

CHAPTER 3

New Problems for Ringu

Ringu knew that he had to find out more about the missionaries' God, but what would his father and teacher think? Would he get in trouble? Would the evil spirits eat him? He was about to find out more about this unseen God.

Slide 1

Ringu ran the rest of the way home from school. He watched the missionary set up a white screen and sat down with Battu to listen to music from the harmonium. *How beautiful*, he thought. *It makes me feel happy.*

When it was dark, the missionary presented the slide show to the villagers who had gathered. Ringu had never seen such a thing.

Mr. Grubbs spoke as he showed a picture of a baby wrapped in cloths lying on some straw. "The Lord Jesus Christ was in Heaven but came down to Earth. He was born as a baby and grew up without doing anything wrong. He came to pay for all your sins, every bad thing you have thought and done like worshipping idols, stealing and lying."

The next picture was of a cross with a man nailed to it. "Jesus Christ took your place," Mr. Grubbs continued. "He took your punishment. He died for you. Then, on the third day He came back to life and is alive today!"

Ringu was thinking very hard. *Could this be true?* He wanted to believe but he was afraid of what the evil spirits would do.

"Jesus Christ died for you. He took the punishment for your sin," the missionary said. "If you believe this and receive Him as your Savior, He will forgive your sins. He will set you free from the power of evil spirits."

Ringu wanted to believe the sahib's words, but he would have to think some more. He couldn't wait until he learned to read. Then he could learn more all by himself.

Mr. Grubbs turned off the projector and suddenly it was very dark. A lantern was lit while the villagers questioned Mr. Grubbs and Pandu.

Father spoke to his sons. "You must go home and eat so you can watch the field."

Slide 2

By the time the boys finished eating, the people were gone and the missionary and Pandu were preparing to leave.

As Pandu started toward the jeep with the harmonium, the missionary said, "Pandur, be sure to put that in a safe place. Remember, it belongs to my wife. She would be heartbroken if it were bumped out on the road and lost."

Everyone stand up and help me put the harmonium into the jeep. (*Do with children.*) You may sit down.

How proud I would be if I could play a music box like that, Ringu thought as he and Battu watched Pandu put it carefully away.

"Sahib," said Ringu, "how long are you going to be here? I want to learn more."

"Just one more day," answered Mr. Grubbs. "Then we're going on to tell others about Jesus Christ. We must witness in other villages too."

Oh no! Grubbs Sahib is going away, thought Ringu, and the music box will be gone too!

"Come on!" whispered Ringu to Battu. He sneaked to the side of the jeep and quickly lifted out the harmonium. He could not make the sahib stay but he would keep the music box! With the instrument between them Ringu and Battu moved swiftly into the darkness.

Slide 3

When they arrived at the field, they hid the harmonium beneath the shelter, which was like a little house built on stilts. They covered the instrument carefully with leaves.

Then they were ready to defend the crops. Ringu and Battu found a kerosene lamp, lit it and carried rocks up into the shelter. If hyenas or jackals came to the crops, the boys would yell and throw the rocks to scare them away.

Ringu and Battu sat quietly watching until finally Ringu spoke. "Grubbs Sahib said the true God hates sin. I have stolen the music box. Do you think that was a sin?" He had a lot to think about.

Slide 4

All was quiet except for the sound of night birds calling in the forest. The two boys got really sleepy. Let's pretend we are very sleepy. Rub your eyes. Stretch. Yawn. (*Do with children.*) Soon Ringu and Battu fell asleep.

Suddenly Ringu woke up. He couldn't see very well because of the darkness but as he scanned the field, he thought he saw something move in the moonlight. Ringu's sleepy eyes were suddenly not so sleepy anymore. He studied the field carefully.

Yes, there was an animal there. He stared intently into the darkness, trying to see what it was. It was too big to be a jackal or hyena. It moved slowly. Ringu nudged his brother.

"What is it?" Battu mumbled, half asleep.

"I don't know," Ringu spoke softly. "There's a big animal on the other side of the field."

Just then the animal stepped out from the shadows of the forest. And in that instant Ringu thought he saw black stripes covering a large orange animal's body. What do you think it was? (*Allow response.*)

Slide 5

“A tiger! I think it’s a tiger!” he whispered.

At that moment Battu sprang to a sitting position. “Are you sure?” He clutched his brother’s arm. “Was it really a tiger?”

“I—I’m not sure.” They saw the shadowy form turn slowly as if looking right at them. Ringu gasped. He saw the animal’s big, bright, greyish-blue eyes shining in the moonlight. It seemed like the tiger was staring right at them!

Just then the animal disappeared into the darkness.

“That was a tiger!” Ringu shuddered.

How would you feel if you were Ringu or Battu?

(Allow response.) They were terrified! Ringu and Battu huddled together, watching the forest, anxiously waiting for the night to pass.

With the first gray light of dawn the two boys ran toward the village.

Everyone stand up and pretend to run back to the village! *(Do with children.)* Thank you. You may sit down.

As they neared home, they saw a man running toward the village.

Slide 6

“News! I have news!” he was shouting.

Ringu’s father quickly came out of his house. Others rushed from their homes to hear.

“During the night a man in the next village was taken by a tiger!”

“Who? When? How?” Questions flew from every direction.

“We saw the tiger!” gasped Ringu to his father.

An old man spoke. “An ox must be killed near the water hole so the tiger will smell the blood and come to eat the ox. The hunters must wait in a tree nearby and kill the tiger.... Tonight!”

Ringu’s father ordered three men to go to the forest near the water hole where the animals drank. They would build a platform high in a tree where the hunters could wait. Other men would kill an old ox by the water hole as bait.

“I will take my gun and a flashlight. Two men will come with me and my son, Ringu. We will wait up in the tree until the tiger comes.”

How do you think Ringu felt? If you think he was afraid, show me your afraid face. If you think he was proud, clap your hands three times. *(Allow response.)* If you looked afraid or clapped your hands, you are correct!

Ringu was proud that his father thought he was old enough to help hunt the tiger but he was frightened too. Many things could go wrong. What if something happened and the tiger killed him? He remembered the chills and sick feeling in his stomach when he saw the tiger the night before.

Then he saw Mr. Grubbs coming down the road.

Slide 7

“What’s the excitement, my friend?” asked the missionary.

“We are getting ready for a tiger hunt.” Ringu tried to sound brave but his voice was shaky.

“A tiger hunt!” exclaimed Mr. Grubbs. “And are you going to go with the men?”

Ringu nodded his head.

“You don’t look very excited,” commented the missionary. “But I would be afraid too. Tigers are dangerous.”

“A tiger could eat me,” Ringu gulped. “Just like the evil spirits.”

A concerned look flashed across Mr. Grubbs’ face. He spoke earnestly. “Ringu, I am going to tell you a story about something that happened when Jesus Christ, God’s Son, lived on Earth. There was a man who had evil spirits living inside of him. The man ran away from home and went to live in the place where they buried dead people. The evil spirits made him do terrible things. The people fastened the man’s hands and feet with iron chains because they were so afraid of him.”

Ringu nodded his head. He would be afraid of such a man too.

Would you be afraid of a man like that? *(Allow response.)* I know I would!

Mr. Grubbs continued, “But the chains could not hold this man. The evil spirits gave him such strength that he broke the chains!”

Ringu shuddered. These were powerful evil spirits!

“Then Jesus came to the man. He commanded the evil spirits to leave and immediately the man was free. The evil spirits had to obey the command of the Son of God, Ringu!” Then Mr. Grubbs read to Ringu from the Bible. *(Read Psalm 124:8.)* “The Lord is another name for God, Ringu. Whenever you need help, call to Him, He is more powerful than anything—even the evil spirits!”

“Do you know you have sinned, Ringu? The paper I gave you explains that everyone in the whole world has sinned. That includes you. It includes me, Ringu. I have done bad things too.”

Ringu didn't answer. He knew he had stolen the harmonium and other things. He lied and worshipped false gods, but the sahib? Ringu couldn't imagine this man doing anything wrong.

"Ringu, God hates sin but He loves you. If you don't ask forgiveness for your sins, you will be separated from God now and forever. Remember the pictures I showed you? God sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus, to Earth to take the punishment you deserve for your sins. The Lord Jesus died for you, Ringu. He didn't deserve any punishment but He took yours because He loves you. Then to prove He was the Son of God, Jesus rose again from the dead on the third day."

Ringu thought about all his fears. He knew he needed to have Jesus. He looked straight into Mr. Grubbs' eyes. "I know you are telling me the truth. What do I have to do?"

"You must receive Jesus as your Savior," answered Mr. Grubbs.

Ringu believed that Jesus died and rose again to save him from his sins. He received Him as his Savior! At that moment Ringu's sins were taken away! He was forgiven! Then Ringu and Mr. Grubbs bowed their heads and prayed. It gave Ringu a strange feeling to be talking to the unseen God. Yet he knew God heard him.

When they finished praying, Mr. Grubbs said, "Ringu, you can always talk with God and ask Him for help. You can even ask Him to help you with the tiger hunt tonight. Remember, our help is in the name of the Lord."

Ringu touched the twisted string he had worn around his neck his whole life. He had been taught that he must wear the string to be protected from the evil spirits. "So I don't need this anymore?"

"That's right, Ringu. The string that you wear has no power. Only God has power over the evil spirits."

Slide 8

Ringu knew what he must do. With a tug he snapped the string and threw it away.

Later in the day when Ringu was in the house, Battu looked at him and asked, "Ringu, where is your charm? You don't have it on!"

Ringu caught his breath. He didn't look up at his mother but he knew she had stopped her work by the fire. From the corner of his eye he saw his father stop in the doorway. Ringu looked around and saw them all looking at him, waiting for an answer.

The sahib told me of the true God, Ringu thought. My family needs to know about Him too. But what will they think?

Swallowing hard, Ringu answered, "The sahib's God loves me and sent His Son to die for my sins. From now on I am going to serve Him. He loves you too and..."

His father interrupted. "Stop right there! That is not the way of our people. When you are older, you will know better. We will *not* believe in this unseen God!" He frowned and turned away.

Ringu looked over as Battu moved away from him. "I don't want to be near you. The evil spirits will be angry at you. They could get me too!"

Ringu stood tall. "Sahib told me that Jesus is more powerful than the evil spirits. They can't hurt you if you trust Him as your Savior."

"No! Lies!" Battu snapped. "And just see if He helps you tonight!"

Tonight—the tiger hunt! Ringu unwrapped his turban, removing the paper with God's words. *I can't read the words for myself yet, he thought, but Sahib told me I can talk with God anytime. I will ask for help tonight on the tiger hunt! Our help is in the name of the Lord!*

Cliffhanger

What will happen during the tiger hunt? Will Ringu get hurt? Come back tomorrow to find out what happens!

Review Questions

1. What did Grubbs tell the villagers about Jesus Christ? (*He died to take their punishment for sin.*)
2. What happened to Grubbs' harmonium? (*Ringu and Battu stole it.*)
3. What did Ringu and Battu see while guarding the field? (*A tiger.*)
4. What did Ringu's father decide to do about the tiger? (*Take Ringu and two men on a tiger hunt.*)
5. Who did Grubbs say could help Ringu on the tiger hunt? (*God.*)