



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions
Level 1, Quarter C—The Saint Family

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

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1C—Missionary Biography

The Saint Family

Teacher Intro—THE SAINT FAMILY

Many dramatic tales exist about missionary exploits during the last century. Few have so captured the attention of Christians around the world as the one you are about to begin. When Steve Saint was a young boy, his family left America for the jungles of Ecuador to preach Jesus to the unreached Waodani (wow-DAH-nee) tribe. Steve's father, Nate, lost his life for the sake of the Gospel. Steve's aunt spent her life among the same fierce tribe, tirelessly learning the language and translating the Scriptures. Then one day, an amazing thing happened. In the very location where five missionaries were slain, Steve and his sister were baptized—by the same men who killed their father! Years later, Steve took his own wife and children to live and serve among the Waodani. Three generations of Saints and a jungle tribe became one spiritual family, united in Christ.

Lesson 1—God's Trail

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

Big Idea: God's trail leads to heaven.

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever been in a rainforest or jungle? What do you imagine it is like?

Find Ecuador on a map. **Ecuador is in South America. What do you know about South America?**

What kinds of animals do you think live in the rainforest?

The Saint family went to the jungles of Ecuador to live with the Waodani people. How far are you willing to go to follow God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual that sparks interest about the rainforest.

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

Lesson 2—The Yellow Airplane

The story so far... **The Saint family moved from the United States to live in South America. They believed God wanted them to reach out to the Waodani people of Ecuador.**

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

Big Idea: Families stick together to love and serve God.

Discussion Questions:

Steve lived as a little boy with his missionary family. How many of you would like your family to be missionaries? Why or why not?

Steve's father, Nate, flew a small airplane. Have you ever ridden in a small airplane? What was it like?

Steve's mother talked to his father by radio. What do your parents like to talk about?

What did Steve's dad first do every time he came home to Steve? How do you greet your family members?

God wants families to stick together, even in strange places like the rainforest. How can you show your family you love them?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Participate in a rhythmic "sing-song" to thank God for families.

Gather in a circle. Make up a rhythm to the statement "I thank God for my mother/father/brother/sister [name]." Have kids snap or clap as you go around the circle thanking God for a family member. Continue once around the circle or keep playing. Pray with the children, asking God to help them love and serve their family members.

Lesson 3—A Normal Way to Live

The story so far... **The Saint family lived in Ecuador. Steve Saint was the son. His father flew a small, yellow airplane.**

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

Big Idea: God places us exactly where He wants us to be.

Discussion Questions:

Nate and Marj Saint first lived in the United States. Where have your parents lived before?

Nate and Marj joined the Mission Aviation Fellowship. They flew planes to serve God. How else can you use your talents to serve God?

Steve Saint was born in the jungles of Ecuador. How would you like growing up in a jungle?

What did Steve's father do to help missionaries? What did Steve's mother do?

God placed the Saint family exactly where He wanted them to be. Can you think of some reasons God has placed you here right now?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God has a plan.

Have the children draw a map of where they live. They can make the map to any scale they choose (city, country, world). Above the map, have them write "Right Where God Wants Me to Be." Pray with the children, asking God to show them how they can serve Him where they live.

Lesson 4—Looking for the Waodani

The story so far... **The Saint family worked in the jungles of Ecuador, helping other missionaries. Steve was born and raised in Ecuador.**

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

Big Idea: God wants us to tell others about Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

Steve called the other missionaries his aunts and uncles. Do you have good family friends you call aunt and uncle?

Why is it important for missionaries to work together?

The missionaries were looking for the Waodani—a people who had not heard about Jesus. Why is it important to tell people like the Waodani about Jesus?

Is there a group of people you know who need to know about Jesus?

Steve was afraid—he knew the Waodani people were dangerous. What could Steve do to be less afraid for his family?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to tell others about Jesus.

Have the students make bookmarks with Acts 1:8 printed on them. Let them decorate the bookmarks. Pray with the children, asking God to help them tell others the Good News about Jesus.

Lesson 5—Learning to Trust God

The story so far... **The Saint family, along with other missionaries, were looking for the Waodani people to tell them about Jesus. Steve was afraid the Waodani were dangerous.**

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

Big Idea: God asks us to trust Him all the time.

Discussion Questions:

How did Steve's mother help him feel less afraid?

Why was Steve excited?

The missionaries flew their plane with a basket full of gifts. What kinds of gifts do you think show that people want to be friends?

Steve had many questions about what would happen. When you have questions, who do you go to for answers?

Nobody knew what would happen with the Waodani people. Steve and his family chose to trust God. How can you look for new ways to trust God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Play a game about trust.

With the kids, play a simple trust game, such as a short trust walk or falling back into each others' arms. Pray with the children, asking God to show them that He is trustworthy.

Lesson 6—Sad News on God's Trail

The story so far... **Five missionaries, including Steve's father, Nate, had found the Waodani people. They flew Nate's airplane to meet the people and give them friendship gifts.**

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

Big Idea: God is with us during hard times, and death is not the end.

Discussion Questions:

Steve and his family did not hear from his dad. When have you been worried about something?

What did Steve's mother do while they waited?

The Waodani were friendly at first, but then they attacked the men. Why do people sometimes become angry?

Steve's mom explained that his dad was now in heaven with Jesus. How do we know what happens to Christians when they die?

This was a very sad time and a very sad situation. How do you think Steve and his mother coped with their sadness? Who helped them?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that death is not the end.

Have the children draw pictures of what they believe heaven is like. Let them imagine the joy and happiness—do not worry about too much theological accuracy at this age. Write "Death Is Not the End for Christians" above each picture. Pray with the children, asking God to remind them about the joy that awaits us in heaven.

Lesson 7—Another Missionary Saint

The story so far... **The Saint family had received terrible news—the Waodani had killed Nate and his four friends.**

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

Big Idea: God wants us to persevere in His will.

Discussion Questions:

Steve's Aunt Rachel came to visit the family. Do you have any aunts or uncles?

God had sent a vision to Rachel Saint. Why do you think God sometimes sends visions?

After visiting with Steve's family, Rachel realized God's vision was about the Waodani people. Have you ever finally realized something God wanted you to do? How did it happen?

Why did Rachel go to the Waodani people, even after her brother and the other men were killed?

Rachel Saint was patient and kept teaching the Waodani people about Jesus. How can you learn to not give up working for God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Play a game about not giving up.

Have the students compete to see who can write G-O-D over and over again on paper for the longest period of time without a break. If time is a factor, set a limit and congratulate all who make it to the end. Pray with the children, asking God to help them persevere as they serve Him.

Lesson 8—Steve's Waodani Name

The story so far... **Rachel Saint had come to see her family after her brother was killed. She decided God wanted her to minister to the Waodani people, and so she went to live among them.**

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

Big Idea: The Good News about Jesus changes peoples' lives.

Discussion Questions:

Steve spent time with his Aunt Rachel and the Waodani. How do you think Steve learned to forgive the men who killed his father?

The Waodani people had changed. They were no longer angry and violent. Have you ever known anyone who changed? Was it a good change or a bad change?

Steve learned to live like the Waodani people. What would you like learning about jungle life?

Steve wanted to be baptized near Palm Beach. Why was it important to Steve to be baptized there?

The same men who killed Steve's father were now followers of Jesus! Who caused these men to change so much?

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—Star’s Trail

The story so far...**Steve lived with the Waodani and learned all about them. When he became older, he returned to them to be baptized into new life with Jesus!**

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

Big Idea: Following God makes a difference!

Discussion Questions:

God’s trail took Steve back to the United States of America. What is your favorite state in America?

Why did Steve fly back to Ecuador?

Star was Rachel’s Waodani name. If you could have a new name, what would you choose?

What kinds of things did Rachel Saint do to help the Waodani people?

Rachel did so much to help the Waodani people. She followed God and it made a difference! What can you do to make a difference for God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Learn God’s word in another language.

Have the students learn a short Scripture in another language. For example, Psalm 23:1 in German is “Der HERR ist mein Hirte, mir wird nichts mangeln.” Pray with the children, asking God to make their lives count for His eternal kingdom.

Lesson 10—A Big Change

The story so far...**Steve Saint returned to the Waodani as a young man after his Aunt Rachel had died. Rachel made a huge difference for God in the Waodani’s lives.**

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

Big Idea: God remains faithful to the work He has begun.

Discussion Questions:

Why did the Waodani rejoice at Star’s (Rachel Saint’s) death?

What did the Waodani ask Steve? Would you be able to say yes to an invitation like that?

Steve and his family left everything they knew to live with the Waodani. Why do you think Steve thought it was important to go?

Steve’s family had to learn how to live in the jungle. What was different this time about the Waodani they lived with?

Steve’s kids were baptized in the same river Steve was baptized in! How would you feel to be Steve—to think of all that had happened on that stretch of river?

Do Something About It...

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

Have the students draw a picture of a Bible and write the word “faithful” on the Bible. Talk about ways that God is faithful to them, just as He was to Steve Saint and his family. Pray with the children, thanking God for His faithfulness.

Lesson 11—A Better Trail

The story so far...**Steve Saint returned to the Waodani people after his Aunt Rachel died. He and his family spent two years living with them.**

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

Big Idea: Once people become God’s disciples, they can teach others about Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

God told Steve it was time to leave the Waodani. When have you needed to leave somewhere, but wanted to stay?

Why did Steve and Ginny Saint teach the Waodani Christians before they left?

The Waodani learned many things from Steve and his family. What would have been your favorite thing to learn?

Why was Steve sad to leave the Waodani people?

God knows what is best for people. Why was it good that Steve and his family leave? Why are the Waodani people not alone?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to follow Jesus.

Have the children draw a picture of “God’s Trail.” 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—A Vision of Singing Angels

The story so far...**Steve and his family stayed with the Waodani for two years. It was finally time to leave them and let them follow God on their own.**

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

Big Idea: God shows His glory through the actions and sacrifices of others.

Discussion Questions:

Some of the Waodani traveled to see the rest of the world. Where did they go with Steve?

One man, Mincaye, spoke to a crowd about following Jesus. When have you spoken before a group of people?

What happened to Steve’s father and the other four missionaries inspired people all over the world. Why are stories of people who suffer for God called “inspiring”?

Although Steve Saint’s story had a sad beginning, it had a happy ending. What was the happy ending?

Why do you think angels were singing? What did they know?

How can you stay on “God’s Trail” as you continue to grow?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder about the Saint family.

Have the students draw a picture from the story of Steve Saint and his family. Talk about some of the things they did and let kids draw their favorite scene. Pray with the children, asking God to help them follow God’s trail as Steve’s family did.