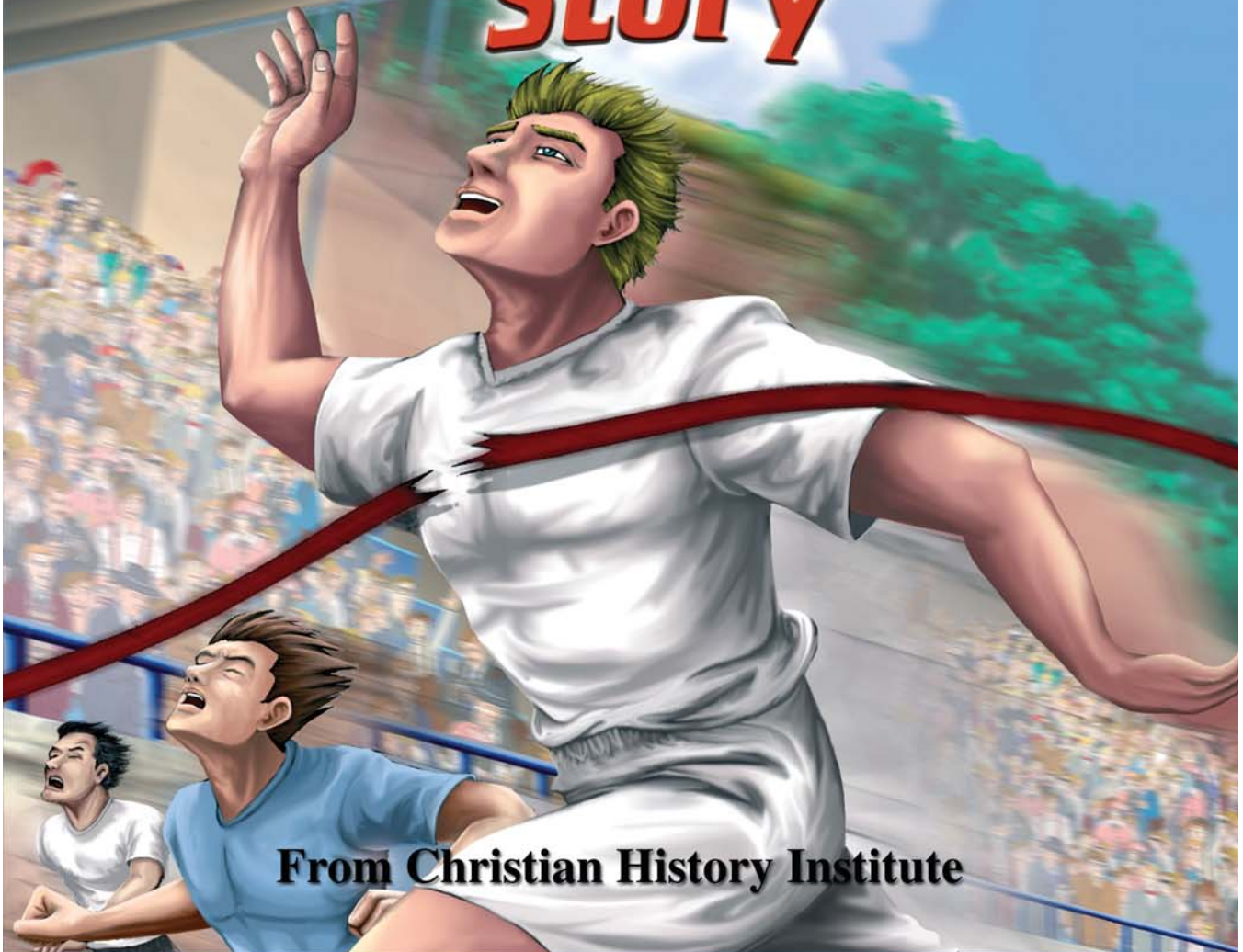




THE
TORCHLIGHTERS
HEROES OF THE FAITH

Leader's Guide for the DVD

The
Eric Liddell
Story



From Christian History Institute

L E A D E R



Table of Contents

Introduction to the Torchlighters Series	3
Synopsis of <i>The Torchlighters: The Eric Liddell Story</i>	4
Teaching Plan for <i>The Eric Liddell Story</i>	5
Session 1 - <i>Athlete in Training</i>	6
Session 2 - <i>At the Starting Line</i>	7
Session 3 - <i>Running Your Best Race</i>	8
Session 4 - <i>Pass the Baton</i>	9-10
Mini Olympic Outreach Event	11-12
Letter to Parents	13
The 20th Century World of Eric Liddell	14
Chronology of Eric's Story	15-16
The Main Players in the Eric Liddell Story	17-18
Additional Materials	19
Torchlighter Episodes	20
Answers to Student Handouts	21



Introduction to the Torchlighters Series

Torchlighter: *One who commits to serving God
and passing on the light of the Gospel,
even if the going gets tough.*

Kids today have no shortage of heroes. From Hollywood celebrities, to music artists and sports figures, it would seem that there are plenty of heroes to go around. Many of the heroes being offered up by popular culture are teaching children that physical perfection, financial success, and fame are the most important goals in life. The morals and values presented by these heroes are often in direct opposition to the standards parents want to pass on to their children. So, while there is no shortage of heroes, there is a dreadful shortage of heroes worth emulating.

The Torchlighters video series has been created to offer children real heroes that are worth emulating. The heroes we choose to portray have lived truly great lives—lives marked by moral depth, strength of character, and an unswerving commitment to faith. By sharing in their struggles and small steps of obedience, we are all challenged to live lives of faith. It is our sincere desire that as children get to know these “torchlighters,” they will be challenged to follow in the footsteps of the greatest torchlighter of them all, Jesus Christ.

Learn more about the mission behind this new series at

www.torchlighters.org



Synopsis of *The Torchlighters:* *The Eric Liddell Story*

Eric Liddell is fast. In fact he is the fastest runner in all of Scotland, winning race after race. This national hero with an easy smile has captured the country's heart, and they can't wait to see him take on the world in the 1924 Paris Olympics. Eric's coach is training him hard for his very best event, the 100-meter sprint, in which he is expected to win a gold medal. Eric's got talent, fame, and a bright future as a star athlete. But Eric has something else that is even more important to him: Faith.

Eric's goals go beyond winning local or national races. They go beyond even the International Olympics. Eric's main goal is to serve and follow God, no matter what the cost. One day he hopes to become a missionary to China where he lived for his early years and where his parents still serve. Eric will not let anything or anyone come between him and God.

When Eric and his coach learn of his acceptance into the Olympics, a conflict is quickly noticed. The time trials for Eric's race are on a Sunday. Eric's desire to keep the Sabbath holy means he does not race on Sundays. He has always kept the Lord's Day for worship and rest, and he is not going to change just for the Olympics!

The people of Scotland are outraged. The golden boy falls quickly out of favor, as their hopes for Olympic gold are dashed. No matter how the public pressure mounts, Eric will not compromise his principles. Finally a solution is found. The Olympic committee agrees to allow Eric to compete in two other events, which do not take place on a Sunday: the 200-meter and the 400-meter races. Though he faces tough competition and is somewhat out of his league, Eric surprises the world with a gold medal win and new world record in the 400 and a Bronze in the 200. Eric returns as a national hero!

Following the Olympics, Eric's fame spreads. He uses his many speaking engagements to share his faith, while living the life of a celebrity. But, in 1925 Eric leaves all that behind to return to China as a missionary. Eric and his wife serve for 20 years. When the horrors of World War II reach them, they continue to follow God. While his wife cares for their children, Eric faces danger to rescue and help the wounded, sharing his faith all the while. Eric continues to bear a strong witness even as he is marched off to a concentration camp for "enemy nationals."

Eric Liddell is known around the world as a man of conviction. His athletic achievements gained him recognition for his day, but his choice to put God first has made him a hero for all time.





Teaching Plan for *The Eric Liddell Story*

1. PREVIEW *The Eric Liddell Story* before showing it to your students. This will help you to recognize major themes and teachable moments that occur throughout the program. In addition, you will gain a better understanding of the flow of the story and will be equipped to answer questions the kids may have. Major teaching themes presented in this video and study guide include:

- God gives the gifts, but we must develop them in order to serve Him better.
- When we give our best to the Lord, he builds on it, using it to His glory.
- Good sportsmanship is a reflection of our Christian values.
- God wants to be our first priority, and other interests must always be kept in perspective.
- We need to obey God in the small things if we want to be faithful in the big things. Small sins can snowball into big ones.
- Our rewards on earth pale in comparison to those we will have in heaven. We should store up treasures in heaven.
- Use your gifts for God. Shared interests help us to form genuine relationships with others.

2. REVIEW the Supplementary Information. Become more informed on this true story by reading through the supplemental materials we have provided in this guide. The sections entitled “The Early 20th Century World of Eric Liddell,” (page 14), “Chronology of Eric's Story” (pages 15-16) and “The Main Players in the Eric Liddell Story,” (pages 17 -18) will help fill in details of Eric Liddell's life and prepare you to answer questions. It is also recommended that you view “Champion of Conviction,” the documentary included on your DVD, featuring interviews with those who knew Eric.

SELECT AND PREPARE TEACHING MATERIAL

Follow the 4 lessons plans we have provided, or mix and match the materials in a new way. All material is reproducible and designed to help children apply the teaching themes. Be sure to consider the age of your students and the time you have available. Also provided are ideas to hold an Olympic Fair as an outreach event. This event could be used as an opening or closing for your series on Eric Liddell. See pages 11-12 for these plans.

4. VISIT www.torchlighters.org. The materials in this guide and the Student Pages are just the beginning. Visit our website for other free resources, such as unique ministry ideas, publicity posters, interactive Kids Zone, and the “Carry the Torch” theme song, craft and relay! If you are planning a teaching series based on *The Torchlighters*, consider using the theme song, craft, and relay as part of an introductory session focused on the question “What is a Torchlighter?”

Are you planning a *Torchlighters* showing or event?

Publicity is easy when you download free posters at

www.torchlighters.org



Session 1 – Athlete in Training

FOCUS: Developing your spiritual walk takes commitment and sacrifice, like that of an athlete.

- **TRAINING TIME!** — Set up various exercise stations around your room (jumping jacks, sit ups, push ups, etc). Lead the class in a few simple stretches and then allow students five minutes to visit the various stations to “do some training.” Encourage them to work hard, perhaps even break a sweat. Bring the class together to discuss: *Which exercises were hard? Why would anyone bother to exercise if it is difficult? What is the difference between casual exercising and serious training?*
- **DISCIPLES IN TRAINING PUZZLE** — Say: *Training your spiritual side can be a lot like training your body.* Use p. 3 in the student workbook to help kids discover various ways they can train their spiritual side. Use the answer key on page 21 if children need help.
- **TEN COMMANDMENTS REVIEW** — Divide your class into teams of 4 or 5 students. Give each team three minutes to complete p. 4 in the student guide on the Ten Commandments. Optional: Share the story of God giving the Commandments found in Exodus 19-20.
- **PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS** — Bring something you treasure from home. Explain to the class why this item is special to you. Use p. 5 in the student guide and have students draw a picture of something that is special to them. This could move beyond objects and into more important things, like friends, family, talent, reputation etc. Use the questions on page 5 in the student guide to lead discussion.
- **CLOSING** — Say: *Next time we will see a video about a famous athlete who was also a Christian. Eric Liddell trained both his physical body and his spiritual side, but one day he had to make a hard choice.* Show the video teaser as a preview. Remind students to invite friends to next week's video on Eric Liddell. Close with prayer, asking God to help the students try one new spiritual discipline this week.

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.



Session 2 – At the Starting Line

FOCUS: Decide to obey God no matter what it costs.

- **REVIEW** concepts covered last time: *Building our spiritual life, the Ten Commandments, and “precious possessions.”*
- **INTRODUCE THE VIDEO** — Say: *Today we will see a video about Eric Liddell. Eric was a gifted runner and a committed Christian. As you watch this story, I want you to look for one important decision Eric had to make in his life.*
- **SHOW** the 30-minute program *The Torchlighters: The Eric Liddell Story*.
- **QUESTIONS** — Allow students time to process the film and ask questions about flow and content.
- **DISCUSSION** — Ask: *What important decisions did Eric have to make?* (Possible answers include his choice to not run on Sundays, his choice to leave a life of fame to go to China, and his choice to stay in China under dangerous circumstances.) Select more questions from the “Dig into the Story” and “Dig Deeper” sections (pp. 8 and 9 in Student Guide).
- **ERIC GOES TO CHINA (p. 11 in Student Guide)** — Use this resource to help students understand the price Eric paid to follow God's call on his life.
- **PARENT LETTER** — Distribute this letter to help parents understand this torchlighter and the lessons you are sharing in class. (p. 13 in Leader's Guide)
- **CLOSING** — Say: *Next time we will meet with a Christian athlete.* Lead students in prayer, asking God to help them make faithful choices when faced with difficult decisions.

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.



Session 3 – Focus: Running Your Best Race

FOCUS: When we honor God above all else, we are running our best race.

- **REVIEW** the story of Eric Liddell with Story Mix Up (p. 6 in Student Guide). Ask: *What lessons have you already learned from Eric's life?*
- **CHRISTIAN ATHLETE INTERVIEW (p. 10 in Student Guide)** — Invite an amateur Christian athlete to your room for a class interview. This could be a high school or college athlete or an adult Christian who competed in sports. Use the prepared questions on p. 10 in the student guide to get the discussion going.
- **BIBLE CONNECTION** — Share the story of Daniel found in Daniel chapter 1. In this story, Daniel chooses to consume only vegetables and water, in order to not defile himself with foods that were “unclean.” Discuss what it took for Daniel and his friends to obey God and the results of this choice.
- **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?** — Use the situations portrayed on p. 12 in the student guide to help students think through a faithful response to some “Sticky Situations.” Optional: Have students make up their own “Sticky Situations” based on different commandments.
- **A MOTTO FOR LIFE** — Use p. 13 in the student guide to introduce the idea of a motto. Ask: How could a motto remind us to make good choices? Encourage students to create a life motto. Keep the mottos handy for a craft project in the next session.
- **CLOSING** — Lead students in prayer, asking God to help them make God their highest priority.

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.



Session 4 – Focus: Pass the Baton

FOCUS: Using our talents and blessings in order to pass on the faith.

- **REVIEW** the story of Eric Liddell, along with some of the lessons from previous weeks. Say: *Eric Liddell was a famous Olympian, who used his talent and fame to help others learn about Jesus.*
- **ACTIVE LEARNING OPTIONS** — Choose one or more of these three active learning options to help students understand they each have talents and blessings that can be used to help others learn about Jesus.
 - **Is that a talent?** Set up a variety of stations around your room to represent interests and talents your students might have. For instance: table games, active games (a paddle game, for instance), a puzzle, a music area with a few simple instruments, a reading zone, a writing center, a “Be a Friend” area designed just for having a comfortable chat, and a food prep area (with ingredients and instructions to prepare a simple snack). Allow students some time to visit the stations and choose which three they enjoy the most. Discuss ways these talents and interests can be used to connect with others and share faith with them.
 - **Carry the Paper Torch Relay** - Gather 1 cardboard toilet paper tube per student. These will be the base of the “paper torches.” Cut red and yellow tissue paper into 9 inch squares, to be used as “flames.” Divide the class into two teams, giving each student a cardboard tube “torch,” with no paper “flame.” Give the first student in line a torch with a tissue paper flame already in it. Place the stacks of red and yellow tissue paper at the finish line. The first student will run to the finish, grab 1 red and 1 yellow tissue square and run back. He or she will then stuff the tissue into the “torch” of the next student, thereby lighting the tissue paper “flame.” This student will now carry his torch to the end and bring back two sheets of tissue for the next student in line. The winning team is the first to have all their paper torches lit with the tissue paper flames. Say: *Before every Olympics, the Olympic flame is carried around the world and passed from person to person. If we think of that flame as representing faith, how can this tradition remind us of passing faith from one person to another? How can you use your talents to pass a flame of faith, like our “torchlighter” heroes did?*
 - **Race for the Prize.** Hold a real running race (outdoors if possible) with a big prize for the winner...something like a \$10.00 roll of quarters or a large jar of candy would work well. Give the prize to the winner, without apology. Ask: *How can the winner use his or her fame?* (He can keep it all to himself or he can use his good fortune to bless others.) Encourage the winner to share the prize. Discuss the many blessings we enjoy and ways we can share our good fortune with others.



- **A LIFE MOTTO REMINDER CRAFT** — Using the Christian mottos the children created in Week 3, choose one of the following options to create a Motto reminder:
 - **A Class Banner** — Lead the class in choosing one good motto for the classroom. Use a large piece of felt or heavy fabric along with permanent markers, fabric paint, buttons, glitter, etc to create a banner for your classroom.
 - **T-Shirts** — Purchase inexpensive T-shirts and allow students to design and decorate their own T-shirts, based on their mottos. Use permanent marker, fabric paint, etc. Hint: Place a paper bag or cardboard inside the t-shirts to prevent the markers from bleeding through.
 - **Book Markers** — Purchase pre-cut plain book marks or cut your own from heavy card stock. Students will write their motto on their own book marker and decorate it.
 - **Garden Stones** — Bring in smooth garden stones about 6 - 8 inches across (often available from a local nursery or gardenstore). Supply acrylic paints and brushes. Have students decorate their stones and write their mottos on them. The finished stones could be placed together in a church garden or sent home once they dry. NOTE: To increase durability, apply a spray sealant once the paint is dry.
- **CLOSING** — Ask your class what lessons they remember from this time exploring the life of Eric Liddell. If you plan to hold an Olympic Fair as an outreach event (see pages 11-12), give students information about this. Close this series with prayer, asking God to help students lead their lives as “Torchlighters,” sharing their faith with others.

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.



Mini Olympic Outreach Event

How to use the Mini Olympics: Use this fun outreach event either before or after your teaching series on Eric Liddell. Encourage your students to invite friends and family to participate. Before the children arrive, set up a variety of activity stations. We have included a few ideas below to get you started.

As they arrive, give each child a card with each station listed and a box to check off (or put a sticker on) as they complete the challenge, whether they win or lose. Let them choose the order of the activities they participate in and keep them moving. Provide small prizes at each station or distribute prizes at the end. Once everyone has completed all the stations, serve a snack and either tell the story of Eric Liddell or show the Torchlighters DVD.

Suggested Stations:

1. Watermelon Seed Spitting

- **Materials:** slices of seeded watermelon (at least one per child); 3 large plastic cups (16 ounce) labeled 10 points, 20 points, and 30 points; chalk or a rope to make a starting line; wet wipes for sticky hands.
- **The Game:** Draw a line on the blacktop or use the rope to make a line on grass. Place the large cups at 12 inches, 18 inches and 24 inches from the line, with the 30 point cup being furthest away. As students arrive, give them a slice of watermelon and allow them to try to find seeds as they eat and spit the seeds into the cups. Let the students keep track of their points.

2. The Sunken Treasure

- **Materials:** A kiddie pool filled with about four inches of water; a few bags of marbles spread on the bottom of the pool; several kid-sized chairs sitting around the pool.
- **The Game:** Kids will remove their shoes and socks and take a seat on a chair. They will have 1 minute to use their toes to retrieve the “sunken treasure” (marbles) from the bottom of the pool. This can be done just for fun or as a race to see who can get the most marbles in a minute.

3. Sponge relay

- **Materials:** Four 5 gallon buckets and two large sponges
- **The Game:** Place two of the buckets, filled with water at the starting line and two empty buckets at the finish line. Have the kids line up into two even teams behind the full buckets. The first person from each team puts the sponge into the bucket of water and then runs to the empty bucket to squeeze the water into it. They then return to the line, hand off the sponge to the next teammate, who repeats the action. Once all players from each team have had a turn, the judge measures the depth of the water in each bucket and declares a winner.

4. Water balloon toss

- **Materials:** Water balloons, pillowcases or plastic grocery bags
- **The Game:** participants form two lines, facing each other. One side will have the pillowcases (or bags) and the other will have a pile of water balloons (all should have an equal number.) The kids will be given 45 seconds to toss as many water balloons as they can into their partner's bag.



Mini Olympic Outreach Event, Continued...

5. Tricky Triathlon

- **Materials:** Playground ball, four orange cones, a small, sturdy tricycle, a baseball bat.
- **The Game:** Set up cones in a line about four feet apart. The student will start in the crab position and kick the ball, weaving through the cones to the end of the course. Once he reaches the end, he gets onto the tricycle and rides it back through the cones. Back at the starting line, he stands a bat on the ground, puts his forehead on the top of the bat, runs around it three times in this position, then runs back through the cones as quickly as possible.

6. Tin Can Target Shoot

- **Materials:** 5-10 tin cans. Three tennis balls or a super soaker.
- **The Game:** Kids will try to knock over as many cans as possible using either the balls or the super soaker.

7. Super soaker Dodgeball

- **Materials:** one super soaker.
- **The Game:** one child (or leader) is "it" and several other kids try to dodge the water. Use regular dodgeball rules or make up your own variation.

8. Bail the Boat

- **Materials:** Two large boxes, two sand pails, lots of ping-pong balls or "ball pit" balls.
- **The Game:** Have one or two kids in each box with a pail full of ping pong balls. The object for each person or team is to get as many balls into the opponent's "boat" as possible in one minute. A leader should time this activity as the players throw the balls and bail their boats.

Need more ideas? Try some of these...

- **Bowling** - 10 soda bottles, use a playground ball.
- **Tire Target** - Toss tennis balls into a tire attached to a fence.
- **Hoola hoop contest** - How long can kids keep the hoop from hitting the ground?
- **Ring Toss** - Toss masking tape rings over soda bottles or baby bottles filled with water.
- **Obstacle Course** - Kids will climb over, under, around, through all the obstacles you set up. Be creative and use boxes, cones, hoola hoops, saw horses, etc.
- **Three-legged race**
- **Sack race**
- **Long jump** - how far can you jump?
- **Tug-of-War**

Dear Parents,

Today in Sunday school, your child viewed a Torchlighters video depicting the life of the famous Olympic athlete and missionary to China, Eric Liddell.

Eric Liddell is a terrific role model for children. Many people recall his famous stand in the 1924 Paris Olympics. As Scotland's fastest sprinter, he was expected to bring home the coveted Gold medal. Yet, when Eric learned he would need to race on a Sunday, he refused to participate, preferring to keep the Sabbath as a holy day of worship and rest. No amount of public pressure could sway his resolve. Finally, he was allowed to enter two other races that were not held on Sunday. Though they were not his best events, Eric won gold and bronze medals.

Eric may be best remembered for the Olympics, but his biggest impact was undoubtedly felt by those who never knew him as an athletic superstar: the people of China. Eric served the Chinese as a missionary for twenty years, even as World War II ravaged the country. Facing great danger, Eric rescued the injured, encouraged the downcast, and witnessed to the hopeless.

We hope this experience of learning through one of God's heroes of faith was a meaningful one for your child. Ask your child how Eric kept God as his first priority and used his talents to further the Kingdom. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to share them.

Sincerely,



The Early 20th Century World of Eric Liddell

Eric Liddell and the 20th century arrived at roughly the same time. Eric's Scottish missionary parents, James and Mary Liddell, welcomed him on January 16, 1902 in Tientsin in North China. At the beginning of the century, people in the West thrilled at the glorious possibilities for the next hundred years. They dreamed of overcoming disease, hunger, and ignorance with education and new technological advances. Christians were driven by a vibrant faith that prompted them to try, in God's power, to change the world. They had become socially active in the mid-19th century to overcome slavery, drunkenness, poverty and abuses against the mentally ill and prisoners. They started hospitals and colleges and campaigned for basic rights for women and children.

Many people believed that the 20th century would be the greatest of all human history, a golden era when wars would no longer be fought, and sickness would be overcome by advancements in science and medicine. It popularly became known as "The Christian Century." Of course, many people in the world were still living without the benefits of modern life or the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Thousands of missionaries from the West, especially Great Britain, went to other countries to share their message of salvation as well as introduce the people to better methods of sanitation, agriculture, and medicine. Eric Liddell's parents left their native Scotland to follow in the footsteps of other missionaries from their country, including the great Dr. David Livingstone. Instead of going to Africa, however, they journeyed to northern China.

Although optimism was the rule of the day, the opening years of the 20th century bore witness to the same challenges and evils that had beset humans since the Garden of Eden. Before long, World War I broke out in Europe, resulting in a staggering loss of human life and unprecedented material destruction. The same technologies that people had thought would save the world were unleashed against it to produce terrible new forms of death and devastation. Many of the same people who had heralded the Christian Century now fell into despair about mankind ever improving.

Evangelical Christians had always understood the nature and depths of human depravity. While they may have been disappointed and even discouraged, they continued to work for the coming of Christ's kingdom when everything would be put in order, something no human or government could accomplish. They continued their missionary work to the uttermost parts of the earth in the face of increasing pressures, and persecution.

In China where the Liddell's served, not everyone was pleased with the modernizing, Christianizing presence of the missionaries. Back in 1900, a group of people who opposed foreigners in China, had invaded Beijing and killed 230 of them. It was far worse in other provinces where tens of thousands of Chinese Christians, and about 200 missionaries, were killed. By 1911, the weakened imperial government came to an end. Sun Yat-sen became the first president of the Republic of China and until his death worked to establish control over warlords and communists. The Japanese were a constant threat, vying to take over the vast nation to enlarge their own empire. They launched a full-scale invasion in 1937. In 1943, during World War II, the Japanese established control over Shaochang, including the mission station where Eric Liddell was then serving. He had already sent his wife and daughters back to Canada because of the unsafe conditions. Overworked and malnourished, Liddell became ill and died in February, 1945; the war in Europe would end in April of that year, and the war in the Pacific ended in September. Although the 20th century had turned out to be far from a Christian one, believers like Eric Liddell made a major impact on it for Christ's kingdom.



Chronology of Eric's Story

- January 16, 1902 Eric Liddell is born in Tientsin, China to James and Mary Liddell.
- 1907 At age 5, Liddell leaves China with his older brother, Rob, to be educated at the School for the Sons of Missionaries in Blackheath, England.
- 1918 Liddell is a stand-out athlete, winning the Blackheath Cup.
- 1920 He enrolls at the University of Edinburgh in Pure Science.
- 1922-23 Liddell plays in the Five Nations rugby matches. He delivers a speech to the Glasgow Students' Evangelical Union.
- 1923 He wins the AAA Championships in the 100 and 220 yard events, setting a British record in the former, running it in 9.7 seconds.
- 1924 In the Paris Olympics, he breaks the world record for the 400 meters, running it in 47.6 seconds. He also wins the bronze medal in the 200 meters.
- 1924-25 Liddell becomes only the fourth athlete to win all three sprints at the Scottish Amateur Athletics Association event.
- 1925 Forsaking an athletic career and further glory, he returns to China as a missionary, teaching at the Anglo-Chinese college in Tientsin. He also serves as Sunday School Superintendent at Union Church where his father is the pastor.
- 1928 He competes in the South Manchurian Railway celebrations, winning two events.
- 1930 Liddell wins a victory in the North China championship.
- 1932 He returns to England on a furlough and is ordained as a minister.



- 1934 Liddell marries Florence Mackenzie, the daughter of Canadian missionaries to China. She is ten years younger. Daughters Patricia and Heather are born over the next few years.
- 1937 Eric leaves his teaching position to work in the country. He is based out of Siochang and ministers to the needs of the surrounding villagers, travelling many miles by bicycle and on foot.
- 1941 Amidst increasing dangers to foreigners living in China, Mrs. Liddell and their two daughters leave for Canada, hoping to be reunited with Eric soon. She is pregnant with their third child.
- 1941-1943 Eric continues serving in China.
- 1943 Liddell is interned by the Japanese after their take-over of China. He is instrumental in keeping up the spirits of those in Weihsien Camp. He is a beloved leader, especially of the young people who call him "Uncle Eric."
- February 21, 1945 Overworked and undernourished, he dies of a brain tumor while still in the camp, never having seen his third daughter. The war would end in six months. He is buried at the Mausoleum of Martyrs in Shijiazhuang, China.
- 1981 Eric's Olympic story is made into a popular feature film, *Chariots of Fire*.



The Main Players in the Eric Liddell Story

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. James Dunlop Liddell

The Liddells came from Scotland and served as missionaries in Tientsin, China with the London Missionary Society. They had four children, Robert, Eric, Jenny, and Ernest. Rev. Liddell served as pastor of the Union Church in Tientsin.

Dr. Robert Liddell (1900-1973)

Robert was Eric Liddell's older brother. Also an accomplished athlete, he attended Eltham College and Edinburgh University with his younger, more celebrated, brother. He became a physician and served in rural China as a missionary. When he became ill and had to take a furlough, Eric provided relief at his mission station.

Florence Mackenzie Liddell

Florence first caught Eric Liddell's eye at the missionary compound in China where her parents were serving. She came from Canada and was ten years younger than Liddell. Although their love for each other grew quickly, they took their time getting to know one another and were not married until she finished her nurse's training. They wed in March, 1934. They had two daughters, Patricia and Heather. When Florence became pregnant with their third child, she and Eric decided that it was getting too dangerous for them to stay in China. Florence returned to her native Canada in 1941 with the two girls and gave birth to Maureen there, while Eric continued his ministry in China.

Patricia Liddell Russell (1935-)

Patricia is the oldest daughter of Eric and Florence Liddell. She and her husband, Mervyn, a minister in the United Church of Canada, have served in the Caribbean island of St. Vincent and now reside in Canada.

Heather Liddell (1936-)

Heather is Eric Liddell's middle daughter. Along with her sisters, she resides in Canada.

Maureen Moore (1941-)

Maureen is Eric's youngest daughter, who never met her father.

Harold Abrahams (1899-1978)

Harold was a famous British runner who competed with Eric Liddell in the 1924 Paris Olympics. Because Eric refused to run in the qualifying heats for the 100 meter dash on a Sunday, the event for which he was heavily favored, Abrahams took the gold medal. Eric introduced Harold to Sam Mussabini, who became Abrahams' professional coach. His younger brother, Sir Sidney Abrahams, was an Olympic long jumper.



The Hon. Lt. Col. T.M. Riddell

The Colonel met Eric Liddell in 1923 when Riddell won the mile race at the Scottish Schools Inter-Scholastic Sports competition. Liddell was his hero, and Riddell was thrilled to receive a handshake from the star athlete afterwards. Liddell influenced him to win the Scottish Mile Championship eight times and to excel in representing Great Britain many other times. More importantly, however, he recalled Liddell's influence while participating in evangelistic outreach in Edinburgh and Glasgow to reach young people. Riddell has said, "So much has been recorded about Eric's athletic achievements, but they were, in fact, as far as he was concerned, a catalyst in the formation of his character and in his (mission) "To walk humbly with his God." (The Eric Liddell Center, www.ericliddell.org)

Tom McKerchar

Tom first saw Eric Liddell compete at Edinburgh University's sports day. Although the young man had a strange running style, including going full-out with his head back and mouth wide open, the coach saw great promise in him and took him under his management.

Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925)

Yat-sen helped overthrow the last Chinese dynasty in 1911 and became the Republic of China's first president. He helped to unite many factions during his tenure and worked to modernize the ancient society. After his death, his party could not maintain its tenuous alliance with the communists. Soon the Japanese would invade the nation and rule it until the end of World War II.

Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989)

Hirohito is known in Japan as Emperor Showa. He led Japan through its ambitious climb to become a great world power throughout the early 1900s, including the Russo-Japanese War and Japan's invasion of China. He was reviled in America after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. While many historians believe that Hirohito was merely a puppet of his country's powerful military, newer theories propose that he was at the center of Japan's ruthless pursuit of empire. Following Japan's defeat in World War II, Hirohito was not put on trial for war crimes, and he was permitted to retain the throne. He was, however, forced to relinquish his status among the Japanese as a god.



Additional Materials

– **DVDs** (available from Vision Video at www.visionvideo.com or 1-800-523-0226)

- *Eric Liddell: Champion of Conviction* - Included as a special feature on your Torchlighters DVD, this documentary features interviews with people who knew Eric, including his daughter Patricia.
- *Chariots of Fire* - This Academy Award winning feature film tells the inspiring, true story of two runners of the United Kingdom, Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell. Their fierce, personal competition ends up uniting them in victory in the 1924 Olympics.
- *The Story of Eric Liddell* - This three-part video with author and *Day of Discovery* host David McCasland traces Eric's life from the 1924 Olympics to his years in war-torn China. Includes testimonies from historians, friends, and family. 90 minutes.

– **Books** (available through your local Christian bookstore)

- *Eric Liddell: Something Greater Than Gold* - Janet and Geoff Benge (YWAM Publishing, 1998)
- *Eric Liddell: Olympian and Missionary* - Ellen Caughey (Barbour Publishing, 2000)

– **Magazines** (order through Christian History Institute — www.chinstitute.org or 1-800-468-0458)

- *Christian History* magazine #52 on Hudson Taylor and Missions to China

– **Websites**

- **www.torchlighters.org** - Visit our website to learn about upcoming episodes of Torchlighters. Check out the kids' section for an online quiz and other fun. This is also a great place to give us your feedback and suggest heroes for future episodes.

Give us your feedback:

Christian History Institute values your input. If you have comments or recommendations on the Torchlighters series, please share them through our website at www.torchlighters.org.



The Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith Series

Jim Elliot - Jim Elliot spends his youth preparing to share the Gospel with those who have never heard it. But nothing can prepare him for the dangers and challenges he faces in the jungles of Ecuador. Will Jim and his fellow missionaries ever be able to break through and carry a torch of faith to the remote Auca tribe, determined to attack all outsiders?

William Tyndale - In 16th-century England, translating the sacred Scriptures into English is William's calling. It won't be easy with the English government and the established church planted firmly against anyone who even speaks the Scripture in English. Follow this brave fugitive on a journey of faith as he works to complete his task.

John Bunyan - To stop preaching just to save his own skin is unthinkable for this hero. But, how will his work continue from the confines of a cold, hard prison, while his wife and blind daughter struggle to survive alone? Watch as John serves his Lord in the most trying of circumstances, and writes an all-time best seller, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Eric Liddell - This hero has committed his Sundays to worship and rest, and he intends to keep that commitment. But with all of Scotland begging him to run for Olympic gold, it will be difficult to stand firm. Watch as the fastest man in the world chooses to honor God rather than chase a gold medal. Then watch how God uses Eric to bring the Gospel to China.

Gladys Aylward - With war raging about her and soldiers closing in, the wounded missionary Gladys Aylward sets out on a 100-mile trek over the mountains to a safe haven. But it's not her own safety that concerns her, it's the safety and well-being of the 100 abandoned children in her care. Watch as Gladys' strength and faith are stretched to the limit, all for the sake of the children.

Richard Wurmbrand - In war-torn Romania, there is only one way for churches to get the protection of the government: give their support and allegiance to the ruling communists. Instead, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand chooses to speak up for Christ. When Richard's choice lands him in a communist prison, his faith and witness are tested to the limits. See how this Torchlighter's amazing story continues to impact the world today.

Perpetua - In the days of the Early Church, this young mother and new believer is imprisoned, charged with being a Christian, a traitor to the Roman gods. A simple offering of incense to the gods would set her free. Will she remain true to her new faith in Jesus?

Amy Carmichael - As she makes her rounds preaching in the countryside of India, Amy learns of the terrible plight of the temple girls. These girls are given to the temple "gods" at a very young age, never again to taste freedom. Though she is warned repeatedly, there is nothing she can do, but Amy will not give up. Can this determined missionary and her team work against entrenched customs and superstitions to free a special girl named Preena?

William Booth - This hero is determined to bring the life-changing Gospel to London's worst neighborhood, the East End. But when the local pub owners realize some of their best customers are becoming Christians, they hire big strong thugs to get rid of the preacher once and for all. Watch as William's ragtag band of followers marches into the East End with Bibles and Prayer as the weapons of choice. William's legacy lives on through The Salvation Army.

Samuel Morris - Since his father can no longer meet his captors' ransom demands, young Prince Kaboo knows he is to be tortured until death. But when a blinding light appears and the ropes that bind him fall away, a heavenly voice urges him, "Run, Kaboo, Run!" The dramatic events that follow lead the boy prince to take the new name "Samuel Morris." Nothing will stop Samuel from sharing his growing faith with all who will listen.



Visit www.torchlighters.org for resources and up-to-date information on new releases.



Answers to Student Handouts

Disciple in Training Puzzle, page 3

Pray Praise

Church Bible Forgive
Study

Give Worship

Ten Commandments, page 4

- I. I am the LORD, your God, you must have no other Gods before Me.
- II. Do not make any idols and do not worship any idols.
- III. Do not misuse the name of the Lord.
- IV. Honor the Lord's Day by keeping it holy.
- V. Honor your father and your mother.
- VI. Do not murder.
- VII. Do not commit adultery.
- VIII. Do not steal.
- IX. Do not lie.
- X. Do not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Story Mix-Up, page 6

3		2	
6		7	
5		4	
8		1	

Eric Goes to China, page 11

Eric Goes to China

When Eric left Scotland and went to China, he knew he would need to leave behind some very precious things. Match up each item with Scotland or China to show what Eric took with him and what he left behind.

Privileged Position		Determination
Friends	Safety	Courage
Family	Fortune	Talent
Security	Fame	Faith

A Motto For Life, page 13

Swifter, higher, stronger
Christ for the world for the world needs Christ.