



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 1, Quarter D—David Livingstone

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

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1D—Missionary Biography

David Livingstone

Teacher Intro—DAVID LIVINGSTON (1813—1873)

“Death alone will put a stop to my efforts!” was the exclamation of the man who died upon his knees in the heart of Africa, praying for unreached people. Such determination as that of David Livingstone can only be understood in the light of Jesus’ words, “I do always those things that please Him.” David Livingstone may be one of the most well-known of all “modern” missionaries, and with good reason. His adventurous spirit, combined with his complete trust in God’s plan and unwavering devotion to the lost in Africa, paints a heroic picture that all children would do well to aspire to. David’s life is proof that our Father in heaven has a well-defined plan for each of His children, and that following that plan leads to life’s completeness or true greatness.

Lesson 1—Determined to Learn

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

Big Idea: Learning and hard work are great skills to develop early in life.

Discussion Questions:

David grew up in Scotland. Show your class where Scotland is located on a map or globe.

Young David worked at a factory. What did the factory make? (The factory made thread and yarn for sewing.) Have the children examine their clothing to identify threads used in stitching hems or decorations on their clothing.

While David was a boy, he had to work longer hours than adults work today. Let’s count around the clock from 6:00 in the morning to 8:00 in the evening. Point to a clock with numbers and have the children count aloud with you. **Would you be able to work at a job for 14 hours?**

When most children were sleeping in bed for the night, what did David do? (He went to school and learned to read and write.)

Why did David choose to learn when other children chose to sleep? (He knew that learning would help him be a missionary someday.)

How can knowing how to read and write help a missionary?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that learning and hard work are skills that God can use throughout a person’s life.

Give each child paper, pencils, and crayons. Have the children fold the paper in half and on one side draw a picture that shows them as a child working hard to learn. On the other half of the paper, let kids draw a picture of themselves as adults using what they learned as children. As they draw, tell how learning and hard work has helped you. Pray with the children and ask God to help them learn the skills they will need throughout their lives.

Lesson 2—God and Science

The story so far...**David Livingstone grew up in Scotland and worked in a factory from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. He chose to attend school for two hours after work. His goal to learn was fueled by his desire to become a missionary.**

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

Big Idea: God gives desires and talents that can be used for His glory.

Discussion Questions:

What did David love to learn about? (David loved to learn about science.) **Do you enjoy science?**

David’s father didn’t think science would help him be a missionary. Sometimes parents have plans or dreams for their children. Do your parents have dreams or plans for you when you grow up? Do you have dreams of what job you’d like to do as an adult?

How did David discover he could use science as a missionary? (He could be a medical missionary in China.)

Read Psalm 139:13-14. **God knows all about you. He knows what you like and what you don’t like because He created you with special interests and talents. As a person grows, he or she can use those interests and talents for God’s glory. David loved science and became a doctor who would help save people’s lives and tell them how to have eternal life by asking Jesus to forgive their sins. What is something you are really interested in or have a desire to learn about? How could God use that interest?**

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God can use your interests and talents.

Trace each child’s hand on a piece of paper. Let the children cut out the hand, write their name on it, and decorate it. Prepare a large piece of poster board or a bulletin board with the words “We’ll Use Our Hands for God.” Talk about the different ways the kids can use their talents for God’s glory. Have each child bring the cut-out hand and put the hand on the poster or bulletin board. Gather the group together and pray for each student to use his or her hands for God’s glory.

Lesson 3—A Missionary Trusts God

The story so far... **As a child, David loved science, but he wondered how science could be used by a missionary. When he learned there was a need for medical missionaries in China, he went to college and became a doctor.**

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

Big Idea: God can use our failures to teach us important lessons.

Discussion Questions:

Why did David move to London? (He went to London to join the London Missionary Society and prepare for being a missionary in China.)

What was one of the requirements to become a missionary? (A missionary was required to preach a sermon.) **What happened when David preached his sermon?** (He forgot the words of his sermon.) **How did David react?** (He was embarrassed and ran out of the church.)

Did that experience end David's opportunity to become a missionary? (No, he was given a second chance.) **What lesson did God teach David from his failure to preach?** (God taught David to trust in Him and rely on His strength.)

David failed but God was able to use that failure to teach David not to trust himself, but to trust God. Have you ever felt like you failed at something? God wants to use our failures to teach us trust in Him.

What happened when David preached again? (David was able to remember his sermon.) **Did David head off to China as a missionary?** (No, missionaries weren't allowed to go to China anymore.)

How do you think David felt when his plan to go to China failed? God doesn't make mistakes. It wasn't a surprise to God; he had a plan for David. Read Jeremiah 29:11 aloud. **What kind of plans does God have for people?** (God has plans to prosper, not harm and give a hope and a future.) **David had learned to trust God and God's plans for his life. Do you think God has plans for your life? Will you trust God's plans for you?**

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God can use our failures to build trust in Him.

Give each child a sheet of white paper and a piece of colored construction paper. Instruct the children to tear the white paper into pieces about the size of a coin. These pieces represent the times we fail. Write the word TRUST on the board. Discuss how God wants to use our failures to teach us to trust in Him. Then have the students glue the white pieces on the construction paper to form the word trust. Have the children gather in a prayer circle with their pictures. As you

pray for the children, go around the circle and let each child hold up his or her picture and say, "I trust God."

Lesson 4—Off to Africa

The story so far... **David failed to preach a sermon—a requirement for becoming a missionary. God used the failure to teach David to trust Him. Later, he preached his sermon but discovered his plan to be a missionary to China would not happen.**

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

Big Idea: God leads us to go where He wants us to serve Him.

Discussion Questions:

What country interested David? (David was interested in Africa.) Show the children where the continent of Africa is located on a map or globe. Have the children trace the route the ship might have taken from England to South Africa.

Africa was a long, long way from Scotland and England. Do you think someday God might call you to go far from your home? Do you think David was afraid to go?

In 1840 as he prepared to get on a boat for the long trip to Africa, David's family prayed for him and read Psalm 121 that tells of God's promise to watch over and protect him. Read Psalm 121. **Have you ever prayed for someone before they took a trip somewhere?**

How do you think David spent his time on the boat?

What things were different in Africa from what David was familiar with in Scotland? (He found different animals, plants, birds, reptiles, and weather.) **Would you like to go to a place that is different from where you live?**

Why didn't David want to stay at the missionary station? (He wanted to be where the African people were that he came to serve.)

God lead David to Africa and then gave him a desire to travel to where the African people lived. Do you think God is leading you, even now as a child? How?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to follow where God leads.

Set out large sheets of paper, pencils and scissors. Discuss the importance of following God where he leads. Since following God usually requires us to walk or move, have the children trace their shoes or feet on a piece of paper. Let the students cut out the tracings and write "I will follow God" on the paper. Pray with the children and ask God to help each child be a follower of God this week.

Lesson 5—Attack!

The story so far...**David arrived in Africa and traveled north to the missionary station. He was disappointed to see few Africans. He and another missionary set off further north to find where the African people lived.**

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

Big Idea: God brings people into our lives so we can share Jesus' love with them.

Discussion Questions:

David didn't understand the Africans as they spoke. Have you heard people speaking a different language? How did you feel when you couldn't understand them?

David decided to learn the language of the tribe. Do you think it was easy or hard for him? Is there a language you would like to learn? What are some ways people learn languages today?

David shared God's love by helping the sick Africans. How can you show God's love to someone?

Lions were a danger to David and the African tribes. What have you learned about lions? When David was injured by the lion, who treated him? (Mr. Edwards listened to David and followed his instructions to treat the wounds.) **Do you think David was scared? How could he show his faith in God now?**

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to show God's love to others.

When the African people looked at David Livingstone, they could see his love for God and his love for them. Give each child red construction paper and two pipe cleaners. If possible, make some 3" heart patterns for the kids to trace. Have the children cut out two hearts. You will need to help kids cut out the centers of the hearts and tape them together to form the front of a pair of glasses. Attach a pipe cleaner to each side of the hearts to make the sides of the glasses. Pray with the children and let each child ask God to help them show His love to others.

Lesson 6—A Wife and Family

The story so far...**David learned the language of the tribe as he treated the sick and wounded Africans. One day a lion attacked David. There was no other doctor, so he gave treatment instructions to the other missionary.**

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

Big Idea: God's plan is for the Gospel message to reach all people.

Discussion Questions:

Did David survive the lion attack? What problem from the attack did he have for the rest of his life? (He couldn't raise his arm above his shoulder.)

Before David arrived in Africa, he had not found a woman whom he thought would be able to endure the hard life in Africa as a missionary's wife. How did God surprise David? (David met a missionary's daughter who had lived most of her life in Africa.)

Who became a follower of Jesus? (A chief who asked for medicine to change his heart.)

Even though no one else followed Jesus, why do you think David was encouraged?

David went to areas of Africa that white people had never gone before. Who did he take with him? (His wife and family traveled with him.) **Traveling through the jungles and deserts were extremely difficult. Would you have wanted to travel with David's family?**

What could David imagine as he looked at the Zambezi River? (He could imagine it as a highway that God could use to bring missionaries to unreached tribes in Africa.) **We know that God wants all people of every language to worship Him. Before they can worship God, someone needs to tell them about Him and His Son, Jesus. God used David Livingstone to help open the door for more missionaries to bring the Good News to Africa.** Talk about any missionaries from your church who serve in Africa. Pray for missionaries to be brave and travel to reach the tribes that still haven't heard the Gospel message.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God loves the world and wants all people to worship him.

Bring in round sugar cookies or any other plain round cookie. Also supply blue and green frosting. Explain that the blue frosting represents the water and green represents the land. Show the kids maps or a globe to help them visualize the water and land that missionaries cross when they take the Gospel message to unreached people. Let the children decorate the cookie to look like a land/water of a continent with oceans. Before eating the cookie, have each child pray for missionaries to take the news of Jesus to people who haven't yet heard about Him.

Lesson 7—God’s Protection

The story so far...**David survived the lion attack and later married the daughter of a missionary. He took his family with him as he explored. When he saw the huge Zambezi River, he imagined it as a highway that God could use to bring missionaries to the unreached people of Africa.**

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

Big Idea: God cares and protects His children.

Discussion Questions:

How do you think David felt when he said good-bye to his wife and children? How do you think his wife and children felt? Today, many children don’t have a father living with them. God is called the Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5). How do you think God helps fatherless kids?

David was anxious to head off on a journey, but he had problem after problem. How do you think David felt when he couldn’t leave on his trip? Later, he realized that God had protected him from harm. How did he feel then?

Why had God keep David in South Africa? (An angry tribe had burned David’s village and would have killed him if he had been there.)

David spent nine weeks with a fever. Have you had an illness that lasted more than a week? David didn’t complain, how did he spend his time in bed? (He wrote journals and descriptions of the things he’d seen.)

When David found men captured by another tribe, he bravely told them slavery was wrong. His bravery came from knowing God would protect him and give him the strength to do what was right. Would you feel brave enough to tell someone they were doing something wrong?

Can you think of a time when God protected you or your family from harm?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God cares and protects.

Give each child a piece of paper, pencil, and crayons. Talk about ways God shows His love by caring and protecting His children. Have the children draw a picture that depicts God caring for them and protecting them. Pray with the children and let them thank God for caring and protecting them.

Lesson 8—The Impossible Journey Completed

The story so far...**David’s trust in God grew as he saw examples of God’s protection. Even when he was sick in bed for nine weeks, he cheerfully filled journals with descriptions of things he’d seen during his twelve years in Africa.**

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

Big Idea: God can do the impossible.

Discussion Questions:

As David traveled he heard a noise like thunder. What made the sound? (Waterfalls.) **What did he name the falls?** (The falls are named Victoria Falls after Queen Victoria of England.) **Have you ever seen waterfalls? Describe them.**

David spent many years trying to go across Africa. It seemed impossible. There were no roads and no maps of the area. Why did David want to make the trip from one side of Africa to the other? (He wanted to open up a path like a highway so that missionaries could travel across Africa.)

David was the first European to make the trip. Do you think he ever felt like it was impossible? What special help did David have? (God.)

Is there something in your life that seems impossible? How can God help?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God can do the impossible.

Have the children fold a paper in half. On one side have them draw a picture showing something they think is impossible for them to do. On the other side kids should draw themselves praying and asking God to help them. Gather the students together and pray for each child to remember to ask God to help them to do what seems impossible.

Lesson 9—Back in England

The story so far... **David discovered a very famous waterfall. After years of traveling, the impossible journey was finally complete. David had traveled from the west coast to the east coast of Africa. At last he would head to England to be reunited with Mary and the children.**

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

Big Idea: Trust God to do what others won't help you do.

Discussion Questions:

What news was in his letter from the London Missionary Society? (The letter said the group would not send any more missionaries to Africa.) **How do you think David felt?**

David chose to trust God to send the missionaries. When have you trusted God to do something?

What did he do when he was in England? (David spent time with his family, received honors, wrote a book, and spoke in churches.)

Who went with David when he returned to Africa? (His wife returned with him.)

What happened to Mary while she was in Africa? (She became sick and died.)

Many people get discouraged and quit doing God's work when really difficult things happen in their lives. David had many difficult things happen to him and his family. Did David give up or quit? (No.) **Why do you think David didn't quit doing God's work?**

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to trust God.

Set out seeds, paper, pencils, and glue. Remind the children that David had planted seeds of trust in God throughout his life. He was able to trust God to send the missionaries because for years he had practiced trusting God. Have the children write the words "Trust God" on their papers or write them for the children ahead of time. Let the children put glue over the letters of the words and then place seeds in the glue. Pray with the children and ask God to use the seeds of trust planted in each child's heart to grow a deep trust in Him.

Lesson 10—Slaves

The story so far... **David returned to England and discovered the London Missionary Society would not send any more missionaries to Africa. He trusted God to send the missionaries. After spending time with his family, receiving honors, speaking, and writing a book, David and his wife returned to Africa. Mary died in Africa and David returned to England again.**

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

Big Idea: God brings people into your life who need your help.

Discussion Questions:

Slavery means that a person isn't able to make any choices for himself and must do whatever his owner wants him to do. Men would go to Africa and take African people away to other countries to be a slave to anyone who paid for the person. Some African tribes would capture their enemies and sell them to the slave traders. Why do you think David Livingstone didn't like slavery?

What did the slave traders do when they saw David? (The slave traders ran away.) **What did David do then?** (He cut the ropes and sawed the chains to free the slaves.) **How would you have felt if you were a slave that Dr. Livingstone had just freed?**

Because David helped free the slaves, they were very open to listen to him tell them how Jesus Christ could set them free from sin. When you help someone, it opens the door for you to tell the person about Jesus. Who could you help this week? As you help the person, what could you tell them about Jesus?

David was sick for long periods of time. What did he do while he was sick? (He read the Bible.)

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to help people.

Have each student draw a picture of him or her helping others. Let each child have the opportunity to show and tell the group about the picture. Gather the children together and pray for each child by name to be helpful to people that they meet during the week.

Lesson 11—Dr. Livingstone, I Presume

The story so far... **David Livingstone returned to Africa. On an expedition, slave traders saw him and ran off, leaving behind the slaves. David freed the slaves and they were open to the message of freedom from sin through Jesus Christ.**

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

Big Idea: Encouragement helps a person continue working for God.

Discussion Questions:

What country sent someone to find Dr. Livingstone? (America sent an American journalist and explorer.) **Who was the man that went to look for David?** (Mr. Henry Stanley searched for David.)

What strange sight did David see entering the town? (He saw an American flag flying above oxen carrying supplies and 200 men.)

Read Matthew 7:7. **This verse tells us to seek and we will find. God helped Mr. Stanley find Dr. Livingstone. Has God ever helped you find something you were looking for?**

How did Mr. Stanley encourage David? How can you encourage someone this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to encourage 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 encourage the person. Let the children name the person who they will encourage with their cards. Pray with the children and ask God to bring opportunities for each child to encourage someone this week.

Lesson 12—The End of His Journey

The story so far... **People around the world worried about David because he hadn't contacted anyone for months. An American newspaper sent Henry Stanley to find him. After searching, Stanley found Livingstone and asked David to return to England with him.**

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

Big Idea: Be content to follow Jesus your entire life.

Discussion Questions:

When David was sick in bed, he thought back on his life. When someone follows God it doesn't mean the person won't have problems. What were some of the problems David faced in his life?

Was David sorry that he followed God's plan for his life? (No.)

To be content means to be satisfied and at peace with what has happened. What helped David feel content?

What was David doing when he died? (He was kneeling in prayer.)

What was your favorite part of David Livingstone's life?

Many missionaries went to Africa because of the work Dr. Livingstone started. Would you like to go to Africa as a missionary? Why or why not?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder about the life of David Livingstone.

Have the students draw a picture of David Livingstone. Talk about some of the things he did: worked in a factory as a child, loved science, studied to be a medical missionary, went to Africa, explored and discovered lakes and a waterfall, fought against slavery. Pray with the children and ask God to help them follow Jesus their entire lives like David Livingstone did.