

FAITHFULNESS
—UNDER—
FIRE
—THE STORY OF—
GUIDO DE BRES

BY WILLIAM BOEKESTEIN | ILLUSTRATED BY EVAN HUGHES



Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Guido de Brès

Suspect is tall, pale, rather thin with a long face and a reddish beard. He looks disheveled in his black coat.





Guido de Bres (pronounced GEE-doe de Bray) was born in 1522 in a city of Belgium called Mons.

Guido was born into a very different time from you and me. His entire life would be very difficult because of the violent struggle between the old Roman Catholic Church and the young Protestant church that Guido would later help lead. In fact, in the year that Guido was born, the king made strict rules against anyone worshiping God differently from the Roman Catholic Church. Anyone breaking these rules would be punished severely.

Like many men of the town, Guido's father was an artist who painted beautiful glass windows for churches. When Guido was old enough, he began learning from his father to be a glass painter.