

A HOME FOR ARTYOM

Based on a true story



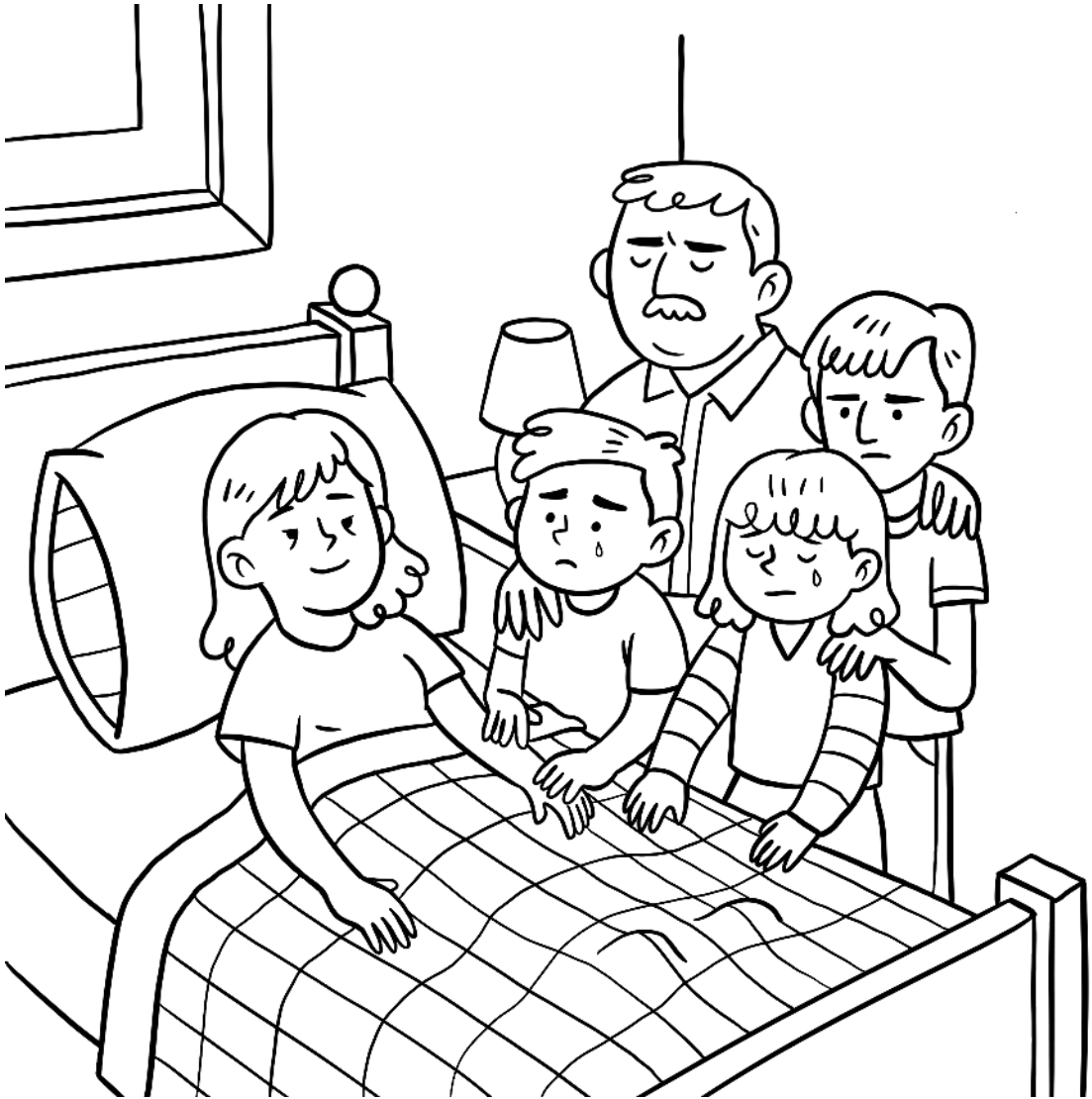


Lonely and embarrassed.

That's how Artyom felt the day he was transferred to a new orphanage. Artyom lost his father when he was young, and his mother could not take care of him, leaving him an orphan in Kiev, Ukraine. Since arriving at the new orphanage, Artyom had broken out in itchy red bumps. Ashamed of his skin condition, he kept his distance from the other children.



That day a big, friendly man had come to visit the orphanage. Artyom found out the man's name was Alex. Alex came every Saturday and spoke with the children about the love of God and God's Son, Jesus. He taught them that, unlike many others, Jesus would never leave them nor forsake them.



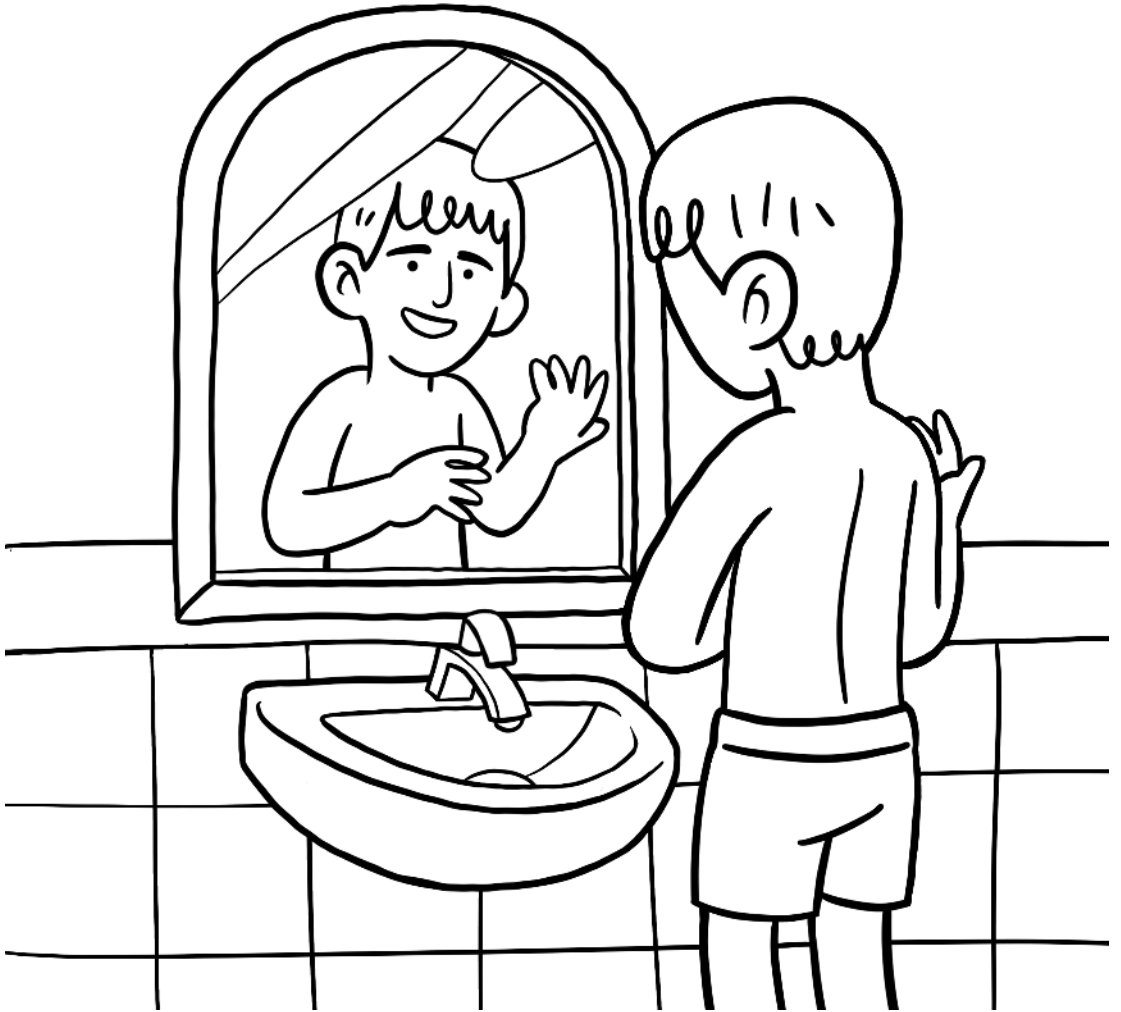
When he was around Artyom's age, Alex lost his mother, leaving him and his siblings to be raised by his single father. At age 16 Alex realized that he had both a loving earthly father and God, his loving Heavenly Father. So he decided to dedicate his life to serve orphans who didn't have a father.



Every Saturday at the orphanage, Artyom heard Alex share about God, the loving Heavenly Father of all who believe in Jesus. One day Alex invited Artyom to visit his home. Artyom was excited and accepted Alex's invitation. For the next few years, Alex invited him over every weekend until Artyom turned sixteen.



When Artyom was sixteen, he and ten other teenagers were aging out of their program and would have to leave the orphanage. Alex prayed for God to show him how to take care of them. He decided to enroll them at Open Doors Christian Camp for the summer, where he had recently become the camp's director. There they would be taken care of, loved, and taught God's Word.



As love began to heal Artyom's broken heart, his skin began to heal, too. Artyom noticed that his red bumps had gone away.



After the summer camp was over, God provided for Alex to start homes called "Light Houses". These homes helped the older orphans learn to follow Jesus, get higher education, and find jobs to gain valuable skills and life experiences.



Alex took a group of children on a trip to the seashore. It was then that Artyom believed in his heart that Jesus was his Lord and Savior. Filled with hope, Artyom ran around the beach jumping for joy!



Later that fall, Artyom was adopted by a family in Alex's church. No longer lonely and afraid, Artyom was now loved and accepted.



Today, Artyom is an adult and he spends his summers at Open Doors Camp, leading worship music and sports activities. He gets to share God's love with kids who need a Heavenly Father, just like Alex shared with him.

Alex shared the love of Christ with Artyom and his life was transformed forever. You can help missions partners like Alex share the love of Christ with people in need of the gospel all over the world.

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Illustrated by Jasmin Lacay

