



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 2, Quarter C—Adoniram & Ann Judson

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

© 2008, **DiscipleLand**. All rights reserved.



2C—Missionary Biography

Adoniram & Ann Judson

Teacher Intro—ADONIRAM & ANN JUDSON (1788—1850)

The first missionaries sent overseas by an American church, Ann and Adoniram (Ad-on-EYE-rahm) Judson do not expect to see their family, friends, or home country ever again. Only disease, suffering, and death await them in the closed country of Burma (also called Myanmar).

Adoniram and Ann die many times in many ways. They die to their families, to their country, and to their comfort. They spend their lives among the unreached—preaching the Gospel, discipling new believers, and translating the Bible into Burmese. Ann lives in poverty and hunger. Adoniram is imprisoned and tortured. Their children die. Ann dies. Adoniram dies. But their dying to self bears much fruit (John 12:24). At the time of Adoniram's death, Burma has 63 churches and more than 7,000 believers!

Lesson 1—Beginnings

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

Big Idea: God has a great plan for each of us.

Discussion Questions:

Adoniram wanted to be someone “important.” What is important to God? Who is important to God?

What do you want to do when you grow up?

Ann loved Jesus even at an early age. Why does God care so much about children?

What did Adoniram's friend, Jacob Eames, believe? What is this belief called? (Deism.)

Adoniram still wanted to be “great.” In pursuing greatness, he forgot about God. But God still had plans for Adoniram. Read Jeremiah 29:11 to the class. **What plans do you think God has in store for you? How can you discover more about God's plan?**

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of God's plans for people.

Have kids decorate posters with the words to Jeremiah 29:11 printed on them. Let them take their posters home to remind them of God's plans. Pray with the children, asking God to help them remember that He is in control.

Lesson 2—The Longest Night

The story so far...**Adoniram Judson and Ann Hasseltine both grew up in Christian homes. Adoniram abandoned his faith for Deism—a belief that a god exists who is distant and does not care about people.**

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

Big Idea: Only God has the answers about death.

Discussion Questions:

Adoniram was very, very tired. When have you been very tired? Were you able to stay awake?

Who was in the room with Adoniram? Why couldn't Adoniram sleep?

Adoniram's Deist beliefs gave him no comfort and no answers about death. Who does give comfort? Where can we find answers about death?

What did Adoniram ask the innkeeper? What did he find out?

Who is your best friend? How would you feel if that person died?

Adoniram needed answers. Who do you know who needs answers about Jesus and life after death? How can you tell him or her the Good News?

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 3—Books and Boats

The story so far...**Adoniram grew up in a Christian home, but abandoned his beliefs as a young man. Now his best friend had died, and Adoniram found no comfort in his new, non-Christian beliefs.**

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

Big Idea: God calls certain people to be missionaries.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Adoniram reject his Deist beliefs? To where did he turn? In whom did he put his faith?

Fame, wealth, and power were no longer important to Adoniram. What was important to him? What is important to you?

Why do you think Adoniram began reading about missionaries? Who is your favorite missionary you've learned about so far?

Where was God calling Adoniram? Show children where Burma (Myanmar) is located on a map or globe. **Do you think God might call you to be a missionary someday?**

Ann was a teacher in Massachusetts. Show kids where Salem, Massachusetts is located on a map or globe. **Who is your favorite teacher in school?**

Why do you think Ann was so interested in the ships that sailed? What interests you? How might God use your interests to serve Him?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to listen for God's call.

Have the students draw a picture of themselves listening hard for God's call. Pray with the children, asking God to speak clearly to them about what He wants them to do.

Lesson 4—The Haystack Prayer Meeting

The story so far...**Adoniram had rejected his Deist beliefs and embraced Jesus Christ. He read about missionaries and believed God was calling him to Burma. Meanwhile, Ann Hasseltine was in Massachusetts, watching the boats set sail for faraway lands.**

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

Big Idea: God fills the hearts of Christians with love for those who have not yet heard the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

Five young Christians took shelter in a haystack. What did they do there? Where is the strangest place you have worshiped God?

What did these young students commit to? What are you willing to commit your life to?

Adoniram met two of these students. What did they all agree on? Why did they feel it would be a difficult mission?

What did they decide to do? Where do you suppose their boldness came from? Have you ever prayed for boldness or courage? What happened?

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

Ann and Adoniram finally met! Do you know how your parents met?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to love the lost.

Using old magazines, have kids work together to make a collage of all the people in the world. Pray with the children, asking God to give them a heart of love for people who need to hear about Jesus, wherever they may be.

Lesson 5—A Bold Request

The story so far...**Adoniram joined some other Christians who wanted to start the first American missionary organization. He also met Ann Hasseltine. They fell in love and wanted to marry.**

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

Big Idea: Be willing to give up everything to follow Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Adoniram write Mr. Hasseltine and ask permission to marry Ann? How can you show respect to your parents?

What did Adoniram also ask Mr. Hasseltine in his letter?

Why did Adoniram remind Mr. Hasseltine of Jesus' sacrifice? How does Jesus' sacrifice make you feel about the sacrifices God may ask of you?

Why did Mr. Hasseltine let Ann decide about marrying Adoniram? How do your parents show they respect and love you?

Ann was willing to give up everything—her family, her comfort, her safety—to follow Jesus. What are you willing to give up to follow Him?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to follow Jesus.

Have children draw a picture that shows what they are willing to give up or where they are willing to go to follow Jesus. Pray with the children, asking God to show them how following Him is always worth it—that the rewards outweigh the sacrifices.

Lesson 6—Saying Goodbye

The story so far...**Adoniram wanted to be a missionary in Burma. He also wanted to marry Ann Hasseltine. Ann was willing to give up everything to marry Adoniram and serve Jesus in Burma.**

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

Big Idea: God protects people to accomplish His purposes.

Discussion Questions:

How long would it take for Adoniram and Ann to travel to Burma? What is the longest trip you have taken?

Adoniram and Ann never expected to see their friends and family on earth again. How would you feel if you had to leave your loved ones to serve Jesus? Would you be able to do it?

What happened to Ann after only a few days? What happened to the boat? What did the married couple thank God for? When has God protected you? How can you thank Him?

Ann and Adoniram finally arrive in India. Show where India is located on a map or globe. Why had Ann never eaten a banana?

William Carey was a famous missionary from England. God protected Ann and Adoniram and gave them a place to stay in India. Look for ways this week that God protects and watches over you!

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to thank God for His protection.

Have the students 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—In His Hands

The story so far...**Adoniram and Ann met, were married, and followed God's call to be missionaries in Burma. They sailed on rough seas and arrived in India, where they stayed with William Carey, a famous English missionary.**

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

Big Idea: God is with us during very difficult times.

Discussion Questions:

Why did people tell Adoniram and Ann not to go to Burma? Why did they go? Do you think the Burmese people still need to hear about Jesus today?

The Judsons faced a very difficult time. Who was with them in their sadness? Where do you think they found the strength to go on?

Show where the Bay of Bengal is located on a map or globe. **Adoniram and Ann missed their home and family in the United States. Have you ever been really homesick? What was it like?**

They finally arrived in Burma. Show where Burma (Myanmar) is located on a map or globe. **Why did they keep going? What did they mean when they said they were in God's hands?**

How can you place yourself in God's hands and persevere for Him?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to persevere for God.

Have kids start writing the words, "Keep on keeping on" all over a paper. Children should start in a corner and keep writing the slogan over and over as the words wind or snake all over the paper. Pray with the children, asking God to help them keep on working hard for Him this week.

Lesson 8—The Zayat

The story so far...**Adoniram and Ann sailed from the United States to Burma. It was a difficult trip full of sickness, sadness, and fear. But the Judsons placed themselves in God's hands, confident He had called them to serve Him in Burma.**

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

Big Idea: God requires patience when serving Him.

Discussion Questions:

What was Ann's special status in Burma? Have you ever been the very first at something? Tell about it.

Why did the Judsons study the Burmese language?

Why was it taking a long time to learn the language? What was Adoniram's idea to reach people for Jesus?

What did Adoniram build? Where did he build it? What did he yell to the people? How did most of them react?

How long did it take before the first person decided to follow Jesus? Could you spend six years serving God without anyone believing in Jesus? What quality does that take?

What did Adoniram do while he waited? Why is prayer always a good thing to do while we wait on God? What else can you do while you wait on God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to wait on God.

Have the children students draw a picture of what they imagine a *zayat* to look like (or obtain a picture for them to use as a reference). Let them draw themselves inside the *zayat*. Pray with the children, asking God to give them patience as they serve Him this week.

Lesson 9—The Death Prison

The story so far... **Adoniram and Ann were finally in Burma. After working many years to translate the New Testament into Burmese and talking to people in Adoniram's homemade *zayat*, people finally began to believe in Jesus!**

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

Big Idea: Following God can lead to difficult times.

Discussion Questions:

What happened to Adoniram? Why do you think it happened? Even today people are thrown into prison for following Jesus.

What did Ann do to help her husband? How do you think Ann was able to cope with her husband in jail, raising a new baby on her own? How can we help people who are in prison for Jesus?

Why was the Bible that Adoniram hid so important? What did it mean to the people of Burma? How important is God's Word to you?

Why do you think bad things sometimes happen to people who follow God? Whose fault is it? How can you remember to praise God during difficult times?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to not be discouraged serving God.

Bring in blank note cards. Have students write a note of encouragement. Kids might want to use the references Deuteronomy 31:8 and Joshua 1:9 as part of the note. After the kids sign their card, collect all of the cards. Pass out envelopes and have each child address it to him- or herself. Randomly place a note in a different child's envelope and during the week mail the cards. Pray with the children, asking God to help them to not be discouraged this week.

Lesson 10—The Hard, Dirty Pillow

The story so far... **While serving God in Burma, Adoniram was thrown into prison. Ann smuggled in the only copy of the Burmese New Testament translation that they had worked so hard on. During a prison transfer, a guard tossed out the pillow hiding the precious Bible!**

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

Big Idea: God protects His Word.

Discussion Questions:

How do you think Adoniram felt, finally being free? Tell about a time you have been very thankful to God.

How many of the ten Burmese Christians remained? What surprise did Maung Ing have for the Judsons. What did the Burmese Bible show?

God was faithful. Did that mean hard times were over for Adoniram? How long did Adoniram grieve for his wife and daughter? Who healed Adoniram's heart? What did he do next?

Adoniram found blessings and happiness again. Who did God bring to Adoniram? Why was she a blessing?

God was still faithful. What did Adoniram and Sarah do to reach people for God? What was the result? What small things can you do to tell others about God?

Do Something About It...

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

Have kids 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 11—Suffering for the Gospel

The story so far...**Adoniram's wife, Ann, and his daughter died from disease. God was faithful to Adoniram, and he met Sarah, a missionary widow. They fell in love and were married. They found a new way to reach people for Jesus—small tracts that shared the Gospel message.**

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

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

Discussion Questions:

Why is the Good News often spread through suffering? Where do people find their joy and happiness? Where can you find your joy and happiness?

Why did Adoniram and Ann continue to follow God, even when things seemed hopeless? How can we trust God to be faithful to what He has called us to do?

How many Christians were in Burma when Adoniram and Ann first arrived? (None.) After six years? (Ten.) By 1850? (7,000.) Did God keep His promises to the Judsons? How do we know?

Adoniram and Ann worked hard on a Burmese Bible translation, and their Bible is still used today. What work can you do for God that will have lasting impact on the world and on God's Kingdom?

Do Something About It...

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

Have the children 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 the Judsons. Pray with the children, thanking God for His faithfulness.

Lesson 12—Adoniram's Advice

The story so far...**More than two hundred years ago, God called Adoniram and Ann Judson to tell the people in Burma about Jesus. Thanks to God's faithfulness, their lives produced much fruit and many people came to know Christ.**

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

Big Idea: Being a missionary is a great calling, requiring great sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Adoniram write his letter? Where can you find other letters about how to live a Christian life?

Adoniram's letter was to missionaries. What was his first piece of advice? Why is this attitude important?

What was Adoniram's second piece of advice? Why do you think he warned missionaries about this? Have you ever been too proud? What happened?

What was his third piece of advice? Why do you think this kind of trust builds faith? How well do you think you trust God for your needs?

What was the fourth piece of advice in the letter? What experiences do you think caused Adoniram to write this?

What was his last piece of advice? Why do you think this is important? What does it show the people you'd be reaching?

Do you think God may call you to be a missionary someday? Would you be ready to answer that call?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder the life of the Judsons.

Have the students draw a picture of the Judsons. Talk about some of the things they did and let kids draw whatever scene that inspires them. Pray with the children, asking God to help them serve Him like Adoniram and Ann Judson did.