



OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

A Story of John Paton

Author: Hannah Landis

Illustrator / Computer Graphic Artist: Zachary Franzen

Proofreaders: Audrey Brubaker, Barry and Jean Keiser, Sharon Neal, Elinor Rogers

PowerPoint Presentation, Interface and Download: Mark Bowser, Patricia Pope

Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope, Charity Taft

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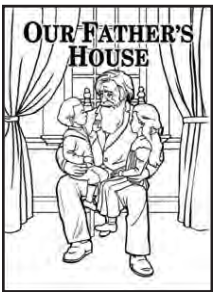
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ONLINE HELPS: Free key word sheets are available for this story. Visit shop.biblevisuals.org and search for #K5750.

NOTE: This story may be told in two sessions. The triangle (▶) indicates where to divide the narrative for the second session.



Show Front Cover

“Tell us about the time you were almost eaten by cannibals, grandfather!”

“Or the time you had to hide up in a tree all night!”

“Or what about the time the man pretended to be sick and then tried to attack you with a knife!”

John Paton looked into the eager faces of his two grandchildren. He certainly did

have plenty of stories he could share with them about his time as a missionary to the islands of Vanuatu, but there was another story he wanted to share. Through all that had happened over the many years, there was one face he remembered most, one voice it seemed as if he could still hear.

“Tonight, children,” he began, “I want to start by telling you about someone whose story deserves to be told much more than mine—my father’s.



Show Illustration #1

“I was born into my father’s house in 1824 as the oldest of five sons and six daughters. Our home was in a place called Torthorwald, Scotland. The house was made of heavy oak wood, stones and a roof of wood and strong grasses woven

tightly together. It was not a fancy place because my father,

James Paton, didn’t have much money. Inside the house, there was one big room where my mother worked. That room was our dining room, kitchen, living room and bedroom all in one! The other room was my father’s workshop, and ours as well. We all worked together on big wooden machines to weave socks to sell to the storekeepers.



Show Illustration #2

“Between these two rooms was one other tiny space that we called ‘the closet.’ This was a special place where my father would go to pray. After each meal was over he would go into that closet and shut the door. All of us children always tiptoed by so we wouldn’t disturb him. Sometimes we could hear the sound of his voice as he talked to God.”

“What did he talk about?” asked one of the children.

“Oh many, many things, but what I remember especially is that he prayed for me and my brothers and sisters. He prayed that we would know God and love Him. Of course, I knew my father loved God because he talked to Him so much. That’s why he always had a smile on his face.”



Do you know God? I pray that you know that He loves you and that He has made a way for you to be His child. The Bible says in 1 John 3:1: “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” That’s great news that should bring a smile to your face.

GOSPEL POINTS



God’s unconditional love



Jesus has risen again!



Jesus is the only Perfect Son of God.



Will you repent and accept Jesus as Saviour?



All have sinned.



Application for the believer



Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross

Throughout the text of this story, we have included Gospel Point icons. Beside the icon(s), there will be suggestions to help you explain that gospel point to your class. These points are optional with the understanding that you may plan on presenting the gospel during your Bible lesson time instead.

However, if this story is the only lesson being presented, please take advantage of this feature. Sow the gospel seed!