

## Chapter 4

# The Tiger Hunt

Who remembers what was happening at the end of the story yesterday? (*Allow children to briefly retell the story.*) Yes, Ringu and some other men were going on a tiger hunt. Listen closely today to find out what happens.

### Slide 1

Quickly and quietly Ringu, his father and the other men climbed to a small platform in the branches of a tree.

Ringu prayed through the night as he watched. *Please God, don't let the evil spirits get me! And please help us kill the tiger tonight.* His heart pounded as he remembered that the tiger had killed a man just the night before. He repeated over and over in his mind, *our help is in the name of the Lord. Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

Then Ringu thought he saw something move. He watched closely. *Is something moving or are my eyes playing tricks on me?* Ringu wondered. *God, I need you to help me!* he prayed. *Is that really something moving?*

Something did move! Ringu clutched his father's arm and pointed.

### Slide 2

Everyone on the platform watched, barely breathing. The tiger crept forward, one moment in the moonlight, the next in the shadows. The beast's body was close to the ground and its tail swung back and forth as it moved toward the ox they had killed as bait. Its head swayed from side to side, ready to fight off any enemies.

Satisfied that all was safe, the great striped beast crouched by the dead ox. Suddenly a shot shattered the still night air. The tiger sprang into the shadows.

"Oh no! I missed!" Ringu's father whispered.

Then Ringu heard a twig snap nearby. He looked down.

### Slide 3

There was the tiger! *He's going to jump!* thought Ringu. He pushed the button on his flashlight and shined the light in the animal's face, trying to blind him. *It's not bright enough! What if he tries to get it?* Frantically Ringu threw the flashlight to the ground.

The tiger pounced after the light as another shot cracked through the air.

The tiger made one more leap—this time straight into the air—then, thud! The tiger hit the ground hard. It thrashed around in the tall grass, wounded.

Ringu's father loaded the gun and shot one last bullet. The beast finally lay still. It was dead.

Shouts of excitement erupted in the dark forest.

"Oh, thank you God, thank you, God, that you heard me!" Ringu prayed under his breath.

"Your shots were sure and straight," one hunter said to Ringu's father.

"I am proud of my Ringu," he said, turning to his son. "You were the first one to see the tiger and you kept him from jumping up to us. You saved our lives."

"God helped me see," Ringu replied. "And God helped you kill the tiger. Sahib said our help is in the name of the Lord. Now I understand what he meant."

The hunters looked at Ringu strangely. But no one said anything as they came down from the tree. Light was beginning to spill over the horizon. The sun was coming up.

"Ringu," his father ordered, "run to the village and bring the oxen and cart. We must carry the tiger out of the forest."

### Slide 4

Ringu ran joyously to the village. "News! I have news! The tiger is dead! We have killed the tiger!"

Can you say that with me? "News! I have news! The tiger is dead!"

Ringu was happy with his part in the hunt. He was thankful that God had helped him.

From a distance Battu watched Ringu unharness the oxen from the cart. "Weren't you scared?" Battu asked.

"I was terrified! But the evil spirits didn't hurt me. Grubbs Sahib tells us that God will help us if we trust Him. So I asked Him to help." Ringu watched Battu. "My heart did not beat so fast then. And I saw better too. I was the first to see the tiger because God was helping me!"

"Oh no! This God is making you crazy!" Battu cried. "You are making the spirits angry! They are going to hurt you!"

Ringu watched Battu run into the house. *God, will you hear again please?* he prayed. *Will you help Battu trust you?*

Just then he heard the sound of a motor. *It must be the jeep. Is the sahib leaving the village? Or is he going to report the missing music box?* Ringu swallowed hard.

The motor roared again then stopped. Ringu shouted to his brother, "Come with me to see the sahib!"

Ringu heard a sharp "No!" from inside the house. It was Battu.

Ringu ran on without him but it was hard to be alone. Battu had gone everywhere with him before he'd received Jesus. Now Sahib was his only friend. *I hope he doesn't find out I took his wife's music box!* Ringu worried.

### Slide 5

He rounded a bend in the road and there stood the sahib by the packed jeep. One wheel of the jeep was deep in the mud at the edge of the road.

“It won’t make it,” the missionary was saying to Pandu. “I tried to miss the mud but the wheel slipped into this deep rut. We’ll have to get some rocks and small branches to pry the wheel out.”

Ringu watched as the missionary dropped a large rock by the wheel. Mud splashed and Ringu jumped back. Mr. Grubbs was out of breath and his face was very red as he said, “Oh, Ringu, you’re here. Would you help us please?”

Ringu smiled. “Yes, Sahib,” he said but he didn’t move. He studied the missionary’s face. Didn’t he know the harmonium was gone?

“We need help or we won’t get very far tonight,” said Mr. Grubbs. “What we need is a team of oxen to pull us out. How about it, Ringu? Are your oxen at the house?”

“I...I’m not sure,” Ringu said, still smiling. “They might be in the field.” Ringu bit his tongue. He knew they were still in their stalls. He had just lied to his only friend. *But it was just a little lie, he reasoned, and the jeep would probably be too heavy for the oxen anyway.*

“I’ll find someone else to help us then,” decided Mr. Grubbs. “Would your father know who could help us with...”

“No, I’ll go get our oxen,” interrupted Ringu. “I can take them out of the fields if I need to.”

Ringu started back toward the village before the missionary could say anything. He’d take plenty of time so the sahib wouldn’t know about his lie. Ringu used to lie all the time and never felt sorry. Now he had a sick feeling in his stomach. Why did he feel so guilty? *(Allow response.)*

### Slide 6

He drove the oxen back toward the jeep. Quickly the missionary tied the ropes to the front bumper. Ringu twisted the oxen’s tails and shouted to make them move. Can you help me get the oxen moving? Let’s cheer on the oxen! *(Do with children.)* The jeep began to move! Everyone cheered as the wheels rolled up on solid ground.

The missionary took Ringu aside and put his hand gently on the boy’s shoulder. “Ringu, you knew the oxen were not in the field, didn’t you?” The sick feeling came back in Ringu’s stomach. He nodded and stared down at the ground.

“The Lord Jesus loves you and doesn’t want you to lie. He knows all you do, even when others don’t. You need to have a talk with Jesus. He died for *all* your sins and promises to forgive you. My little friend, do you have your paper with God’s words?”

Ringu took the paper from his turban. It was worn and ragged on the edges. He held it carefully as Mr. Grubbs pointed to some words and read very slowly for Ringu to understand. *(Read 1 John 1:9.)*

Ringu dug his toe in the dirt. He thought he understood but he wasn’t sure.

“When you learn to read, then you can learn more about what God has said,” the missionary continued. “I will be back again but until then talk often with the Lord. He will help you do what is right. Now before we leave let’s have Pandu play for us on the harmonium. You’d like that, wouldn’t you, Ringu?”

Without waiting for an answer Mr. Grubbs went to the back of the jeep for the harmonium. Ringu froze in his tracks and started to sweat. Would Grubbs Sahib find out he had taken it?

### Slide 7

Mr. Grubbs motioned to Pandu as he was digging around in the back of the jeep. “I saw you put it in the vehicle. Could it have fallen out on a bumpy road?”

Ringu trembled as he listened to the missionary and Pandu discuss what to do. They called to Ringu.

“The harmonium is not here and we don’t know where it is. There is not time for us to look for it or to report it missing. Will you look for it, Ringu? If you find it, take it to Miss Merry. She is the missionary working to get the Bible written in your language. She will know where I am and will see that I get it.”

Ringu nodded as he slowly crossed his arms and pulled at his ear lobes. It was a promise.

### Slide 8

After supper that evening Ringu rolled up in his blanket near the fire. He started to think about the events of the day and suddenly the sick feeling in his stomach returned.

*Stealing and lying aren’t so bad, he reasoned. Everybody steals and lies. But Grubbs Sahib did say stealing and lying are wrong and the one true God hates sin.*

Finally Ringu whispered under the blanket. “Do you hear me, Jesus? Do you hear me? I have sinned. I lied! I stole! But I want to please you. Please help me not disobey you anymore.”

Suddenly the sick feeling left! Ringu knew Jesus had forgiven him. He stretched out and finally started to relax. Then he remembered. He still had the harmonium!

He was sorry he’d stolen the harmonium and would try not to steal again. But did he really have to return it? That would be crazy!

## Cliffhanger

Ringu thought a lot that night. What should he do? You'll have to come back tomorrow to find out the last part of Ringu's story.

## Review Questions

1. Who did Ringu ask to help on the tiger hunt?  
*(God.)*
2. Why didn't Battu want to go with Ringu to see Grubbs? *(He was afraid it would make the evil spirits angry.)*
3. Why did Ringu feel bad after he lied to Grubbs about the oxen? *(With Jesus as his Savior, he now knew it was wrong to lie.)*
4. What did Grubbs say Ringu should do after he sinned? *(Confess it to God.)*
5. After Ringu asked Jesus to forgive him and help him obey, how did he feel? *(He felt better knowing he was forgiven but wondered what to do with the harmonium.)*