



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 3, Quarter D—Mark & Gloria Zook

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

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3D—Missionary Biography

Mark & Gloria Zook

Teacher Intro—MARK & GLORIA ZOOK

EE-TAOW! *Ee-taow* means “It is true!” in the Mouk language. Few modern missionary stories have encouraged and fascinated believers as much as this one. A quiet, rural family living in Pennsylvania, in spite of great challenges, moved to the jungles of Papua New Guinea in 1983 to work with a fierce and dangerous tribal group called the Mouks. The results of God’s harvest have been remarkable and have even been recorded in documentary films. Travel back with us to discover the awesome power of God’s Word and how it points to Jesus’ message. Find out why what “is true” became so important to the Mouk people. EE-TAOW!

Lesson 1—Meet the Family

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

Big Idea: God calls people out of their comfort zones.

Discussion Questions:

Have the kids find Pennsylvania on a map or globe. **Mark and Gloria Zook grew up living in the country. What do you know about living in the country?**

The Zooks enjoyed being part of their local church. What do you like about our church and why?

Mark and Gloria began taking classes from the Moody Bible Institute. Why do you think they did that? When do you think it is time to stop learning? Why?

Mark and Gloria learned more and more about missionary work. They felt God calling them to be missionaries. What kinds of things would they have to give up?

Why does God call some people to be missionaries? How many of you would like to be called by God to go to a faraway place?

Do Something About It...

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

Have kids draw a large ear in the center of their papers. Then let them brainstorm different ways they can listen for God’s calling—reading the Bible, praying, talking with trusted adults, etc. Let them draw those additional ways on the paper around the ear.

Lesson 2—Rejected

The story so far...**Mark and Gloria Zook lived a comfortable life in rural Pennsylvania. Over the years they became more and more interested in missionary work. They felt God was calling them to be missionaries.**

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

Big Idea: Persevere to do God’s will.

Discussion Questions:

Have the kids find Papua New Guinea on a map or globe. **What was the Zook family’s “bold step of faith?”**

How do you think the Zooks felt, applying to be missionaries? How do you think their teenage kids felt?

Why did the missionary agency reject Mark and Gloria’s application? Did the missionary agency know more about the Zooks than God did?

How do you think Mark and Gloria kept from being discouraged?

What did the Zook family do after this happened? Why is prayer an important part of discovering God’s guidance?

Do Something About It...

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

Bring in blank note cards. Have children write a note of encouragement. They might want to use the references Deuteronomy 31:8 and Joshua 1:9 as part of the note. After they sign their cards, collect them. 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 3—New Tribes Mission

The story so far... **Mark and Gloria applied with a missionary agency to serve God in Papua New Guinea. The agency reject their application, saying they were too old to become missionaries.**

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

Big Idea: God answers prayer.

Discussion Questions:

How did God answer Mark and Gloria's prayers?

What did New Tribes Mission specialize in? How would you feel living in jungle far away from civilization?

How else did God answer their prayers?

What amazing thing did one Papua New Guinea tribe do? Why do you think this tribe wanted missionaries to come?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to pray and be confident of God's answer.

Have the students trace both hands on a paper and cut them out. Let the kids hold the hands together in a praying hands position (palms together). On the outside of the hands, have the kids write "Be" and "Confident." On the inside of the hands, the kids should write "God" and "Answers." Talk about times God has answered their prayers. Pray with the children and ask God to help them be confident of His answers.

Lesson 4—Arrival

The story so far... **The Zook family had finally been accepted by a missions agency! New Tribes Mission had trained them to serve God in remote jungles.**

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

Big Idea: God brings new people into our lives.

Discussion Questions:

Remind kids where Papua New Guinea is located. **The Mouk people lived deep in the jungle—the Zooks had to hike to their new home. How would you feel, living so far into a wild jungle?**

The people in the village had already cleared a space for the Zooks? How do you think this made them feel?

How did Mark show the villagers that he wanted to be a real part of their community? How do you show that you are part of your community?

The Zook family had left most of their possessions behind. What absolute necessities would you need if you lived in the jungle?

Some Mouk people seemed glad the Zooks were there, and some were more distant. Why does God bring new people into our lives? What are things we do to "break the ice" and get to know new people?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to welcome strangers.

Have kids create a welcome sign for their house or bedroom door. Encourage them to write a welcoming message, being as creative as possible, and the decorate their signs. Pray with the children and ask God to help them be welcoming to any new people they meet.

Lesson 5—Starting Out

The story so far...**Mark, Gloria, and their two kids arrived in the deep jungle of Papua New Guinea to the village of the Mouk people.**

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

Big Idea: God wants us to understand other people.

Discussion Questions:

What did Mark and Gloria do first? Why is communication important?

Why did Mark and Gloria spend time watching the Mouk people? What can you learn just by watching someone?

Mark began learning the Mouk language. Why did Mark learn Mouk instead of teaching the villages English?

The Mouk language had no alphabet. Why was it important to Mark to develop a written language for the Mouk people?

Learning the Mouk language was a long, slow process. Have you ever taken a long time learning something? What kinds of things are worth taking a long time to learn?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Play a game about the importance of communication.

Play the classic game, “Telephone,” where you whisper in a child’s ear and that child passes your message on the next, and so on. Enjoy the strange message that comes out at the other end of the line. Discuss the importance of communicating clearly, especially when relating God’s Word to others. Pray with the children and ask God to help them understand other people.

Lesson 6—Getting to Know the Mouks

The story so far...**The Zook family was now living among the Mouk tribe in Papua New Guinea. Mark and Gloria began learning the Mouk language, and creating a written version of the language for the people.**

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

Big Idea: God shows people their sins so they can come to repentance.

Discussion Questions:

In the Mouk village, the men were in charge and the women took care of the families. How is that similar to the way our society works? What made it very different than our culture?

Why do you think the men wore masks and pretended to be spirits?

Why did the villagers continue in their sinful ways for so long? Why was it important for Mark and Gloria to be there?

Mark and Gloria loved the Mouk people, even though they practiced sorcery and lies. How were they following Jesus’ example?

What is the best way to love people who are ignorant of their sins? How can you show that kind of love to others?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to show care for another person.

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 show that he or she cares for that person. Pray with the children and ask God to help them care for others this week.

Lesson 7—Chronological Bible Teaching

The story so far...As Mark and Gloria lived among the Mouk people and translated their language, they realized the Mouks had a real problem with sin. The villagers called on spirits, practiced lies, and cursed other people.

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

Big Idea: God's great plan existed from the beginning.

Discussion Questions:

Mark began teaching the Mouk people from the Bible. What would be your favorite part of the Bible to teach?

Mark decided on a new approach for teaching the Bible. While most missionaries taught about Jesus first, Mark wanted to teach the Bible from the beginning. What advantages does this approach have? What disadvantages could you imagine from this approach?

The villagers were excited to hear Mark's stories from the Bible. Why do you think they were so excited?

Mark used pictures and objects to teach. How do those items help you learn?

Mark wanted the Mouk people to see that God's great plan had existed from the beginning of time. Who helped the Mouk people understand what Mark was trying to teach them?

Do Something About It...

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

Have students 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 8—The Rest of the Story

The story so far...Mark and Gloria had learned the Mouk language and had begun teaching from the Bible. Mark decided to teach the Bible from the beginning, starting at Genesis and going through the entire Old Testament.

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

Big Idea: The story of Jesus is God's Good News.

Discussion Questions:

Mark spent months teaching the Old Testament. Why did he spend so much time teaching the Mouk people?

Mark had told the Mouks that Jesus was coming. When he finally began telling Jesus' story, how did they respond? Why did they begin looking at their lives differently?

Mark taught people the entire story of Jesus' life. Why did he do that instead of skipping to the end?

What was the "great thing" Mark promised that God would do?

Why is the story of Jesus' death and resurrection so important? What can you do to tell that story well to others?

Do Something About It...

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

Have the students 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—An Exciting Ending

The story so far...**Mark had spent months and months teaching the Old Testament to the Mouk people. He finally came to the Gospels. He still took his time, telling them Jesus' entire life story, ending with His painful death on the cross and His victorious resurrection!**

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

Big Idea: God's forgiveness can change anyone!

Discussion Questions:

Mark used men from the tribe to help him tell the story. How does involving other people in a story bring it to life?

Mark explained that Jesus was the Lamb of God. What Old Testament stories did Mark probably tell that related to Jesus being the Lamb? (Abraham and Isaac, the Passover Lamb, etc.)

Mark and his volunteers were acting out the story. How does a drama help bring a story to life?

Who was the first one to stand up and believe the truth about Jesus? What did she say that showed she understood the Gospel message?

Other people stood up and proclaimed that they believed, too. How do you think Mark and Gloria felt after spending so much time teaching the Bible? How does God's forgiveness change people?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God can change a person's heart.

Give each child a sheet of black construction paper. Make a large heart pattern for the children to trace and then cut out the heart. Talk about how sin makes our heart black or unclean. Only God is able to change a person's heart. Each time someone let's God's message of love change his or her heart, it is like cutting out a piece of the black and replacing it with something pretty. Have the kids cut out shapes from the black heart.

Cut colored tissue paper into one-inch squares and let the children glue or tape them on the backside of the heart to show the good change in the heart. Pray with the children and ask for God's love to change the children's hearts.

Lesson 10—Ee-Taow!

The story so far...**Mark had just finish teaching the Mouk people about Jesus. One by one, Mouk villagers stood up and accepted Jesus to forgive their sins and become their Savior.**

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

Big Idea: God rewards our efforts, sometimes in ways beyond our imagining.

Discussion Questions:

How did the Mouks respond to the Good News? What are some other responses to Jesus' message?

The entire village became followers of Jesus! How was this event a blessing? To the Zook family? To the Mouk people?

What had God rewarded? Do you think Mark and Gloria had expected this kind of response to their teaching? Who did they give the glory to?

How had the Mouk people walked in darkness? How would they now walk in God's light?

Darkness is not always about sorcery and curses. What other ways do people walk in darkness? How can we show them God's light?

Do Something About It...

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

Have the students make a journal for this week to record each time they see God blessing them. Pray with the children, asking God to help them see His blessings this week.

Lesson 11—New Believers Grow

The story so far...**After months of teaching the Bible, Mark and Gloria shared the Good News about Jesus with the Mouk people. Not only did some believe—the entire village believed!**

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

Big Idea: Believing in Jesus is just the beginning.

Discussion Questions:

The entire village believed, but that was not the end of the story. Why did Mark continue teaching? What kinds of things do you think the Mouk people still needed to learn?

What struck the village? How did Mark react? How did the villagers respond? Why was Mark impressed?

Trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior changes a person's life. How did the Mouk people change?

How has your life changed because of Jesus? Do your actions always show that change to other people?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to follow Jesus.

Have children draw a picture that shows how their lives can change as they 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 12—Never-ending Story

The story so far...**Mark continued to teach the villagers from the New Testament. The Zook family watched as the Mouk people's lives changed.**

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

Big Idea: Obediently serve God your entire life.

Discussion Questions:

The Zooks translated the Bible into the Mouk language. Why is it important for the people to have God's Word in their native tongue?

Why did Mark and Gloria train the Mouk believers. What were they preparing them for?

What did the Zook family do when the Mouk people no longer needed them? Did they "take a break" and stop serving God?

Mark and Gloria now work with other missionaries, teaching them their techniques. Why is it important to keep developing new ways to present God's message?

What does Mark and Gloria's son, Rick, do? How exciting is it to think how God could use you one day like He used the Zook family?

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of Mark and Gloria Zook's lives.

Have the students draw a picture of Mark and Gloria Zook. Talk about some of the things they accomplished. Pray with the children, asking God to help them serve Him like Mark and Gloria did.