

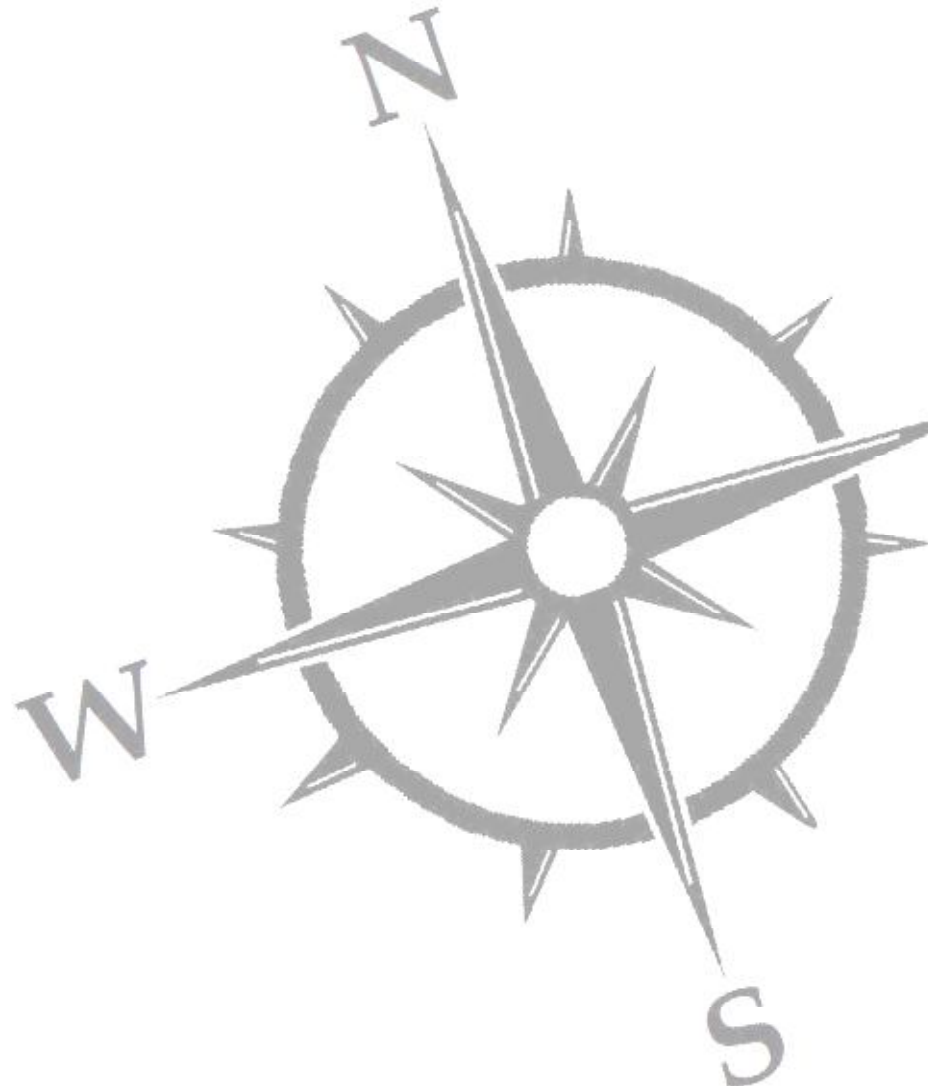
The Life of Hudson Taylor

(1832-1905)

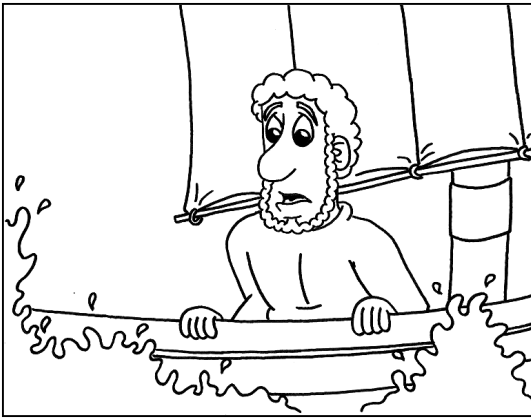
Lesson: 2.25 – Witnessing Missionary Snapshot Series

This lesson reminds us of the importance of witnessing to the unsaved. Salvation is free to all, but many have never understood its message. Go and tell the good news to all creatures. The Bible tells us that we should be warning others of what will happen if they die without accepting Jesus. Hudson Taylor learned how important it is to share the good news of salvation with everyone that we can.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost...” - 2 Corinthians 4:3







Please Note: *This story contains subject matter that can be scary to younger children. It is recommended for 3rd graders and above (or based on leader discretion).*

Introduction:

Imagine driving at night with your mom and dad. Imagine coming around a corner and seeing that the bridge that went between two cliffs had fallen. If other people did not know that the bridge was out, they might drive off and be badly hurt or even killed. It would be best to drive back down the road, wave your hands, stop the other cars, and warn them that the bridge was out ahead. Our story today is about a missionary to China. This missionary was trying to warn people that if they died without accepting Jesus they would have to go to a terrible place called Hell. Let's listen carefully and see what happens in this story about Hudson Taylor...

Missionary Story:

The sun was high in the sky over the cool waters of the China Sea. I looked over

the side rail of the ship and noticed boats darting everywhere across the water. There were small boats that were paddled by only a couple of men, houseboats with entire families living inside, passenger ships (called junks) filled with Chinese people, and of course, fishing boats were pulling up and lowering their fishing nets into the water.

Another missionary named John Jones came and sat down beside me as I spoke in Chinese with a small Chinese man on the deck. The Chinese man had been listening very carefully to me as I told him the story of Jesus. He had told me that what I said sounded like good teaching. "It is not enough just to agree with me my friend; you must believe in what Jesus has done to save you," I told him.

"I must have more time to think about this," he said, "but I will listen to what you preach again when we get to Sungkiang."

"Speaking of Sungkiang..." John Jones said, "I think that we are getting close...perhaps we should begin to gather our things." Several of the other passengers were beginning to gather along the rail to catch a glimpse of the city.

"There it is!" John shouted. The enormous city of Sungkiang lay ahead of us. We could see huge crowds of people walking along the shore towards the city gates.

"I'm going down into our cabin to get our tracts and books ready to go," I said to John. I was looking forward to being in Sungkiang and having the chance to preach to so many people. "Perhaps the man who I was just speaking to will come and will understand what it means to accept Christ," I

thought as I went below the deck to my cabin.

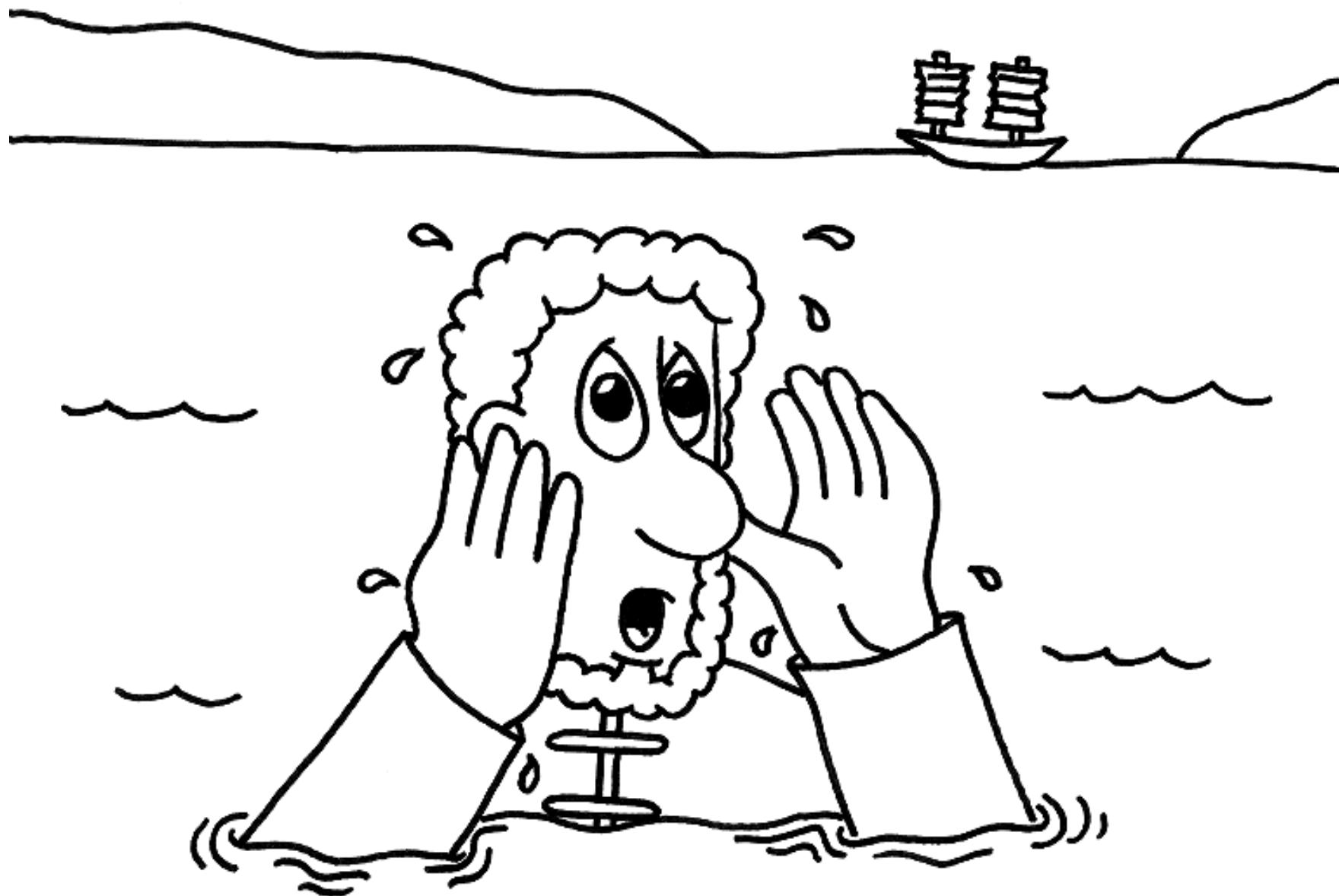
I was checking the latches that held my box of tracts closed when suddenly I heard a yell come from up on deck. I quickly ran up the stairs onto the deck just in time to run into John who was coming across the deck. "What just happened?" I asked John. John pointed to the rail at the side of the ship. "Someone just fell over that railing," he said, "I think it might have been that same man that you were just witnessing to."

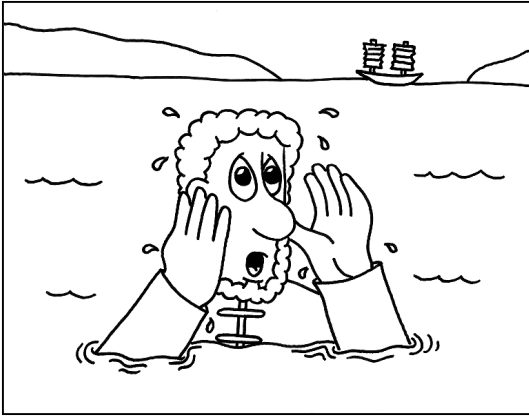
As John and I ran over to the rail and looked over the side of our boat, I remembered that many of these people did not know how to swim. "I don't see him anywhere," John said. Other Chinese rushed over to the rail beside us, but no one seemed to be able to help him.

"Stop the boat," I yelled. John and I pulled the rope, which pulled down the sail. Then I ran back over to the railing and dove into the cool water. I came up for air and again dove back under the water. I could hardly see in front of me in the murky water. I swung my arms all around trying to find the man with my hands. I came back to the surface. "I have to find him," I yelled to John, "he hasn't believed in Jesus yet! He is not ready to die."

Then I saw it...a large fishing boat was coming up behind our ship. I could see twelve men busy pulling the last bit of their fishing nets out of the water. "That's it," I shouted, "the net will be able to find him!"

"You there!" I yelled as loudly as I could, "Please come and lower your nets into the water over here! There is a man who is





drowning here!"

The Chinese fishermen stared back at me in the water. "We are busy," one of the men said leaning up against the railing of his boat.

"Please!" I pleaded again, "A man is going to die!" "We are too busy fishing," another man said. "If we come over there, we will lose a lot of time!"

"Forget about your fishing!" I yelled to them, "Look here, I will give you more money than you could make fishing in several days. Please hurry!"

"How much money will you give us?" one of the fishermen asked, lifting his small red hat from out of his eyes.

"Five dollars," I told the men knowing that these men rarely could make that amount of money in a day. "But please, I beg you, come quickly!"

"Give us twenty dollars, and we will bring our net over and help you," the fisherman with the red hat said.

"I only have about fourteen dollars," I said, "but you can have it all! Just help this poor man before it is too late!"

Finally, the fishermen pulled their boat beside ours and lowered their net into the water. It only took a few moments and they had found the missing man. He was quickly pulled up onto the deck of our boat.

"Are we too late?" I thought as I ran up to him.

"Give us the money you promised!" said one of the fishermen. "I must see if he is alive," I said as I knelt by the man's side. I tried everything I could think of, and then I stood up and shook my head. "We're too late," I said wiping sweat from my forehead.

Slowly I walked over to the fisherman. "Here is the money you were promised," I said pulling it out of my wet clothes. "If only you would have come when I first asked you for help, this man's life could have been saved."

John and I went back to our cabin. I changed into some dry clothes and then walked back up on the deck with John. "They were too busy fishing to save a man's life," I said sadly to John. "If only they had stopped and helped us sooner," John replied, "maybe things would have been different."

As the ship began to move again towards Sungkiang, a different thought came into my mind. "Yes, those fishermen had done something terrible today, but how many Christians are just like them? How many Christians are so busy doing things that they do not have any time to tell others about Jesus?"

I went back down to my cabin and bowed my head. "Lord, please help me," I whispered. "Help me to tell as many of these Chinese people as I can about your love for

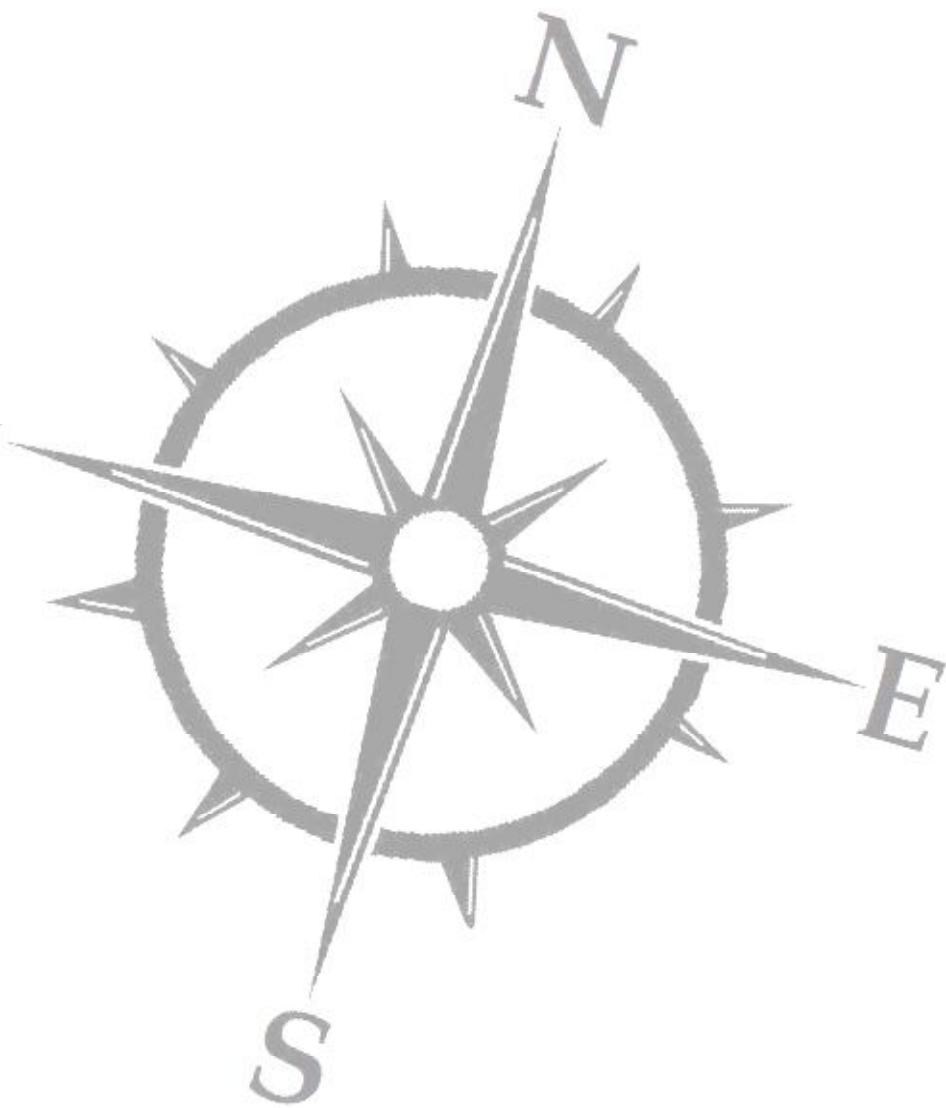
them.

Application:

You know, boys and girls, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 tells us that we must be sharing the good news of the gospel with all men and not keep it hidden. God wants all men to be saved. Hudson Taylor was very sad to see this Chinese man not accept Jesus in time.

Hudson was able to keep his promise to the Lord. He worked with the Chinese people for 54 years. At the time of his death, over one hundred twenty-five thousand Chinese people had asked Jesus to save them, and the China Inland Mission had sent over eight hundred twenty-five missionaries to two hundred and five mission stations throughout China. His life and writings inspired generations of Christians to follow his example of service and sacrifice. Other great missionaries like Amy Carmichael, Eric Liddell, and Jim Elliot were inspired by what God had done in Hudson Taylor's life.

*(For additional information, discussion questions, and materials on this lesson please refer to **lesson 3.24 on page 86 in your India Expedition - Leader's Guide.**)*



References

For further reading or to obtain more information on this portion of the life of this missionary, please consult the following sources from which we obtained our information:

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