

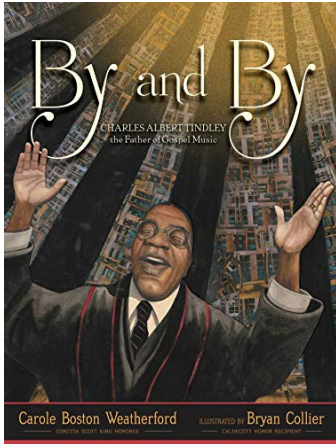


Story Time:

Family Activity Sheet

Enjoy the story of gospel composer and preacher Charles Albert Tindley by award-winning author, **Carole Boston Weatherford**.

By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music



Synopsis: Charles Albert Tindley was born free when many around him were enslaved. As a boy he heard spiritual songs that made him want to learn how to read the Gospel for himself. Late at night young Charles taught himself to read from scraps of newspapers. Charles grew up to become a founding father of American gospel music.

[Click here to purchase your copy of **By and By**.](#)

After reading **By and By** consider these questions:

- Charles said his hard life inspired him to write songs of hope. What would a song about your life include?
- What songs make you excited or feel better when you feel sad?
- Charles believed everyone should love each other. What are some nice things you do for other people?

Reginald F. Lewis Museum Connection

Charles Albert Tindley was born in Berlin, Maryland, in 1851 to a free mother and enslaved father. After the Civil War, he moved to Philadelphia. Charles was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1887. After years of serving in different churches, he was appointed to a Philadelphia church. After his death, the church was renamed **Tindley Temple**.

Charles was a noted songwriter and composer of gospel hymns. Over five years, he published 46 hymns. One of Charles' hymns is credited as the basis of the Civil Rights anthem, **We Shall Overcome**.



Family Activity Sheet

Family Sing-A-Long

Listen to 3 of the hymns written by Charles Tindley and performed by Tamba Giles - shorturl.at/pvEI2. On the next page you can read some of the lyrics and sing along. Which of Charles Tindley's songs do you like best? How is this type of music different from other music you listen to?

Write a Song

Write a song with your family inspired by your life. It can be about the people you live with, the activities you do everyday, or your favorite traditions.



Song Inspiration

Create a picture using a blank piece of paper inspired by one of Tindley's songs on the next page. Think about the lyrics. Are there any descriptive words? Did you listen to any of the songs? How did you feel while listening?

Dance Party

Make a playlist as a family. Allow each person to pick one or two of their favorite songs. Then have a family dance party. Dancing is great exercise!

We'll Understand It Better By and By

We are often tossed and driven
On the restless sea of time
Somber skies and howling tempests
Oft succeed a bright sunshine
In that land of perfect day
When the mists have rolled away
We will understand it better by and by

By and by when the morning comes

When all the saints of God are gathered home
We will tell the story how we've overcome
For we'll understand it better by and by

I'll Overcome Some Day

This world is one great battlefield,
With forces all arrayed;
If in my heart I do not yield
I'll overcome some day.
I'll overcome some day,
I'll overcome some day;
If in my heart I do not yield
I'll overcome some day.

Both seen and unseen powers join

To drive my soul astray,

But with God's Word a sword of
mine,

I'll overcome some day.

I'll overcome some day,

I'll overcome some day;

But with God's Word a sword of
mine,

I'll overcome some day.

Stand by Me

When the storms of life are raging
Stand by me
When the storms of life are raging
Stand by me
When the world is tossing me
Like a ship upon the sea
Lord who rules the wind and water
Stand by me

In the midst of tribulation

Stand by me

In the midst of tribulation

Stand by me

When I do the best I can

And my friends misunderstand

Stand by me

