



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 3, Quarter A—Hudson Taylor

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

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3A—Missionary Biography

Hudson Taylor

Teacher Intro—HUDSON TAYLOR (1832—1905)

Physician, Bible translator, and founder of the China Inland Mission, was a man ahead of his time. He dressed and lived like the Chinese, encouraged single women to go out as missionaries, and longed to bring the gospel to the unreached people of inland China. His life is not his story, but God's story – of faithful provision, sovereign protection, and the heart of God for the millions of people in China.

Hudson Taylor has been described as “a man full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, of entire surrender to God and his call, of great self-denial, heartfelt compassion, and rare power in prayer.” His motto, “move men, through God, by prayer alone,” describes Taylor's perspective of living a life of faith by complete trust in God for all needs – safety in a typhoon, provision of food and funds for an entire hospital, school and his own family, and even divine protection in the midst of a mob of 8,000 people!

Lesson 1—The Storm

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

Big Idea: Be thankful to God.

Discussion Questions:

Have the kids find England and China on a map or globe.

What forms of transportation were available to Hudson in the mid-1800's? Have the kids guess about how long and how many miles and the journey would be (Five months, approximately 26,000 miles).

Describe what the boat ride might have been like for Hudson. If you had been alive then, would you have joined Hudson on his trip? Why or why not?

The captain said, “Unless God helps us, there is no hope!” How do you think Hudson felt when he heard the captain's statement?

Do you think Hudson felt hope or hopelessness? Explain your answer.

When have you been in a situation where things seemed hopeless? How did the situation turn out? Were you thankful afterwards?

God saved Hudson and the others on board the ship. Hudson was thankful to be saved. He knew that God saved him for a purpose—to be a missionary in China. I'm sure Hudson prayed a prayer of thanks. What do you think he might have said in his prayer of thanks to God?

What are some things that you are thankful for? How do you show that you are thankful?

Do Something About It...

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

Have the students make an acrostic with the word “thankful.” Give the kids paper and have them write “thankful” down the side of the paper. The children should use each letter of the word to begin a sentence or words that describe something they can be thankful that God has provided for them. Pray with the children and ask God to help them be thankful to Him this week.

Lesson 2—The Call

The story so far...**Hudson Taylor was on a ship headed for China when a terrible storm hit. He was thankful that God saved him and allowed him to go to China as a missionary.**

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

Big Idea: Determine to do what God calls you to do.

Discussion Questions:

As a teenager, God had placed within Hudson an interest and burden for the people of China. Has God given you a special interest or burden for a certain country or people group? What country or people group?

Being a missionary in the 1800s wasn't easy. Hudson was young and sick. It looked like his dream of going to China was impossible. Have you wanted to do things that seemed impossible for you? What did you do?

Hudson could have believed that going to China was impossible and he never would have made the journey to China. Think of all the people in China that were impacted by Hudson Taylor's life. Do you think they would have become Christians if Hudson had stayed in England?

Hudson Taylor was determined to do what God had called him to do. When God calls you to do something, it may seem impossible, but God promises to help. Read Matthew 19:26. **How might this verse have helped Hudson?**

The peace in Hudson's heart came from knowing that God had given him a job to do in China. Do you feel like God has given you a special job to do when you are older? What job has God given you to do right now?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to determine to serve God.

Have the students make a poster. Set out paper and washable inkpads. Since serving usually involves our hands in some way, let the kids put their fingers in the ink and use their fingerprints to write the words "I am determined to serve God." Children can use markers to decorate their posters. Pray with the children and ask God to help them determine to serve Him this week.

Lesson 3—The Preparation

The story so far...**As a teenager, Hudson Taylor knew God had called him to be a missionary in China. It seemed impossible because Hudson was young and sickly. But Hudson was determined to do what God told him to do.**

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

Big Idea: Plan ahead and prepare for the work God has for you to do.

Discussion Questions:

A young Hudson was so excited and eager to go to China, but he was told to wait until he became an adult. Can you relate? What are you anxious to do now instead of waiting until you're an adult?

Even though he wasn't old enough to go to China, Hudson began to prepare. What are some things he did to prepare? (He read about China, prayed for China and studied languages.) **What things can you do now to prepare for serving God as an adult?**

Hudson's body was weak. What did he do to make his body stronger? (He slept on the floor.) **How would that help him in China?**

He and his sister told people in their neighborhood about Jesus. How did this help him prepare for China?

"Hudson knew traveling across the ocean would not make him a missionary." What does that statement mean?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to prepare for serving God.

Have the students make a poster that answers the questions from page 24 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide—How would you prepare to be a missionary? and What things can you do right now? Lead a discussion to help the kids get excited about recognizing the ways they can prepare right now for serving God. Ideas: read and study the Bible, practice teaching by helping in the preschool class at church, learn a language, practice telling your testimony, etc. Pray with the children and ask God to help them prepare to serve Him this week.

Lesson 4—The Arrival

The story so far... **Hudson Taylor wasn't old enough to go to China, but he just couldn't wait! So he began to prepare himself for being a missionary—he read about China, prayed and studied languages.**

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

Big Idea: When things don't turn out like you dreamed, don't be discouraged.

Discussion Questions:

As a teenager, Hudson had planned and prepared to go to China. How long was the boat ride from England to China? (5 months) **After all the years of waiting, how do you think Hudson reacted when he finally reached China?**

What city did he arrive in? (Shanghai) **Describe the people he saw.** (They wore straw hats, carried chickens on poles, spoke a different language, dressed differently and no one was blond.) **How did this make Hudson feel?** (He felt alone.) **Have you been in a situation where you were surrounded by people, but felt alone? Describe the situation and how you handled it.**

The one and only person Hudson knew in China had moved and there was no way to find him. How did Hudson deal with this discouragement? (He prayed.) **What happened next?** (A man invited him to stay at his house.) **How did that make Hudson feel?**

Every person will face discouraging situations throughout life. Not everyone handles discouragement the same way. When have you faced discouragement? How did you handle it? Read Deuteronomy 31:8 and Joshua 1:9 to see how God wants us to handle discouraging situations.

Do Something About It...

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

Bring in blank note cards. Have the kids 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 and ask God to help them to not be discouraged this week.

Lesson 5—Becoming “Chinese”

The story so far... **Hudson Taylor finally arrived in China. The people were so different that he felt alone. Hudson was not discouraged when he found that he had nowhere to stay. God provided someone to offer a room to him.**

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

Big Idea: Be ready to change and do what is needed.

Discussion Questions:

Describe why Hudson looked strange to the Chinese people. (Hudson had yellow hair, strange clothes, blue eyes and a different language.)

Have you ever felt uncomfortable in a group because of how you looked or acted? How do you think Hudson felt when he saw the scared reactions of the Chinese people?

Hudson wanted to tell them about Jesus, but no one wanted to be near him. Hudson could have given up and returned to England, but he chose to change. How did he change? (He cut and dyed his hair to look Chinese and wore Chinese clothes.)

Hudson cared more about the hearts of the Chinese, than he cared about what hairstyle or clothing he wore. Think about the missionaries you know. Do they wear clothes from their home country or the clothes of the people they are trying to reach? What about you, what kind of clothing would you wear if you were a missionary?

Because Hudson adapted or changed, the Chinese people were no longer afraid of him. Now he could tell them about Jesus and they would listen. What is something you might want to do or change so that you can witness to someone?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be adaptable.

Have the students use crayons to completely color a paper. Then cover over the colors with a black crayon. Let the kids use a thumbtack or corner of a ruler to scratch out the words, “Be ready to change.” Pray with the children and ask God to help them be adaptable this week.

Lesson 6—God’s Provision

The story so far... **Hudson Taylor decided to get a Chinese haircut, dye his hair black and wear Chinese clothes. He changed so that he could reach the Chinese people with the message of Jesus.**

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

Big Idea: Put your faith in God.

Discussion Questions:

Hudson is now married and in charge of a hospital. How can running a hospital be missionary work? Do you think Hudson had opportunities to tell the patients about Jesus?

What huge problem happened at the hospital? (They were down to the last bag of rice.) **Why didn’t Hudson panic?** (He had faith in God.)

He and his wife prayed. When you are in a tough situation, do you pray? Why or why not?

How did God answer the Taylor’s prayers? (A letter arrived from England with money for food.) **Have you experienced an immediate answer to prayer like this? Explain.**

Hudson showed his faith in God by praying and trusting God. Do you think missionaries need a strong faith in God? Why or why not? How can you show that you have faith in God?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to put your faith in God.

Have the students make a mobile. Give each child a coat hanger, yarn pieces and paper. Let the kids cut out their own letters to spell “faith.” Paper hole punch each letter and help the kids tie each letter onto the hanger. Pray with the children and ask God to help them put their faith in Him this week.

Lesson 7—The China Inland Mission

The story so far... **Hudson Taylor and his wife were in charge of a hospital. One day they ran out of food. The Taylors prayed and had faith in God. Immediately a letter arrived from England with money in it.**

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

Big Idea: It is important to care for the needs of people.

Discussion Questions:

Hudson became sick. What was his illness? (He was sick with tuberculosis.) **Tuberculosis usually affects the lungs and the person has a cough, fever, weight loss and chest pain. The Taylors returned to England so that Hudson could get well. Do you think he wanted to leave China?**

What did Hudson do in England while he received treatment for his illness? (He worked on a Chinese Bible translation.) **What do you usually do while you are sick?**

Hudson cared about the Chinese people. He didn’t want to waste any time, so in his bed he worked on the translation and prayed. What do you suppose he prayed about? (He asked God to send more missionaries.)

Read Luke 10:2. **We don’t know exactly what Hudson’s prayer sounded like, but maybe he prayed this Scripture.** Take a few minutes and let each child pray this verse back to God and ask God to send missionaries to China.

Because of Hudson’s desire to see the gospel message reach the people of China, he began an organization. What was the name of the organization? (China Inland Mission was the name.)

God answered Hudson’s prayer! How many new missionaries went back to China with Hudson? (16)

Do you care about a particular country or people group? Pray and ask God to send missionaries to that place. What are some things you can do to show that you care for those people?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to care for people’s needs.

Have the students make a collage of pictures that show them caring for the needs of people. Pray with the children and ask God to help them care for the needs of others this week.

Lesson 8—The Typhoon

The story so far... **Hudson Taylor became sick with tuberculosis. He and his family returned to England. While in bed, Hudson worked on a Chinese Bible translation and prayed for more missionaries to go to China. God answered the prayer and sixteen missionaries returned with the Taylors to China.**

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

Big Idea: God will help you be brave as you do His work.

Discussion Questions:

Hudson returned to China with 16 new missionaries! Describe how he might have felt.

The group was only 6 days away from reaching China when something terrible happened. What happened? (A typhoon hit.) **What is a typhoon?** (A typhoon is a hurricane on the Pacific Ocean.) **Hudson's wife and four children were on the boat. How do think they reacted to the storm? How would you react?**

Read John 14:27. **God doesn't want us to be afraid. The sailors hid because they were so afraid. Have you ever been in a situation where you were so afraid that you hid? What happened?**

Hudson and the missionaries weren't afraid. Why not? (They knew Jesus was their Savior and they would go to heaven.)

The boat was going to sink unless someone went up on the deck and got rid of the heavy objects. The missionaries prayed and went up on the deck. Everyone was saved because of the brave missionaries. What helped the missionaries be brave? (God) **When was a time when you did something brave with God's help?**

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be brave.

Have the students make a "Don't be afraid" poster. Set out thin tracing paper and markers. Kids can make a "stained glass" look by using bright colors and outlining with a black marker. In the center of the poster have students write "Don't be afraid" or "Be brave for God." Pray with the children and ask God to help them be brave this week.

Lesson 9—The Riot

The story so far... **Hudson Taylor returned to China with 16 new missionaries. A typhoon hit and the sailors were afraid. The missionaries were brave because they knew God was with them. God protected them and they safely reached China.**

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

Big Idea: Always be ready for God to send you a new adventure.

Discussion Questions:

Do you like adventures? How do you feel when you are on an adventure? Tell us about one of your adventures.

Hudson had many adventures during his time in China. Do you think missionaries live boring lives? Why or why not?

The Chinese people believed an evil rumor about Hudson and the missionaries. What was the rumor? (They believed the missionaries ate children.) **Have you heard a rumor? Did you try to find out if it was true or not?**

One day, 8,000 Chinese people gathered around the home where all the missionaries lived. What did the Chinese people want to do? (They wanted to kill the missionaries.) **How would you feel if you were one of the missionaries in the house?**

Hudson and another man escaped and ran for help. The crowd followed them. Imagine having 8,000 people chasing you to kill you! Sometimes adventures turn very dangerous. Do you think Hudson regretted going to China as a missionary?

Who helped Hudson and the missionary? (The mandarin or ruler of the city stopped the crowd.)

Hudson knew that God wanted him in China and that God could protect him. What are some of the dangers that missionaries today might face? Why do missionaries go to places that might be dangerous? (They go to tell people about Jesus.)

What are some ways that you can be adventuresome for God? What adventure could you do for God this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to be adventuresome for God.

Have the students make a picture of one of Hudson's adventures (sea storm, cutting his hair to look Chinese, typhoon, 8,000 people chasing him). Pray with the children and ask God to help them to be adventuresome for Him this week.

Lesson 10—China's Millions

The story so far...Hudson Taylor and another missionary escaped out of a house surrounded by 8,000 angry Chinese. The Chinese believed the missionaries ate children. This scary adventure ended when the city's ruler orders the mob to stop. Again, God protected Hudson and the missionaries.

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

Big Idea: We can make unselfish decisions.

Discussion Questions:

Hudson went through a time of great personal sadness. Why? (His wife and three of their children died.) Do you think Hudson considered being selfish and quitting his ministry in China?

Hudson sent his remaining three children back to England. On one of his visits, he met and married Jennie.

Hudson wrote a newsletter to help people know about the spiritual needs of the Chinese people. What was the name of the newsletter? (The Newsletter was called "China's Millions.") Encourage the kids to visit the modern newsletter on the Internet (chinasmillions.org).

Sometimes we want to be selfish, but people won't learn about God through our selfish behaviors. When we act unselfishly, we show how God's love has changed us. What are some unselfish decisions that you could make this week?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to serve God unselfishly.

Have the students make a journal for this week to record each time they did something unselfish. Pray with the children and ask God to help them serve unselfishly this week.

Lesson 11—The Cost

The story so far...Hudson Taylor's wife and three of their children died. He sent his remaining three children back to England. Hudson met and married Jennie. While in England, Hudson wrote a newsletter "China's Millions" to help people understand the need for missionaries in China.

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

Big Idea: Trust in the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

Hudson loved to read and study God's Word. How many times did he read the entire Bible? (He read the Bible forty times in forty years.) Have you read the entire Bible? How long might it take you to read the entire Bible? Set a goal and begin reading the Bible this week.

Hudson's missionary organization, China Inland Mission, grew and grew. But soon the Chinese Christians and missionaries were being killed in China. What was Hudson's reaction? (He was filled with grief.) Hudson said, "I cannot read, I cannot think, I cannot even pray, but I can trust." What do you think he meant by that statement?

Do you think it was always easy for Hudson to trust in the Lord? Why or why not?

Read Psalm 31:14. David trusted in God and the Psalms are full of the phrase "Trust in the Lord." When was a time that you trusted the Lord? What happened?

Talk about current persecution in China and pray for the persecuted Chinese Christians.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to trust God.

Have the students make a poster with huge block letters that spell "TRUST." Inside each block letter have the kids do a decorative design. Pray with the children and ask God to help them trust Him this week.

Lesson 12—The Harvest is Ripe in China Today

The story so far...Hudson Taylor was getting old, but he didn't stop his work in China. His missions organization grew, but soon the Chinese Christians and missionaries were being killed in China. Hudson was very sad, but he kept his trust in the Lord.

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

Big Idea: Obediently serve God your entire life.

Discussion Questions:

Sadness overwhelmed Hudson when his second wife died. He returned one last time to China where he died. Why do you think Hudson kept returning to China?

Hudson had a passion to help the Chinese people learn about Jesus. He knew that one million Chinese died each month without ever hearing about Jesus. How does that fact make you feel? What can you do about that? Take time and pray for the people of China.

Hudson obediently served God his entire life. Name some people you know who obediently serve God. Do you think people would say that you obediently serve God?

What are some ways that you can obediently serve God this week?

Encourage the students to check out the website for Hudson's organization that was renamed Overseas Missionary Fellowship (omf.org).

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of the life of Hudson Taylor.

Have the students draw a picture of Hudson Taylor. Talk about some of the things he accomplished: prepared for China while he was still a teenager, was almost shipwrecked on his first trip to China, cut his hair like the Chinese, wore Chinese clothes, became sick with tuberculosis, translated the Bible into a Chinese language, started China Inland Mission, lived through a typhoon, was chased by 8,000 angry Chinese, buried his wife and three of their children, trusted God his entire life. Pray with the children and ask God to help them serve Him like Hudson Taylor did.

Bring in some Chinese food or snacks to serve as you review the life of Hudson Taylor.