



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions
Level 1, Quarter A—William Carey

Integrate these questions and activities into your **DiscipleLand** Missionary Biography time. Expand your children's understanding of each story segment.

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1A—Missionary Biography

William Carey

Teacher Intro—WILLIAM CAREY (1761—1834)

Lest we forget how important childhood is in God's economy, consider William Carey. Born in England in 1761, he showed signs of genius as a young boy—reading, learning complicated math and languages, all on his own. He had no formal education and spent years as a cobbler. William later became a pastor and felt God direct him to India. He had taught himself Indian languages and worked seven years before the first Hindu converted to Christianity. Eventually William was able to start a college for Indian Christians. For forty-one years William Carey labored in India before his death at the age of 72.

Lesson 1—Beginnings

Read the story from page 12 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Learn all you can as a child, you never know how God will use it later in your life.

Discussion Questions:

William Carey lived in England. Show your class where England is located on a map or globe.

Help students understand how long ago William Carey lived. When William was a teenager, America had just signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

As a teenager, William learned how to be a cobbler. What do you think a cobbler makes? Have everyone look at their shoes and talk about how today most shoes are made by machines.

William's favorite book was about an explorer. What is your favorite book about?

William loved to learn. He read and learned about explorers and other languages. What things do love to learn about?

William had to teach himself, he didn't go to school. What are some things that you have taught yourself? What are some things that you need others to teach you?

God used the love of learning to help William as a missionary. Later in his life, William used the languages that he learned as a child. William's fascination with explorers was useful when he took his family far away to India. How might God use what you are learning right now, later in your life?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of talents and interests that God could use later in their lives.

Have each child draw a picture of all the things he or she likes to do. Talk about the talents and strong interests that each child has. Pray with the children and ask God to help the students learn things that will help them as adults.

Lesson 2—From Cobbler to Pastor

The story so far... **William Carey loved to learn and taught himself about explorers and other languages. He became a shoemaker.**

Read the story from page 18 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Listen to what God says.

Discussion Questions:

Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8 to the children. **William listened to what God said in the Bible. He knew that Christians were to go and tell people everywhere about Jesus. If you could go tell people anywhere in the world about Jesus, where would you go?**

Who are some of the people that you listen to?

William discovered that some of the other pastors that he listened to weren't telling him the same thing that God was telling him. Who did William choose to listen to—God or the pastors? Would you listen to God or other people?

What are some ways you could show that you are listening to God?

William listened to God. God speaks to us in lots of ways. What are some of the ways God speaks?

God doesn't make us listen, He lets us choose to listen to Him or not. Will you choose to listen to God this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to listen to God.

Have the students draw a picture of them listening to God. It could be a picture of reading the Bible, listening to the pastor, etc. Pray with the children and ask God to help them hear what He has to say to them this week.

Lesson 3—The Voyage

The story so far... **William Carey became a pastor. He knew that God wanted Christians to go around the world and tell others about Jesus, but many of his pastor friends disagreed with him. William listened to God and decided to go to India.**

Read the story from page 24 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: When we obey God, we can be happy even when things are tough.

Discussion Questions:

Show the children where India is located on a map. Have the children use their fingers to trace the water route from England to India.

Travel wasn't easy back in William Carey's time—no airplanes. William and his family took a long boat ride to India. Have you ever been on a boat? The boat ride took many months. Would like to be on a boat for many months? Why or why not?

Mrs. Carey cried on the boat because she left her home and friends in England. Do you know anyone who has moved to a new country? How did they feel about moving? What could you do to help someone who is new to your country?

William's family got seasick. Have you ever been seasick? Do you think they ever wished that they hadn't obeyed God?

It was hard for William and his family to obey God, but it was worth it. When was it hard for you to obey God?

On the long boat ride, William practiced the Indian languages he had learned. What do you like to do on a long trip?

When the Carey family arrived in India, what did they do?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to obey God.

Have the students draw a picture of a boat in the water. On the board, write the words "Obey God." The kids can write this on the boat as a reminder for them to obey God just like William Carey's example in today's story. Pray with the children and ask God to help them obey Him this week.

Lesson 4—The Adventure Continues

The story so far... **William Carey obeyed God and took his family on a long boat ride to India. The journey was long and hard, but the Carey family praised God when they arrived in India.**

Read the story from page 30 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Be thankful to God.

Discussion Questions:

When the Carey family got off the rowboat and stood on the shore in India, they thanked God. What things might they have thanked God for?

William's family rode in a horse-drawn carriage. Have you ever ridden in a horse-drawn carriage?

After the long trip, the Carey family was given food and tea. In India, the tea is called "chai." Adults and children drink chai. Do you think you would like a cup of chai?

William Carey was tricked and lost the money he had brought for a home. Do you think William felt thankful then?

Even when bad things happen, we can choose to be thankful. William found a smaller home in a poor part of town. He could be thankful that God provided a place for him where he could get to know the people who needed to hear about God. When have you chosen to be thankful, even when things didn't go the way you wanted?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be thankful to God.

Have the students draw a picture of things for which they are thankful. Pray with the children and ask God to help them be thankful this week.

Lesson 5—Indigo Plant Manager

The story so far... **The William Carey family thanked God as they walked on the shore of India. William was tricked and lost most of his money to buy a house. He was thankful to be able to find a small house in a poor area.**

Read the story from page 36 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Don't worry about what others think—live your life to please God.

Discussion Questions:

William found a job in India. He was the boss where the Indian men make the color blue (indigo). Why did William get the job? When did William begin to learn languages? Do you think he was glad that he learned languages as a kid?

William's young son died. Do you think William felt like giving up and going home? Would you? Perseverance means to keep going, even when you feel like quitting. How do we know that William persevered?

Did the Indian people worship William's God?

Even though no Indians believed in Jesus, William Carey kept on preaching and even translated part of the Bible into the languages spoken in India.

William Carey and many other missionaries are wonderful examples of sticking with something even when it is tough. What is something that you keep on trying to do, even though it is hard? Do you ask God for help?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to persevere.

Have the students draw a picture of something that is hard to do, but with God's help they can persevere. Pray with the children and ask God to help them persevere this week.

Lesson 6—Finding a Place to Be Safe

The story so far... **William works with the Indian men. They worship many gods. Even though it is hard, William continues to preach and translate the Bible into the Indian languages.**

Read the story from page 42 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: We can care for others the way God cares for us.

Discussion Questions:

William cared about the Indian people. He showed that he cared by translating the Bible so the Indians could read about God in their own language. What are some ways that you can show that you care for someone?

Many people didn't want William to tell the Indians about Jesus. How do you think that made William feel?

William got a letter saying many new missionaries were coming. How do think William felt when he read that news?

Sometimes we forget to look for ways that God cares for us. God showed he cared for William by moving William and his family to a safe place for missionaries. What are some ways that God shows that He cares for you?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to show that you care for someone.

Have the students fold a paper into a card and decorate the card with pictures, stickers or glitter. Each child can give the card to someone to show that he or she cares for that person. Pray with the children and ask God to help them care for others this week.

Lesson 7—It Takes a Team

The story so far...**Not everyone wanted William to tell the Indians about God. William cared for the Indian people and continued to work on a Bible in their own language. God cared for William by moving his family to a new area that was safe for missionaries.**

Read the story from page 48 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: When we work together, we can get more done for God.

Discussion Questions:

William's family and the other new missionary families lived and worked together. What would you like about living with several other families? What would you not like about living with several other families?

The missionaries worked together to preach and even started a school. Have you worked together with someone to do something for God? What?

William had been in India for seven years. Ask any seven-year-old children to stand. Does seven years seem like a short time or a long time? Finally, after seven years, two Indian men asked Jesus to be their Savior. How do you think William felt?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to work together.

Have the students work together on a project. You might ask the pastor for ideas or look around your community for something appropriate for your class to work together to do. Ideas: stuff bulletins, make a banner for a hospital ward or nursing home, clean toys in the nursery, etc. Pray with the children and ask God to help them work together to do things for Him this week.

Lesson 8—Trouble and Joy

The story so far...**William's family joins together with other missionary families. By working together, they can help the people of India learn about Jesus. After 7 years of living in India, two Indian men believe in Jesus as their Savior.**

Read the story from page 54 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Keep on working for Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

William spends time with the Indian Christians. Do you spend time with other Christians? What do you do with the Christians?

William baptized the Indian Christians. Have you seen a baptism? Have you been baptized?

William Carey finished the translation of the New Testament in Bengali, a language of India. Do you have a Bible of your own? How many Bibles do you think you have in your home? The people that spoke Bengali were very happy to get a New Testament in their language. Are you happy to have Scriptures in your language? Tell God right now how happy you are!

Mrs. Carey died. How do you think William felt? Do you think William quit being a missionary? No, even though William was sad, he was a hard-worker and kept on working for Jesus in India. What are some ways that you are a hard-worker for Jesus?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to keep working for Jesus.

Have the students make a poster to remind them to keep working hard for Jesus. Let the kids choose a piece of construction paper or cardstock. Write on the paper, "[Name], keep working for Jesus." The children can write their name on the blank and then draw pictures of themselves working hard for Jesus. Pray with the children and ask God to help them work hard for Him this week.

Lesson 9—Scholar and College Professor

The story so far...**William Carey spends time with the Indian Christians. They now have a New Testament in their own language. William's wife dies, but he still works hard for Jesus.**

Read the story from page 60 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: People respect and honor hard workers.

Discussion Questions:

Knowledgeable means to be full of knowledge. What things do you have a lot of knowledge about?

William was very knowledgeable about the Indian people and their ways of doing things. How did he get his knowledge?

Because William was so knowledgeable about Indians, he was respected. Respect means to think highly of, honor or look up to someone. Who is someone that you respect?

People respected William. He started a college and became the college president. Who attended the college?

This college prepared Indian Christians to be church planters and evangelists. Why was it important for the Indian Christians to attend a college? Why is it important for Indian Christians to help start churches in their own country?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a list of people they respect.

Have the students make a list of people they respect. Talk about why they respect each of the people on the list. Let the children take turns praying and asking God to bless the people they respect. Pray with the children and ask God to help them respect others this week.

Lesson 10—From Disaster to Blessing

The story so far...**William Carey is respected because of his knowledge of the Indian people and their ways of doing things. He starts a college for Indian Christians and is the president of the college.**

Read the story from page 66 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Stay faithful to God—even when it is hard.

Discussion Questions:

William's print shop burned down. His print shop printed Bibles. How do you think William felt when he was told about the fire?

Have you ever lost something you had worked hard on? William had worked for many years on the things that were burned. Did William give up and go back to England?

Many people worked together to replace what was burned. Have you ever helped someone fix or replace something?

What does it mean to "stay faithful to God?" How did William Carey stay faithful to God?

People in England heard about William Carey and he became famous. Who are some famous Christians? Why are they famous?

Many missionaries went to India because of William Carey. Would you like to go to India as a missionary someday? What can you do right now to help God's work in India?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to stay faithful to God.

Have the students draw a picture of a Bible and write the word "faithful" on the Bible. Talk about ways they can be faithful to God this week, just like William Carey was faithful to God even though the Bibles he printed burned up. Pray with the children and ask God to help them stay faithful to God this week.

Lesson 11—The End of a Tragic Custom

The story so far... **A fire burned up all the Bibles that William Carey had printed. William and others faithfully worked to replace them.**

Read the story from page 72 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: Be courageous for God.

Discussion Questions:

William tried to stop the Indian people from a bad custom. The bad custom went against what the Bible says. He talked to the governor about the bad custom. Do you think it was easy or hard for William to talk to the governor?

It took courage to say the Indian people were doing something wrong. When have you shown courage?

What are some courageous things you want to do someday for Jesus?

Do you think missionaries today need courage? Why or why not?

William Carey died at the age of 72. He had been in India for 41 years. Do think you could be a missionary for 41 years? Why or why not?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be courageous.

Have the students draw a picture of them doing something courageous for God. Talk about how God can give courage when we need it. Pray with the children and ask God to help them do something courageous for Him this week.

Lesson 12—A Grandchild Remembers

The story so far... **William Carey spent 41 years serving God in India.**

Read the story from page 78 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: We can serve God by serving others.

Discussion Questions:

Why was William Carey famous?

What book did William translate into the Indian languages?

William Carey served the Indian people for 41 years. He served because he wanted to show them God's love. Do you think the Indian people could see God's love in William Carey's life? Can people see God's love in you?

William served because he loved and wanted to serve God. What are some ways that you can serve God this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder about the life of William Carey.

Have the students draw a picture of William Carey. Talk about some of the things he did: taught himself languages, shoemaker, pastor, missionary to India for 41 years, translated the Bible into Indian languages, started a college for Indian Christians, courageously stopped bad customs. Pray with the children and ask God to help them serve Him like William Carey did.