

PREVIEW



JOHN BUNYAN'S PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
FULLY ILLUSTRATED AND ADAPTED
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NKJV)

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These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

*This book
belongs to a
little pilgrim named:*

From:

Date:



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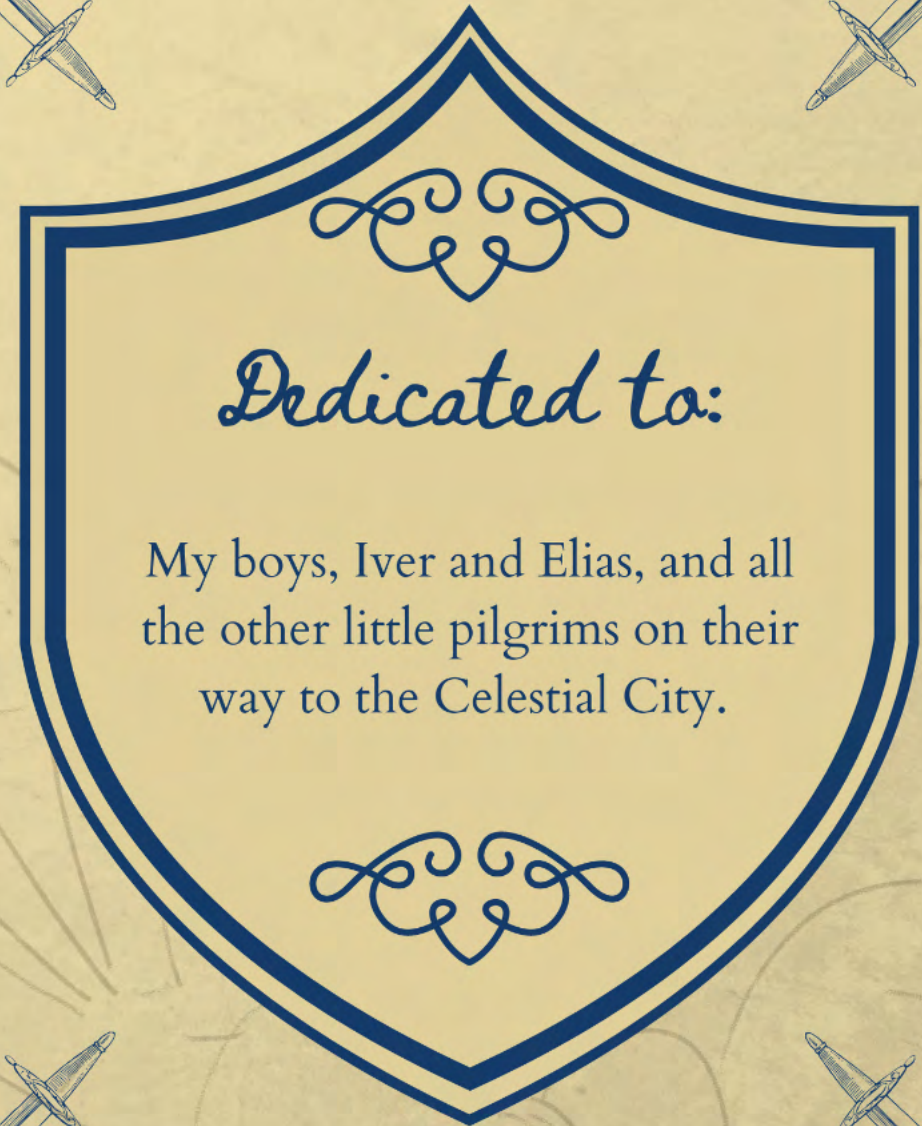
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Little Pilgrim's Big Journey

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Introduction

In 1661 a man named John Bunyan was put in jail for preaching the Bible. In those days people weren't allowed to teach freely, but had to conform to rules from the government. John Bunyan could have been set free if he promised to stop preaching—but he could not be silent about the truths of God.

He remained in jail for twelve years. He faced great difficulties. But God had great plans for him there. During this time in jail, John Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Some friends told him that it was a silly storybook and he should throw it out. But he printed it anyway. To his surprise, it became famous, and continues to be famous to this day. In fact, next to the Bible, it's the most published and translated book in the world.

This book—*Little Pilgrim's Big Journey*—is based on John Bunyan's timeless tale. It seeks to follow the original storyline closely, while making it easier for children to read and understand.

As *The Pilgrim's Progress* has inspired countless generations of Christians, we hope this book will inspire many little pilgrims to begin their journey to the Celestial City.



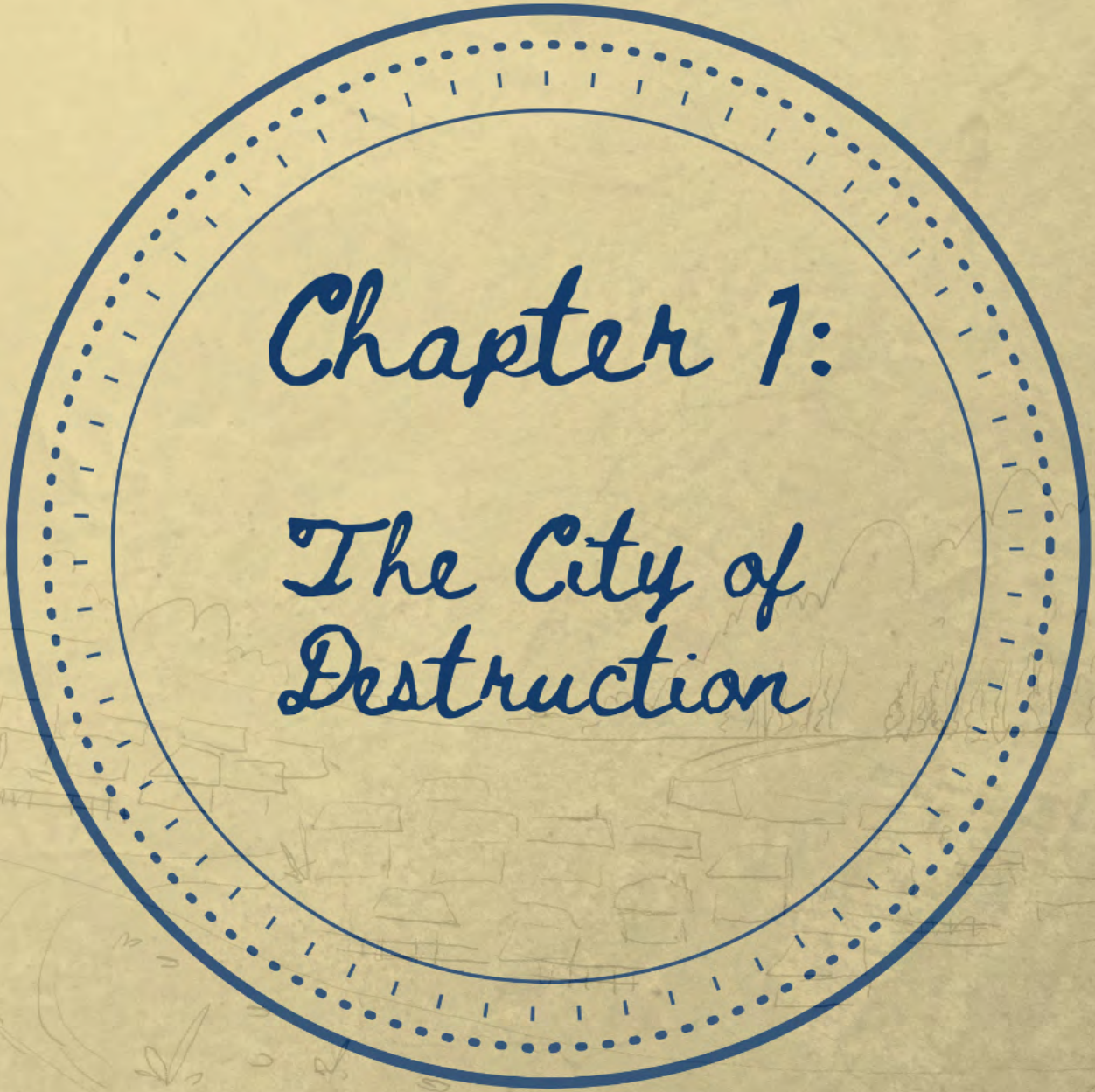
What is an Allegory?

The Pilgrim's Progress is not an ordinary story. It was written as an allegory. An allegory is a story with a deeper meaning. All the people and places mentioned in this story are intended to teach us important lessons. (To help parents explain the meaning of this allegory, a short summary is included at the end of each chapter, along with a question guide at the end of the book.)

A pilgrim is someone who leaves home to go on a big journey. John Bunyan believed that the Christian life is like a pilgrimage, with many joys and trials on our way to heaven. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the story of John Bunyan's experience as a Christian, but it represents the journey of all Christians.

This story vividly explores biblical themes as we follow Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. He faces many obstacles along the way. He meets people who try to help him as well as those who try to harm him.

As you embark on this journey, we pray that you'll be inspired to become a pilgrim and begin your own journey to the Celestial City.



Chapter 1: The City of Destruction

As I walked through the wilderness of this world,
I found a quiet place to sleep.
As I slept, I dreamed a dream.

In my dream,
I saw a boy named Christian dressed in dirty old clothes.
He had a book in his hand and a great burden on his back.
He was crying to himself: "Oh, what can I do to be saved?"

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At home, Christian told his family,
“This burden on my back grows bigger every day,
and this book says our city will be burned with fire from heaven.
If we don’t find a way to escape, we’ll surely die.”

But no one believed him.
“You’re sick,” they said.
“You should go straight to bed.”



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But the night was as troublesome to him as the day!
Instead of sleeping, Christian lay awake.
He cried and sighed about everything he’d read
in his book.

In the morning, his family woke him
and asked, “How do you feel?”

“Worse and worse,” Christian answered.
“We live in the City of Destruction.
We must leave now!”



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But his family became angry.
“Stop telling us these fairy tales!”
They tried to change Christian’s mind.
They mocked him, and bullied him,
and sometimes ignored him completely.

But Christian wouldn’t stop believing
his book.

Christian read about a Celestial City, and about a King so kind and full of love that he invited everyone to join him there.

“The King has invited us all to the Celestial City,”
Christian said. “Please, come with me!”

Christian took his book to the field to read alone.
He longed to travel to the Celestial City.
He thought, "But what if I get lost on the way?
And how will I travel with this burden?"

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Someone called out, "What are you worried about?"
It was a kind old man named Evangelist.

Christian looked up.
"This book says my city will be destroyed with fire.
I'm scared. I'm not ready to die."

Evangelist pulled a note from his pocket.
It was written by the King himself.
Christian opened it and read:
"Flee from the City of Destruction.
Come find refuge in my city.
I'll keep you safe and secure forever."



Christian asked Evangelist, “Do you think it’s true?
Will my city be destroyed? Is the Celestial City real?”

“Yes,” said Evangelist. “Every word of it is true.
The King wrote it all, and the King never lies.
Do you want to find the Celestial City?”

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“Yes,” Christian said, “more than anything!”

Evangelist pointed in the distance. “Can you see that light?
Follow it until you find the Narrow Gate.

When you get there, Good-Will will tell you what to do.”



Christian sprinted toward the light in the distance,
right through the middle of town.

Some laughed at him and called him names,
and some were sad to see him leave.

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Christian didn't even look back.
He just kept running and shouting,
"I want life!
True life!
Eternal life!"

People who saw him shouted,
"Where are you going?
Come back, Christian—don't be a fool!"

Two boys from the town—named Obstinate and Pliable—chased after him. “Slow down!” they yelled. “Wait for us!”

Obstinate, who was a stubborn and strong boy, caught up with Christian. He grabbed Christian by the arm and said, “Come back right now. Don’t be a fool.”

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“I’m not a fool,” said Christian. “And I can’t come back, because you live in the City of Destruction. But I seek an everlasting city. Please, come along with me.”



“No way!” said Obstinate. “I could never leave behind all my friends and all my stuff.”

Christian answered, “The friends and pleasures you speak of can’t compare to the joys I seek. I seek a treasure that can never be lost, or stolen, or broken. Read about it in my book.”

But Obstinate refused. “Hush! I don’t care about your book. Let’s go home, Pliable. Christian has lost his mind.”

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“Don’t make fun of him,” Pliable told Obstinate. “If what he says is true, I’d like to go with him.”

Obstinate laughed. “Then you’re just as much a fool as Christian. Have fun searching for your imaginary city.” He turned and went back.



Chapter 1 Summary

In chapter 1 we meet Christian, a young boy who's about to leave the City of Destruction and embark on his big journey to the Celestial City. Christian, as his name suggests, represents all Christians who are leaving this world behind in order to seek a heavenly city (Hebrews 11:8-16).

The book in Christian's hand represents the Bible, which tells him about the coming destruction. He believes everything in it, and he has faith to leave everything behind to seek a greater reward. Salvation begins with understanding and believing God's word (Romans 4:3; Romans 10:9-13).

The burden on Christian's back is the burden of sin. It represents the guilt and shame we feel when we understand how we've disobeyed God. Christian longs to be freed from this burden, but he needs the Evangelist to tell him how this can be done (Romans 10:14-17).

People insult Christian and make fun of him for believing what he reads in his book—just as many people today reject what believers in Jesus tell them about the good news in the Bible (Matthew 5:11-12).

Understanding the Allegory:

1. What does the burden on Christian's back represent?
2. How did Christian respond to the truth in his book?

*A more comprehensive question guide can be found at the end of this book, or can be printed out at lithoskids.com

Chapter 2: The Bag of Despond