

Corrie ten Boom -The Precious Vitamin Drops

This is a true story about someone who used their faith to trust God when things were very difficult. It took place in Europe during the Second World War where the Jews who lived there were being captured and taken to prison camps.

The story is told by a lady called Corrie ten Boom who was not Jewish, but Dutch. She and her family decided to risk their own lives in order to help the Jews at that time. They took Jews into their own home for protection and hid them in a secret room. However, finally the day came when they were discovered.

Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie were placed into a prison camp along with the Jews they had tried to hide.

Women were crammed into dirty, cold, damp barracks. Food was little more than watery turnip soup. During the day they were forced to do extremely hard labour. Despite their dreadful circumstances Corrie and Betsie did not stop trusting God. Betsie found it particularly difficult because she was not well. She was suffering from a vitamin deficiency for which she needed vitamin drops. Corrie and Betsie had managed to bring some of their things with them to the first prison camp, including the vitamin drops and a Bible. However, when they were moved to a second camp they were not allowed to take anything in with them. Each woman was searched thoroughly as she passed in line through the gates. All Corrie and Betsie could do was to pray desperately to their Heavenly Father.

Corrie stood in the queue, trying to hide behind her back, a jumper with vitamin drops and Bible wrapped inside. When it was Corrie's turn to pass the guard, instead of searching her, he just pushed her through the gate with the words, "Move along! You're holding up the queue."

And so Corrie and Betsie arrived inside the barracks bringing not only the Bible and vitamins, but the knowledge of God's power to work a miracle. Soon Corrie discovered that there were twenty-five other women with the same vitamin deficiency. They too need the precious vitamin drops.

"What should I do, Lord?" asked Corrie. "If I give the drops to all these women there will only be enough to last a day! Even if I save the drops for Betsie there will be only enough to last a month."

Corrie knew what she must do. She lined up all the women who were ill and gave them the drops. Strangely enough, she lined the women up again the next day and there were still enough drops for everyone. She tried it again the next day, and the next. Still there were enough. Every time she tilted the bottle a drop appeared at the tip of the glass stopper.

"It just couldn't be!" said Corrie. She held it up to the light, trying to see how much was left, but the dark brown glass was too thick to see through.

"There was a woman in the Bible," said Betsie, "whose oil jar was never empty." She turned to the story in the book of 1st Kings. They read about the poor widow of Zarephath who had cared for Elijah. She continued to have oil in her jar and flour in her flour bin no matter how much she used.

It was one thing to believe that such things happened thousands of years ago, but another thing to believe that it could happen today. And yet it happened.

"Don't try to explain it." said Corrie to Betsie. "Just accept it as a surprise from a Father who loves you."

Then one day a young Dutch woman, also in the prison camp, came to Corrie. "Look what I've got for you!" she said. "Vitamins!" Somehow she had stolen them from the staff-room. There were several huge containers of vitamins and yeast compound. "We'll finish the drops first," thought Corrie. But that night, no matter how long she held the bottle upside-down, or how hard she shook it, not another drop appeared.

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Activities

PART A

1. What nationality was Corrie ten Boom?
2. Why do you think Corrie's family tried to help Jews?
3. Why do you think the enemy wanted to kill Jews?
4. What happened to Corrie and Betsie for their efforts in trying to protect the Jews?
5. How was Corrie able to get the vitamins and her Bible into the prison?
6. Why do you think most of the ladies, including Betsie, needed vitamins?
7. Corrie decided to share the vitamins. What does this show us about her?
8. Do you think Corrie expected the Lord to keep on filling the vitamin bottle?
9. Which miracle in the Bible is similar to this one?

PART B

God is provider

There are several miracles recorded in the Bible where God did a miracle of provision. This means that He didn't just provide in the usual way. God usually provides food through the _____, the _____ and the _____, which make things grow. There are three times in the Bible where God did amazing miracles to provide food. You will remember the story of the loaves and the fishes, and the two stories in the Old Testament where God provided flour and oil when Elijah and Elisha prayed. Sometimes God provides in unusual ways. God can still provide in unusual ways today, just as He did for Corrie ten Boom.

Missing words: sun rain soil

How does God provide for me?

God provides through His _____.

God provides through my _____.

God provides when I _____ in Him.

God could do a miracle if I really _____ one!

Missing words: trust parents creation needed