



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions
Level 1, Quarter B—Gladys Aylward

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

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1B—Missionary Biography

Gladys Aylward

Teacher Intro—GLADYS AYLWARD (1902-1970)

Called to be a missionary to China, Gladys followed Jesus to the remote village of Yangcheng where she lived, loved, served, and shared the message of salvation. Gladys Aylward appeared to be insignificant, uneducated, and ordinary in every way, but God used her powerfully for His glory.

Gladys followed in the steps of Moses (Hebrews 11:24-27), choosing to be mistreated along with the people of Yangcheng during the Japanese invasion rather than enjoying the safety and comforts of England. She regarded suffering for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of this world. She persevered, making disciples even under the Communist takeover. She served the Chinese people until her death—looking ahead to her reward. Pray for your students to have the faith to follow Moses and Gladys.

Lesson 1—Everyone Says “No”

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

Big Idea: Choose to trust God, no matter what other people tell you.

Discussion Questions:

Why would people tell Gladys she couldn't be a missionary?

Gladys saved money to be a missionary. What kinds of things do you save your money for?

Gladys told people about Jesus as practice to become a missionary? What do you like to do that takes practice?

God called Gladys to be a missionary in China. What do you know about China?

Gladys trusted God and obeyed Him by preparing to go to China. How can you show God that you trust Him?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual that sparks interest in the country of China.

Use old magazines to make a collage of China. Let kids be creative, but try to stay accurate with information about the country. Pray with the children, asking God to help them trust Him as He leads them.

Lesson 2—Train

The story so far... **Gladys Aylward believes God has called her to be a missionary in China. Even though many people tell her no, she saves her money and prepares to go.**

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

Big Idea: When things go wrong, continue following God's lead.

Discussion Questions:

Show the children where Russia and China are located on a map. **Gladys was traveling on a train through Russia. How many of you have ridden a train?**

Gladys refused to get off the train. She stood up for what she believed in. How can you stay strong for what you believe in?

The train Gladys was riding filled with soldiers. How would you feel riding a train full of soldiers?

Gladys was suddenly alone in the middle of Russia. Did she give up and go back home? Would you have given up or trusted God to lead you?

What are some ways you've seen how God protects you?

God wants us to keep trying to do His will, even when things became hard or scary. Will you keep trying to serve God this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to keep serving God.

Have the students draw a picture of a train at least three cars long. In three of the cars, write "Keep Serving God." Pray with the children, asking God to help them not give up doing the things He wants them to do.

Lesson 3—The Escape

The story so far... **Gladys Aylward was trying to ride a train through Russia to get to China. The train suddenly stopped and Gladys got out and began walking along the tracks.**

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

Big Idea: God protects us from harm in order to achieve His purposes.

Discussion Questions:

Show the children where Russia and China are located on a map.

Gladys made the long trek through Russia. How would you feel knowing you were almost in China?

Gladys was almost kidnapped and forced to work in a factory. How could you trust God in such a scary situation?

A man helped Gladys escape the Russian guards. Who can you count on to help you when things get rough?

Gladys escaped Russia by boarding a boat. Would you enjoy riding on a boat? Why or why not?

God protected Gladys in an amazing way! What are some other ways God protects people?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to trust God.

Have the children draw a picture of a boat in the water. On the board, write the words “Trust God.” Pray with the children, asking God to help them trust Him this week.

Lesson 4—The Inn of the Eight Happinesses

The story so far... **Gladys traveled all the way across Russia and barely escaped being kidnapped! God protected her and she was about to enter China.**

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

Big Idea: God asks us to trust Him during especially difficult times.

Discussion Questions:

Gladys traveled by train, bus, and mule to the Chinese village of Yangcheng. What is your favorite way to travel?

Gladys met another missionary—Mrs. Lawson. Why is it important for missionaries to work together?

Mrs. Lawson and Gladys opened the Inn of the Eight Happinesses. If you owned an inn, what would you name it?

Mrs. Lawson died and Gladys was all alone again. When have you felt really alone? How did you get through that time?

Sometimes a situation can look impossible. That is when it is most important to trust God. Gladys didn't know what would happen to her. How can we be sure God will take care of us?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to trust God.

Have the students draw a picture of the Inn of the Eight Happinesses. Have them write eight things they can trust God to provide. Pray with the children, asking God to help them trust Him even when things seem impossible.

Lesson 5—Gladys the Foot Inspector

The story so far...**Gladys finally made it to China! She started a mission in Yangcheng with Mrs. Lawson. Then Mrs. Lawson died, leaving Gladys all alone...except for God.**

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

Big Idea: God provides new ways to serve Him.

Discussion Questions:

The Mandarin was the ruler of the whole area. Have you met any important leaders?

Why was foot-binding a terrible custom?

How did God show He cared for the Chinese girls?

Gladys became a “foot inspector.” She was glad that she was helping end this injustice. Are there any things people do that you think should be stopped?

Gladys had a new job and a new way to tell people about Jesus. How can you look for new ways to serve God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to serve God.

On a large poster or butcher paper, have the kids draw pictures of different ways to serve God. Challenge them to think of as many as they possible can. Pray with the children, asking God to show them new ways to serve Him.

Lesson 6—The Spirit of the Living God Is in You

The story so far...**In Yangcheng, the Mandarin asked Gladys to help him by becoming a foot inspector. Gladys now had a job and a way to tell people about Jesus.**

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

Big Idea: God protects us when we call on Him.

Discussion Questions:

Why were the guards afraid to go into the prison?

The Mandarin commanded Gladys to stop the prison riot. When have you been asked to do something you thought was too hard to do?

Why did the Mandarin believe Gladys could stop the fighting?

What did Gladys do before she entered the prison? How does prayer help you face difficult situations?

God protected Gladys in a dramatic way and showed His power. How can you show God that you trust Him to protect you?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to show that God protects us.

Have the children cut shield shapes out of cardstock or construction paper. Let them decorate their shields. Write “God protects us” on each shield. Pray with the children, asking God for special protection from harm this week.

Lesson 7—Caring for Orphans

The story so far...**Gladys has worked for the Mandarin in Yangcheng. One day he asked her to stop a dangerous prison riot. Gladys trusted God and stopped the riot without getting hurt!**

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

Big Idea: God wants us to care for others.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Gladys “buy” the little girl from the child-seller?

Gladys was now the mom of a girl she named Ninepence. How do you moms care for you?

Soon, Gladys was caring for many orphans. Why is it important to God that we take care of other people?

Why were Gladys and the orphans going to need to leave the village?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to care for others.

Have the students make “IOU cards” promising a service to another person. It could be a classmate, a neighbor, or a family member. Let them decorate their cards and encourage them to give their cards to the people as soon as possible. Pray with the children, asking God to give them the desire to serve other people.

Lesson 8—The Mandarin’s Decision

The story so far...**Gladys had begun caring for orphans at the Inn of the Eight Happinesses. One day, the Japanese invaded China and bombs fell on the city!**

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

Big Idea: God brings people to Him in all circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

The Mandarin threw a great banquet. Describe the best party you have ever attended.

The banquet was in honor of Gladys. It was like getting an award. Have you ever been honored or received an award? If so, what was it for?

The Mandarin now believed in Jesus! Who do you know who needs to know Jesus? How can you tell him or her?

Why was Gladys so happy about the Mandarin’s decision?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of God’s salvation.

Have the children make a poster, booklet or bracelet outlining God’s offer of forgiveness and salvation. See Good News for Kids on the inside back cover of the Teacher Guide for an outline. Pray with the children, asking God to bring many people to know His Son, Jesus.

Lesson 9—Wanted: Dead or Alive

The story so far... **Everyone in the village had to flee to safety from the invading Japanese. Before they left, the Mandarin announced he had become a Christian!**

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

Big Idea: God's Word directs our paths.

Discussion Questions:

Gladys and the Chinese people hid in caves. Have you ever been in a cave? What was it like?

Gladys was now caring for one hundred orphans! How can you help people in need?

Why was Gladys in danger?

Gladys was very brave. When have you been brave or seen another person show courage?

How did Gladys discover what God wanted her to do? What did she do?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of God's direction.

Have the students make bookmarks for their Bibles. Write "God's Word directs my path" and let kids decorate the bookmarks with a trail/hiking theme. Pray with the children, asking God to guide and direct them with His Word.

Lesson 10—94 Children on a Long Journey

The story so far... **Gladys and her Chinese orphans were hiding in caves. A man came and showed Gladys a "Wanted" poster. Gladys read her Bible to help her decide what to do.**

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

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

Discussion Questions:

Why did everyone travel to Sian?

The journey was very difficult. What would be the hardest part for you on a journey like that?

Sian had no more room for refugees. Everyone must have been very disappointed. When have you been disappointed? What caused your disappointment?

Gladys and the kids were sick, tired, and hungry. Why were they able to keep going?

Gladys remained faithful to God, and God was faithful to her. What are some ways you can show God you want to stay faithful to Him—even when it is hard?

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 Gladys Aylward was faithful and believed God would bring everyone to safety. Pray with the children, asking God to help them stay faithful to Him.

Lesson 11—Jesus or the Communist Party?

The story so far...**Gladys and her 94 orphans endured a long, difficult journey through mountains to reach safety.**

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

Big Idea: Believing in Jesus is more important than life.

Discussion Questions:

Gladys found a home for the children and became very sick. When have you been sick?

Gladys shared the Gospel in many different places. In which places can you share the Good News about Jesus?

Many Communists don't believe in God. Why do you think some people don't believe in God?

Why was it important for the students to say they believe in Jesus? Was it more important than their lives? Why or why not?

The Chinese students knew following Jesus was more important than anything. Do think you could give up everything to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to follow Jesus.

Have the children draw a picture of them following Jesus. Talk about how being Jesus' disciple is the most significant thing they can do in life. Pray with the children, asking God to give the courage to follow Him no matter what they face.

Lesson 12—An Inverted Homesickness

The story so far...**Gladys stayed in China telling the Good News to many different people.**

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

Big Idea: Take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

Why was Gladys Aylward famous?

How did Gladys use her fame to help the people in China?

Gladys wanted to return to China. China had become her home, and she was homesick. Tell about a time you were homesick.

Why did Gladys travel to Taiwan?

What would Gladys say to us, if she were here today?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder about the life of Gladys Aylward.

Have the students draw a picture of Gladys Aylward. Talk about some of the things she did and let them draw their favorite scene. Pray with the children, asking God to help them follow Jesus as Gladys Aylward did.