

# MISSIONARY STORIES

## REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

### Crossing the River of Crocodiles!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING

#### BIG IDEA

When we pray in the name of Jesus, even the scariest things have to listen. Our God is bigger and stronger than anything in the whole world!

#### THE STORY

In the country of Brazil, a group of friends who loved Jesus got some exciting news. A village across the river had invited them to come and preach about God! The believers could not wait to go and share the good news.

But there was a problem. To reach the village, they had to cross a wide river - and this was no ordinary river. It was famous for its big crocodiles! And the only boat they could find was small, old, and a little wobbly.

The brave believers climbed into the little boat anyway. They trusted God, and they pushed off from the shore. The water rippled around them as they began to paddle across.

Then they saw them. Several large crocodiles slipped into the water and began swimming straight toward the little boat! The friends' hearts beat fast.



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## THE STORY CONTINUES

But they did not panic. They knew exactly what to do. Together they began to pray out loud, 'In the name of Jesus!' Their words rose up over the water like a shield.

And do you know what happened? Those big crocodiles suddenly turned around and swam away! They disappeared down into the water and left the little boat completely alone. The believers paddled the rest of the way across, safe and sound.

On the other side, the villagers were waiting. The friends held their meeting and told everyone about Jesus, the One who is stronger than any danger.

That same day, it was time to go back home. The believers got into their little boat once more. The crocodiles were there again, resting along the riverbanks. But this time, not one of them even moved toward the boat. The friends crossed back safely again!

The villagers had watched the whole thing with wide eyes. 'The God these Christians serve,' they said in wonder, 'is greater than the spirits of the river!' They had never seen anything like it.

That week, many people in the village gave their hearts to the Lord. All because a few brave friends trusted God, prayed in the name of Jesus, and crossed the crocodile river to share His love!





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## DID YOU KNOW?

- This true story comes from the mission work of Bennie DeMerchant and the believers he worked with in the Amazon region of Brazil.
- The Amazon River and its many smaller rivers are home to large reptiles, and people who live there often travel by small boats every day.
- Many villages deep in the rainforest can only be reached by boat or by airplane, because there are no roads through the thick jungle.
- The Bible is full of times God protected His people from wild animals, like when He shut the lions' mouths to keep Daniel safe.

## MEMORY VERSE

“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” Psalm 56:3

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did the group of friends have to cross to reach the village, and what made it scary?
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## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2 When the crocodiles came toward the boat, what did the believers do instead of panicking?  
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- 3 Why do you think the villagers decided to give their hearts to the Lord after they saw what happened?  
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- 4 The friends prayed 'in the name of Jesus.' Why is the name of Jesus so powerful?  
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- 5 When you feel afraid, what is something you can pray or say to remember that God is with you?  
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## LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You that You are greater than anything that could ever scare me. When I am afraid, help me to trust You and pray in Your name, just like the brave believers did. Thank You for always protecting me and being right by my side. In Your name I pray, Amen.

## TRY THIS!

Play 'Cross the River'! Lay down a blue blanket or sheet of paper as the 'river' and place paper crocodiles on it. To cross, each person hops over the river and shouts a Bible truth, like 'God is with me!' or 'In the name of Jesus!' See how everyone can cross safely together.

