



Gladys Aylward (1902 – 1970)

A Woman of HUMILITY

Gladys's Story

Gladys Aylward didn't think much about what God wanted her to do with her life. When she was a teenager in England, she liked to smoke, gamble, and go to wild parties. Her goal in life was to become an actress.

Then Gladys attended a revival where she heard the preacher talk about God's love for her and how Jesus came to save the world from sin. She humbly repented of her selfish ways and trusted in Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Her plans and habits changed dramatically.

As Gladys grew to love and trust God more and more, she was saddened by the fact that millions of people in the world had never heard of Jesus. She believed that God was calling her to share the Good News of the gospel with people in China.

But mission agencies would not help her raise the money she needed to go. So Gladys humbly worked as a housemaid until she had the funds to go on her own.

Gladys traveled to China by train and boat.

In China, Gladys helped an older missionary operate an inn where they shared Bible stories with merchants and drivers who passed through the area.

Then, a local leader appointed Gladys as a foot inspector, to help end the torturous custom of foot binding. As a foot inspector, Gladys unbound the girls' feet and shared the story of Jesus' love with many Chinese people.

After eight years of serving in China, Gladys's village came under attack by Japanese soldiers. Villagers had left their children in her care. Though Gladys was wounded in an attack, more than 100 children were depending on her to lead them out of danger. In the middle of the night, the ragged group began a three-week, 100-mile trek across the mountains.

Gladys led the children to safety, encouraging them to persevere in the face of danger, hunger, and exhaustion by singing songs and telling stories of God's faithfulness to His children.

Key Bible Verse:

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."
(Philippians 2:3)

Key Word: HUMILITY

Humility: The quality of being meek and modest. Humbleness.
Not prideful or showing off. Humble people do not believe that they are better than others or too important to serve others.



Chinese Words

Gladys had to learn Chinese to work in China.

Here is how to say some words in Chinese:

English	How to Say it in Chinese*
Hello	Nee-how
I love Jesus	Woh ai yeh-soo ("Ai" is like the English word "eye")
Jesus loves me	Yeh-soo ai woh
Thank you	Shee shee

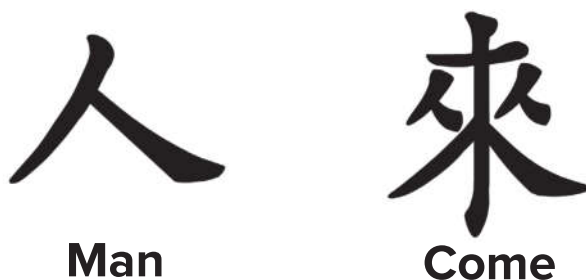
** pronunciations are approximate*



Hudson Taylor's Gospel Lesson

Hudson Taylor served as a missionary to China before Gladys Aylward. Many of his listeners had never heard the gospel, so Taylor used the characters in Chinese writing to teach Bible stories.

Taylor illustrated the story of Christ's death on the cross with the Chinese character for the word "come." The character has a cross in the middle. Jesus was crucified between two men. On either side of the cross in "come," there is a character for the word "man." Can you see the characters?



Mrs. Lawson

Mrs. Lawson, a 73-year-old missionary widow from Scotland, was looking for a young woman to help her in China. Gladys heard about Mrs. Lawson at a prayer meeting and wrote a letter to her offering to help. Weeks later, Gladys received a reply that if she could reach China on her own, she could work with Mrs. Lawson. Mrs. Lawson and Gladys opened an inn called the Inn of Eight Happinesses. A few months after Gladys's arrival, Mrs. Lawson fell from a second-story balcony. She passed away not long after her fall.



Write “God Loves You”

The Chinese characters in the boxes to the right represent “shen ai nee”, or “God loves you.”

“Shen” (God) is written in nine steps.

丶 ㇏ 丿 ㇏ ㇏
初 初 初 神

“Ai” (love) is written in 11 steps.

一 一 一 一 一
𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

“Nee” (you) is written in seven steps.

ノ ㇏ ㇏ ㇏
你 你 你

You can practice writing each character in the columns below the example.

Many of China’s children have never heard

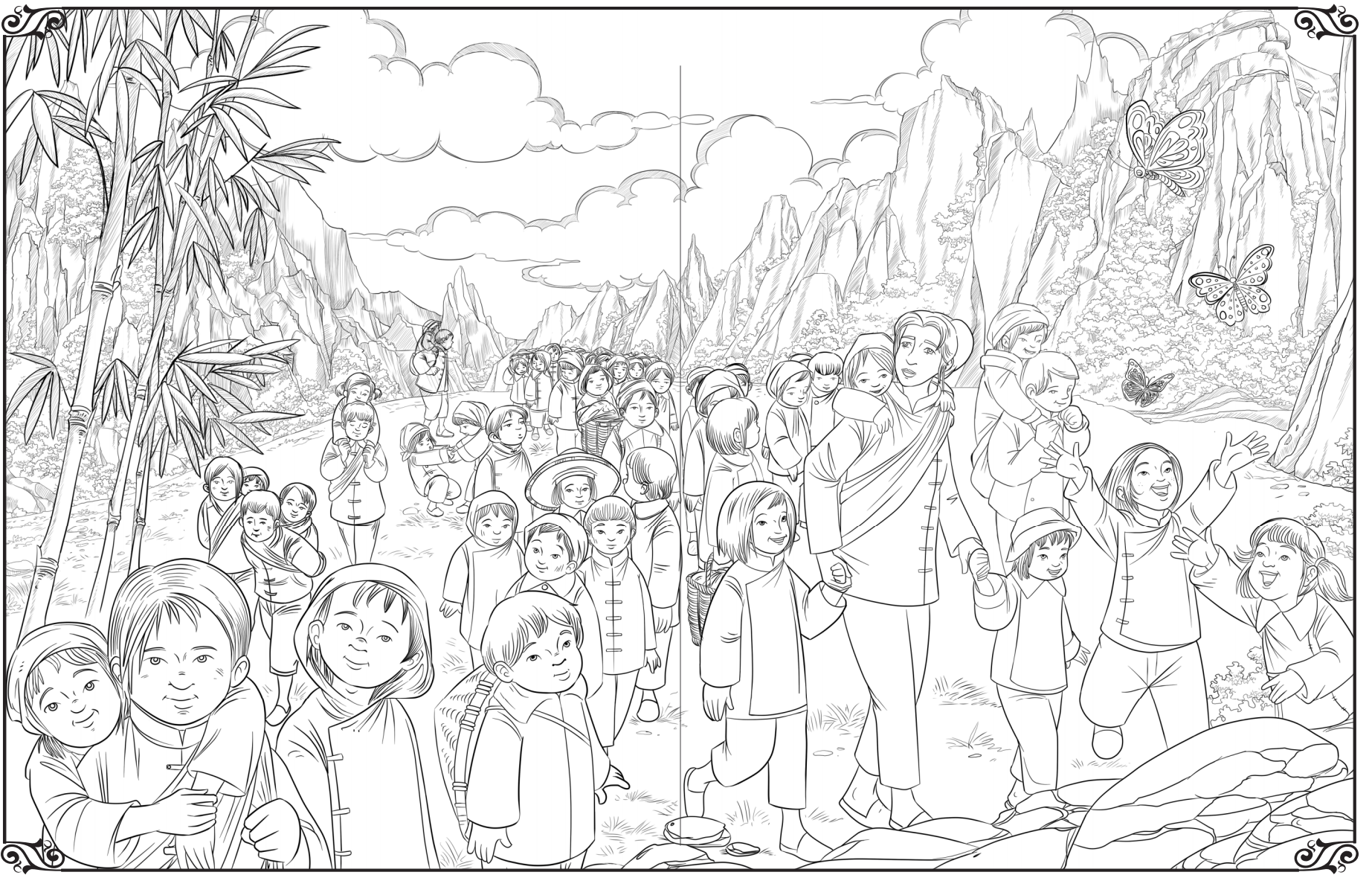
神 爱 你

In fact, in China’s schools, children are taught that there is no

神

Pray that God will provide ways for them to hear the Good News!

神	爱	你
神	爱	你
神	爱	你
神	爱	你
神	爱	你



Gladys led the group on a 100-mile trek across the mountains.



Gladys and Mrs. Lawson welcomed muleteers to their Inn of Eight Happinesses. (A muleteer is a driver of a mule train. Mule trains carried goods from place to place, like big trucks do today.) The muleteers wanted to be entertained during their stay at the inn, so the women provided entertainment in the form of stories. The men had never heard the stories of a man named Jesus who “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). Yang, the cook at the inn, helped Gladys learn Chinese words to tell the stories.

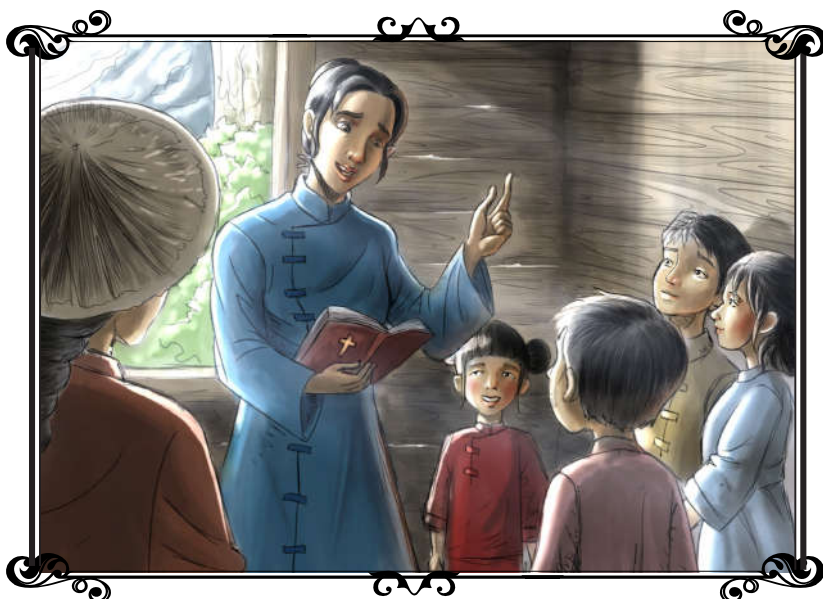
Missionaries and translators often introduce people to the Bible and the good news of Jesus by sharing Bible stories. They may begin with stories in Chapters 4 and 5 of the Gospel of Mark. Or they might tell some of the parables of Jesus, such as the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), or the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18). Sometimes they first share stories from the Old Testament.

To Do

Choose a Bible story to learn well enough to present it to others. Read the story in a Bible or Bible storybook several times until you can tell it without looking at the book. Ask your parent or teacher if you can tell your family or class the story during a meal or other break. Share the story. If there is time, ask your listeners questions about it to learn what they remember and understand.

Here are some story suggestions:

A story from Mark 4–5 or a parable of Jesus
Daniel and the lion’s den (Daniel 6)
David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
Jonah (the Book of Jonah)
Jeremiah’s rescue (Jeremiah 38:1–13)
Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:1–20)
Jesus’ resurrection (Luke 24)
Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3:1 – 4:17)
Noah (Genesis 6:9 – 9:17)
The Story of Creation (Genesis 1:1 – 2:4)





Fitting In

As a girl in England, Gladys Aylward sometimes felt like she didn't fit in. Gladys was less than five feet tall with black hair. Many other girls were blonde and much taller. But in China, the people were shorter and had black hair!

Is it ever a good thing not to fit in? If so, can you give some examples? If Gladys had fit in better in England, might it have been harder for her to leave her country and move to China?

When Gladys arrived in China, she gave up English customs to fit in with the people of China. Mrs. Smith, a missionary in China, gave Gladys clothes like those worn by Chinese women. In later years, Gladys said, "I lived exactly like a Chinese woman. I wore Chinese clothes, ate their food, spoke their language."

In other ways, Gladys did not try to fit in. One day she saw a woman trying to sell a little girl. It was a shocking sight! She reported the situation to the Mandarin — a government official. He told her to ignore it. Gladys said, "Mandarin, I did not come to China only to observe your laws. I came for the love of Jesus, and I shall act on the principles of His teaching, no matter what you say."

Should Gladys have obeyed the Mandarin to fit in? What are some ways you should not change to fit in?

Gladys began rescuing homeless children and caring for them, and the Mandarin began to respect her.

In what ways would you change to fit in with those around you if it would help you share the love of Christ better?



“Would you like to learn about Jesus?” a Christian girl asked a young man as she walked down the streets of her city. “Go away,” the young man answered. The girl continued walking.

The young man was visiting the city. He knew very little about Jesus, and what he knew was not the truth. Later that day, an older man gave him a Christian tract and said, “This will teach you about eternal life with God!” The young man frowned as he grabbed the tract and threw it on the ground.

That night at a restaurant, a Christian couple approached the man and asked if he knew about Jesus and His love. “Three times in one day someone has tried to tell me about this Jesus,” the young man thought. “He must be important.”

He invited the couple to sit with him and listened as they told him how God sent Jesus, to save the world from sin. In time, the young man became a follower of Jesus.

The first two Christians played a big part in opening the man’s heart and mind to Jesus, but they probably never knew it. It must have been difficult to continue talking to people about Jesus after they were rejected, but they humbly obeyed God’s command to tell others about Jesus.

If you had only one chance to talk to someone about Jesus, what would you tell them?

Humility

The quality of being meek and modest. Humbleness. Not prideful or showing off. Humble people do not believe that they are better than others or too important to serve others.

To Think About

- Is someone in your town waiting for you to tell them about God’s love?
- Are there people in other nations waiting for you to obey Jesus’ command to pray that God will “send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38)?
- Pray that God will lead you in your life and your prayers to those who are waiting to hear the Good News of Jesus’ love!