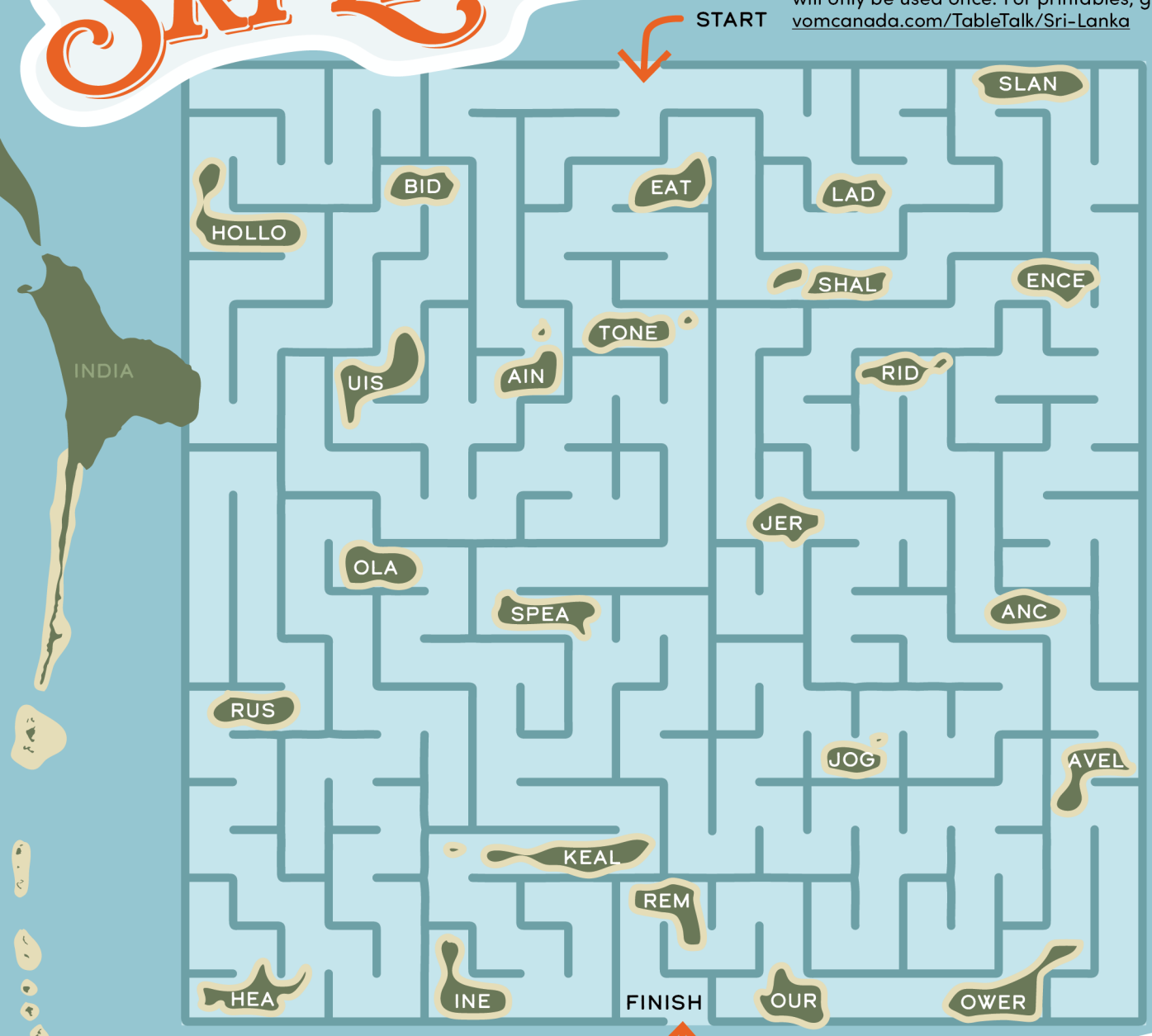
Table Talk Sri Lanka

THE A-maze-ING BRIDGE BETWEEN NATIONS

How to Play: Follow the maze and collect the scattered word parts along the correct path. Fill in the blanks of the activity text with the missing word parts to complete the story. Beware, any word parts not on the correct route are fake islands and contain incorrect letters! Each word part will only be used once. For printables, go to: vomcanada.com/TableTalk/Sri-Lanka



THE STORY OF THE BRIDGE:

Adam's Bridge is a ch_ _ _ of limes_ _ _ _ shoals (naturally occurring ridges of rock sediment) that over time has cr_ _ _ed a section of _ _ _ _low water between the coasts of India and Sri Lanka. Many of these shoals have formed dozens of small i_ _ _ _ds. Geological evid_ _ _ _ suggests that this natural 48-kilometre b_ _ _ge once connected India and Sri Lanka. _ _ _ient records indicate that it was possible to tr_ _ _ _ across the bridge on foot until the 15th century, before it broke up during a p_ _ _ _ful storm. Today, many people visit these shoals for t_ _ _ism and religious ce_ _ _onies.

IF THE BRIDGE WAS STILL INTACT TODAY, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WOULD TAKE TO CROSS ON FOOT?

SRI LANKA

Table Talk ANSWERS

THE A-*maze*-ING BRIDGE BETWEEN NATIONS

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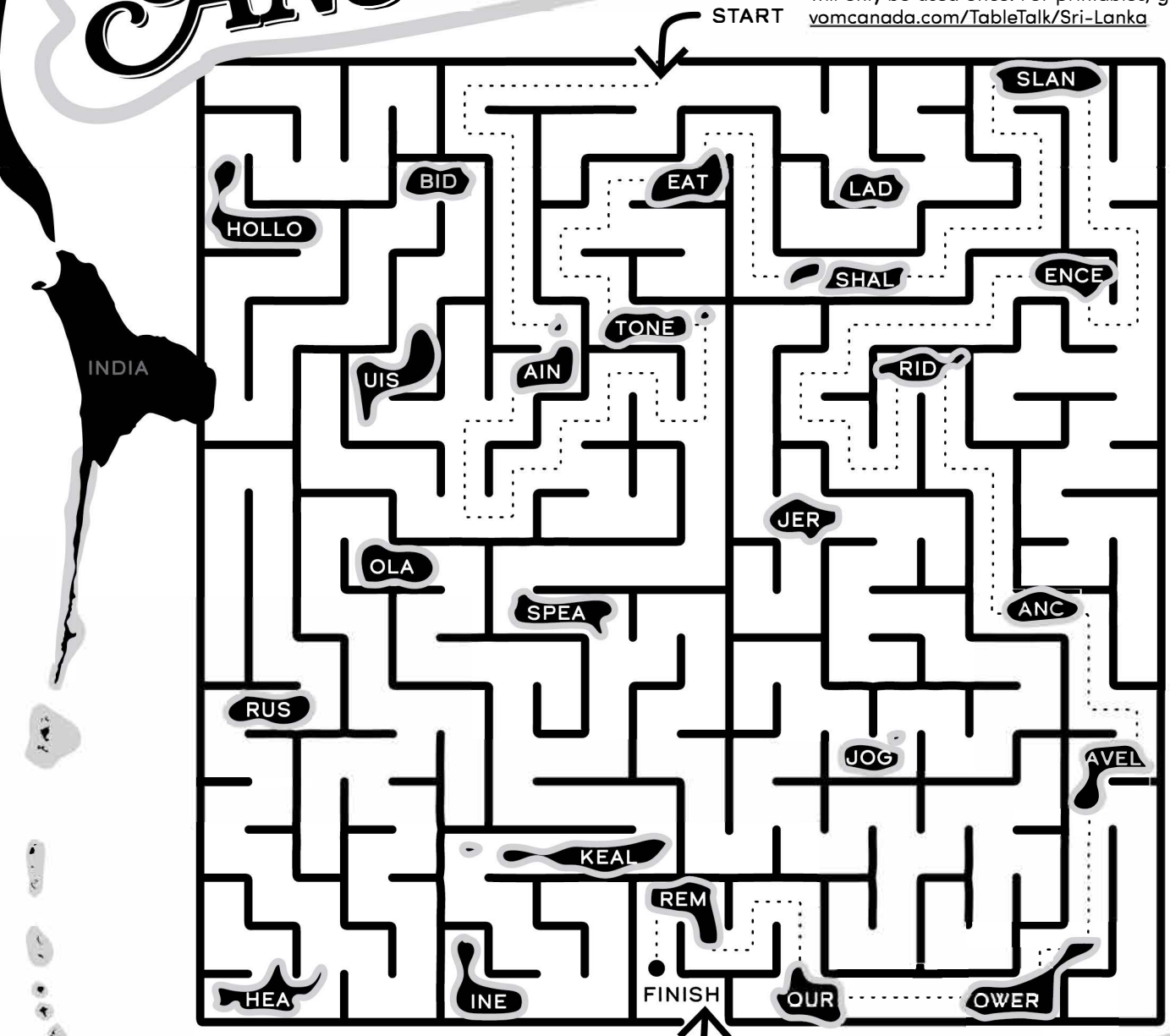

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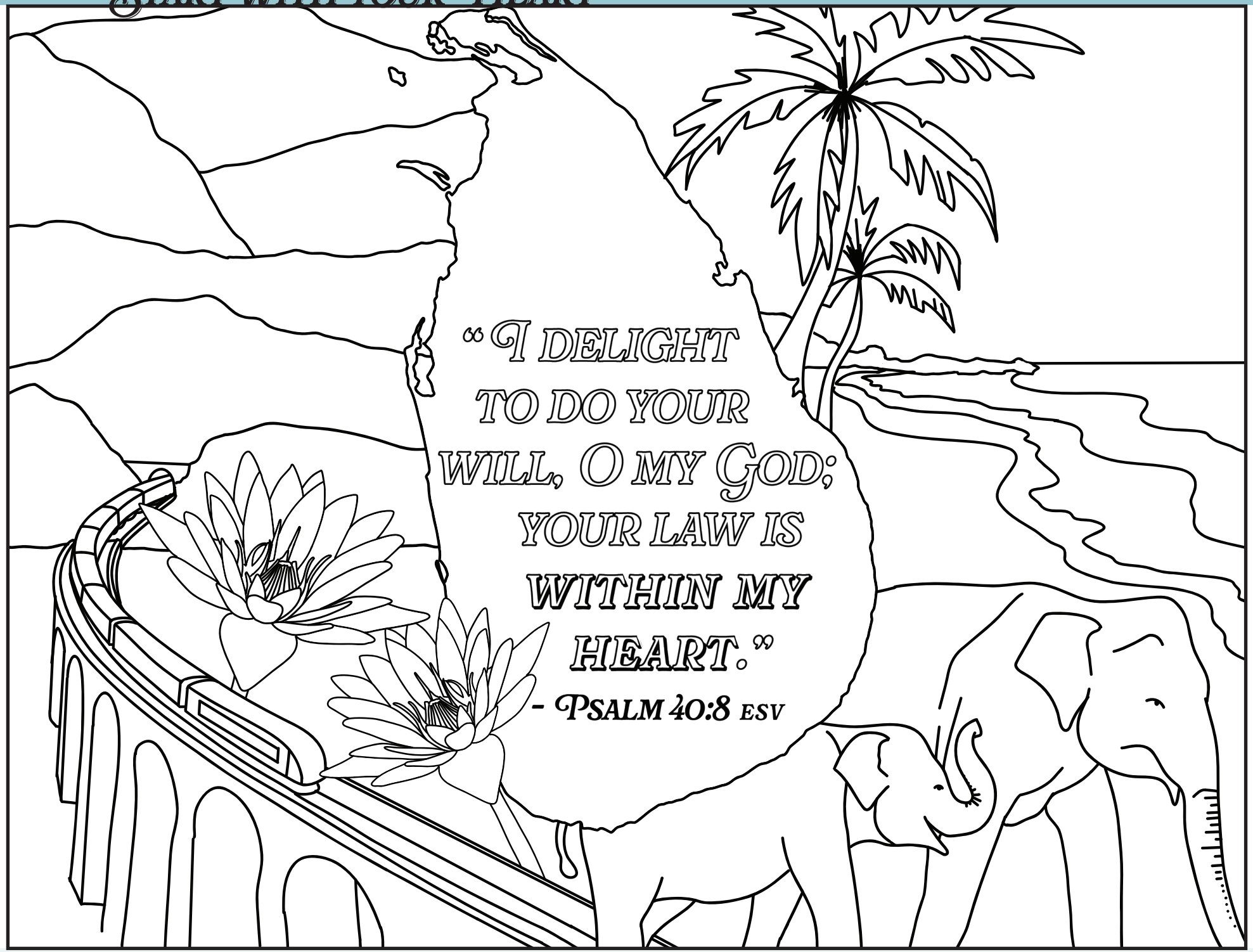
SRI LANKA


"I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."
- Psalm 40:8 ESV

APRIL 2024

HIS WAY

"I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart."
Psalm 40:8 ESV

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 **KUWAIT** Pray that more Kuwaitis will hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and place their faith in Him.	2 **OMAN** Pray that isolated Christians who must worship alone will experience the joy and comfort of God's presence.	3 **BENIN** Pray for new Christians whose lives are at risk due to opposing family and community members.	4 **QATAR** Praise God that Qataris can access the Bible via the Internet! Pray that many more will be transformed by God's Word.	5 **SYRIA** Pray that ministry workers who are reaching out to Syrian refugees with the message of Christ will be strengthened.	6 **ALGERIA** Pray for Berber Christians who continue to boldly share the Gospel in and around the al-Qaida terrorist camps.
7 **TURKMENISTAN** Pray for an intelligence officer whose heart was touched by the Gospel due to the faithful witness of one of his captives.	8 **UZBEKISTAN** Praise God for Mussalam's faithfulness to the Lord and her courage despite persecution from family members.	9 **ETHIOPIA** Pray for pastors like Dereje who have faced severe opposition due to their Christian witness.	10 **CAMEROON** Pray for the protection of Christians living in villages along the northwestern border where Islamists' attacks have occurred.	11 **JORDAN** Pray for provision, wisdom and strength on behalf of those ministering to Syrian refugees in Jordan.	12 **TANZANIA** Pray that believers on the island of Zanzibar will have the freedom to worship without fear of reprisal or harassment.	13 **COMOROS** Pray that Christians who are ostracized by their families will find meaningful fellowship with other believers.
14 **VIETNAM** Pray for Dinh Hoc's family, whose home was burned down because of their faith in Christ.	15 **SRI LANKA** Pray for the training of new pastors so they will be equipped to shepherd the country's growing number of churches.	16 **MALAYSIA** Pray for the wisdom of Christians who take great risks to illegally share the Gospel with the Malay people.	17 **SAUDI ARABIA** Pray that great numbers of the Saudi royal family will hear the Gospel message and turn to the Lord.	18 **MALI** Pray for the release of missionaries who were kidnapped in Mali or brought there after being abducted elsewhere.	19 **KYRGYZSTAN** For known Christians, jobs and daily necessities can be difficult to attain. Pray that their needs will be met.	20 **SUDAN** Pray for church leaders who were interrogated and harassed by officials because of their Christian witness.
21 **BHUTAN** Pray that God's Word will spread throughout Bhutan, despite the government's attempts to restrict distributions.	22 **TAJIKISTAN** Pray that Christians summoned for questioning by secret police will experience God's wisdom and guidance.	23 **COLOMBIA** Pray for Christians sharing the Gospel in rural areas where paramilitary groups have become more active and violent.	24 **NIGER** Pray that the small number of Christians in this country will faithfully share the love of Jesus with their neighbours.	25 **INDONESIA** Pray that Muslims in Aceh province will come to realize the harshness of Islamic law and seek freedom in Christ (Romans 7:6).	26 **ERITREA** The government tracks each Bible sold in Eritrea. Pray that God's Word will flood the country despite restrictions.	27 **YEMEN** Pray that congregations will continue to worship and steadfastly proclaim the Gospel after attacks.
28 **CUBA** Pastors in Cuba ask for prayer that they will continue to stand firm in their faith.	29 **PAKISTAN** Pray for the protection of young Christian women who have been subjected to forced marriages by Islamic militants.	30 **UGANDA** Pray for the Christian leaders who are being trained to share the Gospel with Muslims and help persecuted believers.				



The Voice of the Martyrs Canada

Scan to access Digital Calendar

Show Me Sri Lanka

One Way

Meditation is a core practice in the Eastern religions of Buddhism and Hinduism. It takes place inwardly, as individuals attempt to mentally transcend their physical environments to find awareness, peace and tranquility. The adherents hope that such meditation will allow access to their inner goodness and the ability to utilize this in everyday life. Ultimately, the belief is that each person is inherently good, and all they must do is look deep within themselves to unlock their godlike potential.

Biblically, meditation is defined as filling your mind with Scripture and fixing your eyes on God (Psalm 1:1-2; 119:15; Joshua 1:8). The focus is not on an individual's energies, awareness or inner being, but on God – the Creator of all things. The person practising Biblical meditation dwells on His Word and character, recalling all the wondrous things He's done (Psalm 77:12; 143:5; 145:5). Peace, tranquility and freedom for a Christian are not dependent on "self" or natural circumstances. Ultimately, Biblical meditation leads to a closer relationship with God and, as a result, greater dependence upon Him.

Way Out

VOMC supports a camp for the children of marginalized pastors in Sri Lanka. This camp allows those living under the stress of persecution to grow spiritually, enjoy fun activities, and connect with others facing similar situations. The project aims to provide them needed emotional support and shore up their hearts of faith, so they can stand boldly for Christ amid hostility. To donate to this project through the *Families of Martyrs Fund*, visit: vomcanada.com

We encourage you to read Hebrews 10:24-25. Set a goal to reach out to three people you know who are experiencing tough situations by sharing acts of kindness and uplifting words. Perhaps you can reassure them of your prayers. Then write about your experiences.

Recommended Reads:
Elly Rose in Sri Lanka by Maggie O'Hara (Early Readers)
When the Rain Comes by Alma Fullerton (4-8 years)

Activity Answers: Chain, Limestone, Created, Shallow, Islands, Evidence, Bridge, Ancient, Travel, Powerful, Tourism, Ceremonies.

Weigh In

1. Formerly called "Ceylon," the island nation of Sri Lanka is located near the southern coast of India. In size, Sri Lanka is a little smaller than New Brunswick, yet it's populated with approximately 30 times more people.

2. The Sri Lankan Civil War broke out in 1983. It lasted nearly three decades, ending in 2009. Tensions are still high between the country's two dominant ethnic groups: the Tamil and Sinhalese peoples.

3. The day after Christmas 2004, Sri Lanka was struck by a tsunami that devastated the coastal communities of several nations and killed approximately 230,000 people within a few hours. It was one of the worst natural disasters in history.

4. The government of this Buddhist-majority country has been drafting proposals since 2004 to pass an anti-conversion law in its effort to prevent the Christian church from growing.

1. Elephants are highly respected in Sri Lanka, and the country has laws in place to protect them. The growing wild elephant population is now reaching a total of about 7,000. What problems would likely arise for Sri Lankans if they share their tight island quarters with unchecked herds?

2. For any country that has been divided by civil war, national unity can be shattered. Name a negative impact that a nation might face if unity is absent. Secondly, why do you think national unity is essential to a country's well-being?

3. After the tsunami, Christians from around the world came to Sri Lanka to help the surviving victims, demonstrating God's love by meeting their urgent needs. Choose five adjectives that describe how those who previously opposed the Gospel had likely reacted to the love and support they received. Defend your choices.

4. If sharing the Gospel or testifying about Jesus to the extent that you do now was illegal in Canada, carrying penalties and fines similar to what is presently being proposed in Sri Lanka (about $2,147 CAD, along with seven years in prison), would you be at risk?

The Pearl of the Indian Ocean

Sources:
https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/sri-lanka/
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www.christiantoday.com.au/news/anti-conversion-law-likely-in-sri-lanka.html