



# When in Rome

**Matthew 5:41-48**

## EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 524–525 or the *Action Bible New Testament* story on pages 14–15. Read this true story found in Matthew 5:41–48.

Here is what the story is about:

When Jesus was born, God's chosen people—the Jews—lived under the control of the Roman Empire and a king named Herod. The Roman soldiers were cruel to the Jewish people. They forced them to pay unreasonable taxes. They could also force the Jews to carry their heavy packs for a mile. Many of the Jews hated being ruled by the Romans, but they had hope. They knew that God had promised to send a Saviour. God is faithful to His promises. He sent a Saviour who saved the whole world. Before the Saviour came, God sent someone to prepare them for the deliverer.

## REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › Who did the Romans appoint to rule the people of Rome, including the Jewish people? A man named Herod.
- › Were the Jews treated well by the Roman officials?  
The Romans were unkind to the Jews.
- › Who were the Jews waiting for to save them?  
A deliverer or a Saviour.
- › Who did the Jewish people know would come before the deliverer? Someone to prepare the way for the deliverer.

## DISCUSS

Read Matthew 5:41 as a family. The Jewish people were treated poorly by the Romans. When Jesus came, He taught the Jewish people not to fight against the Roman rule but to show God's love to others, even those who were unkind to them.

- › Have you been treated poorly by others? How did you react?
- › Why do you think Jesus told them to walk two miles?
- › How can you show love to those who treat you poorly?

The Jews had been waiting a long time for God to send the Saviour. While they were waiting, they continued to pray and trust God.

- › Have you had to wait for something? What was it like?
- › Are you waiting for God to fulfill a promise that He made to you? What do you do to help you to wait patiently?

## BLESSING

Read the prayer below aloud or pray your own prayer based on Matthew 5:43–44.

**(Child's name), may you know that God loves you and is trustworthy. May you show love to all you encounter, even those who treat you poorly.**

## ACT

Prayer can change our hearts! Think of someone who has been unkind to you. As a family, pray for that person every day this week. This can be a hard thing to do, but let the Lord lead you in your prayers. As you prayed for this person, did your heart, mind, or attitude change towards them? How did it change?