your life?

2. Was there a specific time in your life when you relied on brothers and sisters in Christ more than usual?

3. Have you ever received pushback from your family or community for treating other believers as your siblings in Christ? What was that like?

4. Have there been believers whom you've struggled to treat as full members of God's family? What made that difficult? How have you grown in your love for them?

5. Paul advocated for Onesimus as his child in the Lord and as a brother in Christ in his letter to Philemon. Have you had experiences speaking up for another brother or sister who was in trouble? What was that like?

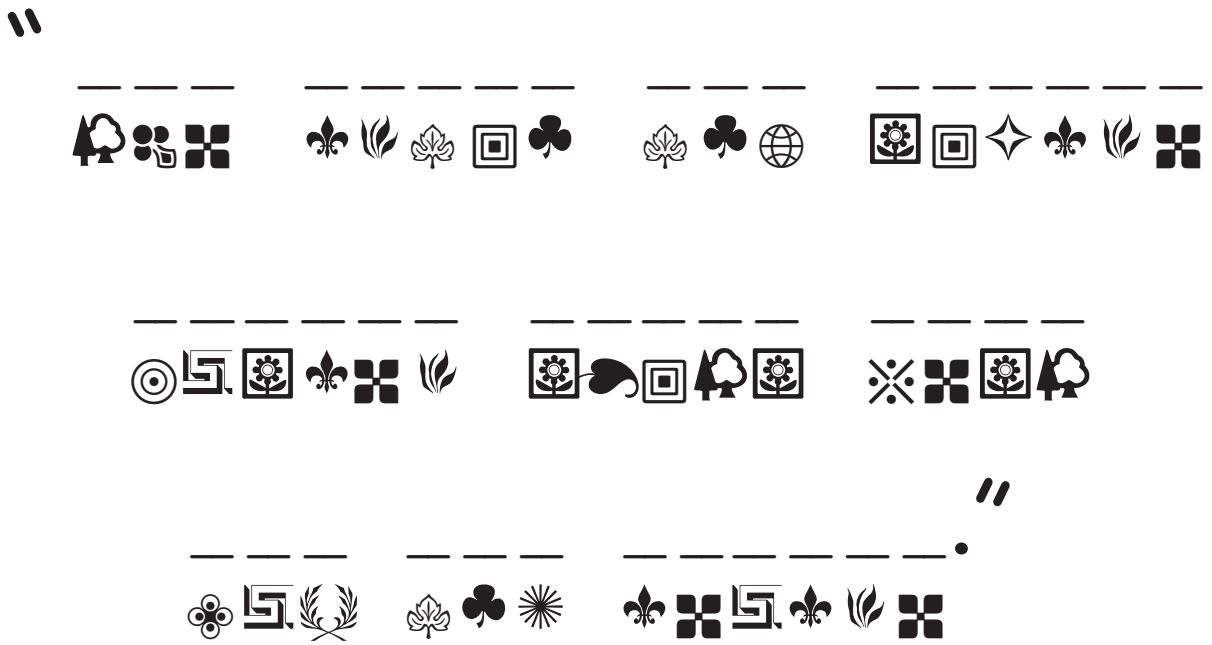
6. Has a fellow believer advocated for you when you needed help? What was that like?

7. Are there any Bible verses that you find particularly meaningful as you think about the church as God's family?

8. What experiences or lessons have helped you to know your place as a beloved child of God and sibling within the church?

Decode the Quote

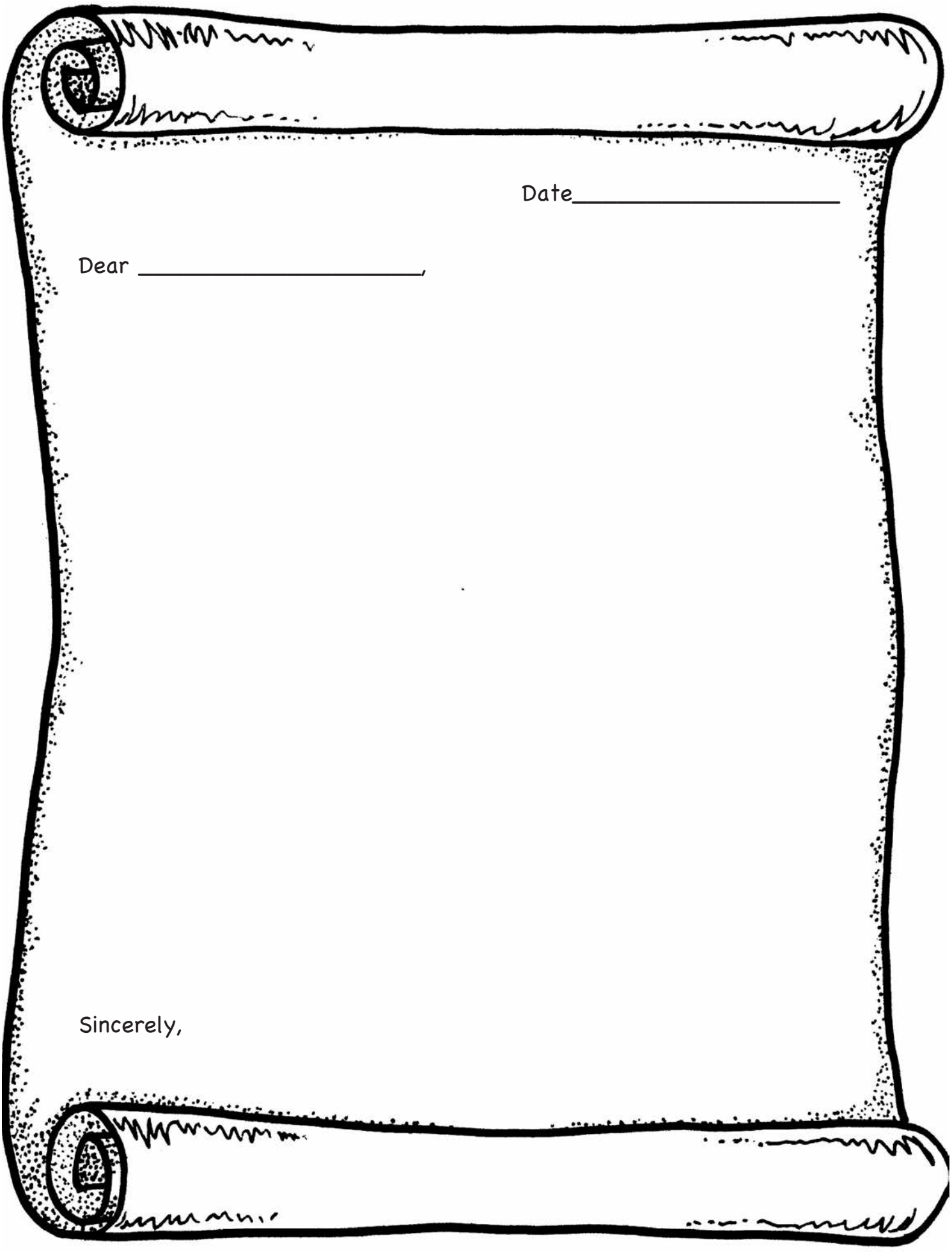
Use the key below to decode the following quotation from Richard Allen.



a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

Be an Advocate

An **advocate** is a person who speaks or writes in defense of another person. Paul's letter to Philemon is a request to forgive Onesimus and welcome him back as a true brother in Christ. Paul writes with love and also with all the persuasive arguments he can come up with. Now it's your turn to write your own letter to someone in power on behalf of brothers and sisters in Christ. Has a fellow Christian in your community been mistreated or put in prison? Do you know any local or national political leader you could appeal to on behalf of Christian refugees or the unborn or people in prison? If you do not know who to write to, talk with your teacher or parents to brainstorm. Write your own letter on the next page, draw pictures or decorate the letter as you like, and then ask your teacher or parent to help you mail it.



Date_____

Dear _____,

Sincerely,

Philemon Word Search

Find the following words from the book of Philemon. As you find them, talk with your classmates about why this word was important in Philemon.

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

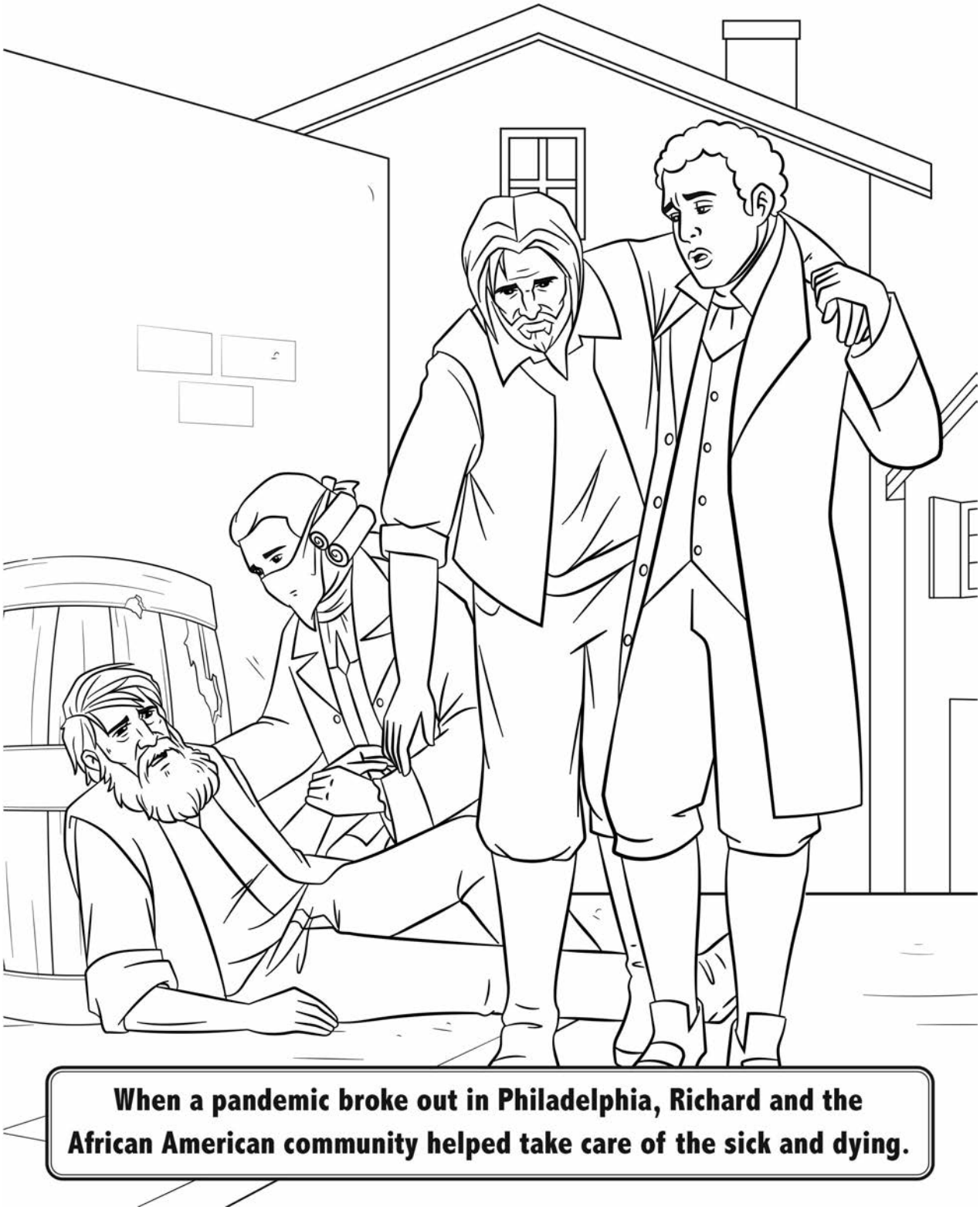
Philemon	Partnership	Obedience	Appeal
Onesimus	Slave	Epistle	Grace
Paul	Brother	Prison	Jesus

Color the Scene #1

Color the Scene #2

Color the Scene #3

Color the Scene #4



Color the Scene #5