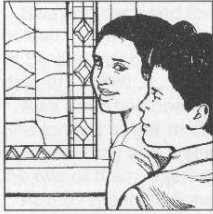


The Hindu Temple



Tanuj and Nainika loved the stained-glass windows in the Florida church. They were visiting from India, and their family wanted to worship with some American Christians during their stay. Until the year before, they had been Hindus. After learning about the gospel at a seeker service in India, the entire family had received Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Their Hindu uncle, with whom Tanuj and Nainika and their parents were staying, had decided to come with them to the Christian service. Afterward, he invited the pastor and all of his family to visit the Hindu temple in town. Pastor Marvin and his family agreed. Lori Marvin was excited that her parents said they could go. She thought it sounded very interesting.

The uncle met them on the porch of the beautiful temple building later that week and instructed them to remove their shoes. They stood in the back of a large room with idol gods at the front. The smell of incense was heavy in the air as a family passed them, went quietly to the front, bowed, and placed an offering of fruit in front of the idols. Soon the uncle came back and invited the Marvins and their new friends to accept a portion of food.

Mrs. Marvin overheard him say that the food had been offered to the idols. She did not feel comfortable eating that food, for she did not want the Hindus to think she was honoring their gods. She did not want to confuse Nainika's family, either, for they had recently turned away from the idols of Hinduism to worship Jesus. She did not want to offend the kindness of the Hindu man's invitation, either.

She whispered to her husband and told him about her concerns. Silently, the Marvins prayed that God would show them what to do.

The Marvins thanked the Hindu man for his kind invitation but stated simply that they could not accept the gift. Tanuj and Nainika, as well as their parents, were relieved when they heard the pastor's answer.

Later the Marvin family talked about their opportunity to show love to the new Christians. "I want to be careful about what I say and wear too. What other things do you think might be a stumbling block to others?" Mrs. Marvin asked.

"Perhaps some types of entertainment or music would be a problem," Pastor Marvin suggested.

"I will be more careful too. I would never want to confuse people or cause them to turn away from God," Lori added.

MATCHING

Read I Corinthians 8:1-13. Match the definitions on the right with the Bible words on the left.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. ___ "puffeth up" | a. sin |
| 2. ___ "charity" | b. love |
| 3. ___ "defiled" | c. feels guilty |
| 4. ___ "commendeth us" | d. acts proudly |
| 5. ___ "liberty" | e. encouraged |
| 6. ___ "stumblingblock" | f. be ruined |
| 7. ___ "emboldened" | g. causes someone to sin |
| 8. ___ "perish" | h. causes us to be accepted |
| 9. ___ "offend" | i. freedom to do what we choose |

WORD SEARCH

Circle the words in the puzzle that are things to be careful about in order not to give offense.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------|----------------|--------|
| CLOTHING | HABITS | MUSIC | |
| ENTERTAINMENT | HOBBIES | FALSE RELIGION | SPORTS |

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

Use the code to write the message on the lines below.

D E I L N O P R S V
 & ! * + % \$ # < @ =
 < ! @ # \$ % & * % + \$ = !