

Florence Nightingale

People who show kindness and care towards the sick are really being God's servants. Here is a true story of a nurse who lived over 150 years ago. Although her parents were English, she was born in Florence. She felt God speaking to her heart about being His servant. Her name was Florence Nightingale.

Florence came from a very rich family. Her family loved dances, plays and parties, but Florence preferred the beauty of nature to all these things.

When she was only eleven years old she was very good at caring for small babies. When she grew up, she wanted more than anything else, to help people. In her diary, she wrote, 'On February 7th 1837 God called me to His service'. She was then seventeen.

When she was twenty four years old she decided to become a nurse. This was a very hard decision to make because her family didn't want her to be a nurse. Nurses had to work very hard. They not only bandaged wounds and gave medicine, but they also had to make beds and do lots of cleaning. Florence's parents thought that it wasn't good for rich people to do such jobs.

Not long after Florence started nursing, a war broke out, called the Crimean war. The British and French together fought a war with Russia. Many people lay wounded and dying in the battle field. There were no bandages, no splints and no anaesthetics. There was lots of disease too.

When Florence read about the wounded people in the 'London Times', she organised small groups of nurses to go to help. Florence is best known for her work in a hospital in Scutari, Turkey. She was called "the lady-in-chief".

When the nurses arrived they found terrible conditions. There was hardly any water, and hardly any medical equipment. They had to use small tin basins for everything... for eating, drinking and washing.

At first the doctors didn't want the nurses to help, but finally they agreed. Florence turned a building into a hospital. "Clean, clean, clean," Florence told the nurses, because everything was so dirty.

The queen found out about Florence's work and sent her a special message to encourage her.

Every night, just before Florence went to bed she made a trip to visit the patients. With her lamp in her hand she walked up and down the long rows of beds. Her patients called her 'the lady of the lamp'.

Florence always tried to make sure that the patients were as comfortable as possible, washed and well fed. When the war was over she was given a special medal for bravery.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 3

Activities – Florence Nightingale

PART A

1. What kind of family was Florence from?
2. How was Florence different from the rest of her family?
3. What did she like to do when she was 11?
4. What did she write in her diary when she was 17?
5. Why didn't Florence's parents want her to become a nurse?
6. What was it like in Russia, when the nurses first arrived?
7. What did Florence do to improve the conditions?
8. Why is she called the lady with the lamp?
9. How can we tell from the second story that Florence really cared about the people she helped?
10. What do you call a person who is willing to do special things for others, even when it means having a hard time yourself? Fill in the missing letters: s _ r _ a _ t

PART B

God is a servant

Jesus came to forgive us from our sins. He also came to heal us from sickness. Jesus was never too tired to _____ people. He didn't say to Peter, "I am too tired to heal your mother-in-law." Jesus showed He was a servant by helping those who were _____.

Missing words: sick help

How can I help those who are sick?

I can ask Jesus to _____ them.

I can be _____ to them.

I do things _____ them.

Missing words: kind for heal

Florence Nightingale Quiz

Work in pairs. Read together the story then one of you can read the questions to your partner.

1. Where was Florence Nightingale born?

London

Florence

New York

2. Who did Florence believe she received a calling from asking her to do his work?

God

Guy Fawkes

Her Dad

3. What did Florence become?

a teacher

doctor

shopkeeper

nurse

4. During which war did Florence go to Turkey to help injured soldiers?

1st

Korean

Crimean

2nd

5. At which military hospital did Florence work?

Turkey

France

America

Scutari

6. Who did Florence write letters for?

the cleaners

soldiers

nurses

doctors

7. What did the soldiers know Florence as?

the nice nurse

the lady-in-chief

the lovely lady

the wonder worker

8. What was the hospital like?

bright

comfortable

dirty

clean

9. Florence helped to make military hospitals

dirtier

better

worse

darker

10. What did Florence Nightingale become known as?

The Lady with the Lamp

Her who Holds the Candle

The Girl with the Light

Bird Lady