



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions
Level 4, Quarter C—George Mueller

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

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4C—Missionary Biography

George Mueller

Teacher Intro—GEORGE MUELLER 1805—1898

Among the greatest monuments of what can be accomplished through simple faith in God are the great orphanages covering thirteen acres of ground at Ashley Downs, Bristol, England. George Mueller proved to the world the truth of Philippians 4:19. He will always be remembered as the man who “got things” from God. His testimony is an inspiration to Christians everywhere.

More than 3,000 of Mueller’s orphans were won to Christ through his ministry by the Holy Spirit. Take 1-2 minutes during each lesson to read the brief narratives describing George Mueller and his ministry.

Lesson 1—Thief and Liar

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

Big Idea: Boldly share your faith and let the Holy Spirit use you to reach others.

Discussion Questions:

Where was George born? (He was born in Prussia, now called Germany.) **As a child, what bad habits did George learn?** (He was thief and a liar.) **When George’s father caught him stealing, how did he react?** (He was upset that he had been caught.) **How might George’s childhood have been different if he had good Christian role models? Let the children respond.**

What event began George on his road to finding God? (He was jailed for twenty-four days and read the Bible.) **Who shared his faith in God with George?** (His friend Beta shared his faith.)

When we share our faith, we’ve done our part. The Holy Spirit uses our words to speak to the person. Have you ever shared your faith with someone? What happened? Give children an opportunity to talk about their experiences with sharing their faith.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Develop a tool to help share your faith.

Talk about different witnessing tools such as wordless book, witness bracelet, or EvangeCube. Bring in any examples of tools or pamphlets that help a person share Christ with someone. Set out paper, beads, or other supplies that could aid kids in making a tool to help them witness to someone. Several evangelism tools are available at e3resources.org

Lesson 2—A Huge Change

The story so far... **George Mueller became a thief and a liar as a child. He didn’t have any Christian influence and chose to continue stealing. God had a plan for George’s life and during his twenty-four days in jail, he read a Bible. Then God brought a Christian friend to share his faith with George.**

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

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit’s power helps people change.

Discussion Questions:

Where did George and Beta go together? (They went to a small group Bible study.) **What did George experience?** (For the first time, George knelt to pray and learned from God’s Word.) **What happened that night?** (He gave his life to Christ.)

What change took place in George’s life? (He stopped stealing and lying.) **What was the difference in George’s life that allowed him to successfully stop the bad habits?** (The Holy Spirit’s power was in George’s life.)

What did George want to become? (He wanted to become a missionary.) **What problem did he encounter?** (His father wanted him to be a minister.) **How was the job of a minister different in George’s time and area?** (A minister was a government job and wasn’t someone who tried to get others to grow in their faith in God.) **Have you ever considered becoming a missionary? How do you think your parents would react?** Let the children respond to these questions.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to show the change the Holy Spirit makes in a person’s life.

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, “The Holy Spirit helps me change.”

Lesson 3—A Step of Faith

The story so far... **George's life changed when he accepted Christ as his Savior. The Holy Spirit's power helped George stop stealing and lying. George wanted to become a missionary, but his father disapproved.**

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

Big Idea: As you experience God at work in your life, your faith in Him grows!

Discussion Questions:

While George was at the university, who helped him grow in his faith? (A godly theology professor helped George.) **It is important to have people who encourage you to grow in your relationship with God. Who helps you to grow in your faith?** Encourage each child contribute to the discussion.

What miracle did God do to provide money for George? (A group of American professors asked George to teach them German.) **How has God done a miracle to provide money for your family or someone that you know?** Let the kids respond.

Why did George want to go to Bucharest? (He wanted to be a missionary there.) **What miracle did God do for George?** (His father had a change of attitude and let George go.) **Did George go to Bucharest? Why or why not?** (No, a war broke out and he couldn't go.) **Each time God was at work in George's life, his faith grew stronger. Have you experienced God at work in your life? How has it helped your faith to grow?** Give the children an opportunity to answer these questions.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder of growing faith in God.

Bring in some examples of growth charts. Let the kids talk about growth charts they have at home. Set out paper and markers. Let the children make a spiritual growth chart to mark their growing faith in God. Write today's date on the side of the chart instead of a height measurement. Encourage the kids to write a sentence or two describing their faith in God. During the week, have the students watch for ways God is at work in their lives and mark the date and description on their charts.

Lesson 4—An Unusual Answer to Prayer

The story so far... **George's faith began to grow. He saw two miracles that helped him trust God with the details of his life. God provided an income for George and changed his father's attitude towards going on a mission trip.**

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

Big Idea: God works out the details when we obey Him.

Discussion Questions:

Why did George want to go to London? (He heard of a need for missionaries to the Jews in London.) **Why couldn't he get a passport to leave?** (He hadn't served his time in the Prussian army.) **How did God answer his prayers?** (He got sick on some food and the doctor said he was too sick for the army.) **Have you or someone you know experienced an unusual answer to a prayer like George's?** Let the children respond.

What happened while George was sick in England? (George read God's Word and discovered truths and promises that would help him throughout his life.) **What are some of God's promises that have helped you?** Spend time talking about promises from the Bible that have helped.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God's promises are true.

Lead a discussion about obeying God and the blessings that come from obedience. Share any personal examples that you can with the children. Set out paper and markers to make a poster reminding the kids to obey. Choose a promise from the Bible, such as 1 John 3:22 and write the verse on the paper. Use stickers, sequins, or other decorative items to create a border around the poster.

Lesson 5—Total Trust

The story so far...George was unable to get a passport to go to London because he hadn't yet served in the army. He prayed and after getting food poisoning the doctor declared him unfit for the army. So George at last was off to London as a missionary. His stomach bothered him so he took a brief time of rest in the countryside. It was there he discovered the Bible was full of truths and promises that he would trust in for the rest of his life.

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

Big Idea: God provides all you need, if you trust Him.

Discussion Questions:

What disappointment did George have in London? (The mission society ended the assignment with him.) **How could that have devastated him?** (He had wanted to be a missionary.) **Did George give up on God because of his disappointment?** (No.) **Have you been disappointed and thought about giving up on God? What helped you through that time?** Allow time for the children to discuss their answer to these questions. **What plan did God have for George instead of being a missionary?** (George became the pastor of a village church.)

What did George decide to trust God for? (He trusted God to send him a wife.) **How did God answer his prayer?** (George married Miss Mary Goves.) **What unusual decision did the Muellers make?** (They decided to not take a salary from the church, but trusted God to provide the money they needed.) **Do you think it was easy to trust God when they knew they had no money?** Let the children answer. **Would you be able to trust God to supply for your needs like the Muellers did?** Ask each child to give a quick yes or no answer. **What did George discover when he wrote a record of the year?** (He discovered God had provided more than the salary would have provided.) **What need do you have that you would like to trust God to provide for?** As the children share a need, stop and pray immediately for God to work in that situation and build faith in the child.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a journal to record God's faithfulness.

George kept records so he would see and remember God's faithfulness to him. Have the children make a faithfulness journal. Take several sheets of paper, fold in half, and staple along the folded side. Let the kids decorate the cover of their journals and begin to record ways God has been faithful to them and provided for their needs.

Lesson 6—The Mission Field of Bristol

The story so far...A disappointed George discovered he no longer had a position with the mission society in London. God provided a position as a pastor of a small village church and George accepted. He decided to trust God to provide a wife and he married Miss Mary Groves. They chose to trust God to provide for their needs and refused to take the church's salary. At the end of the year, George's faith soared when he discovered that God had provided more money than the salary!

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

Big Idea: God has a special plan for each person's life.

Discussion Questions:

Why did George leave the little village church? (He felt God led him to Bristol.) **How did God faithfully provide for the Muellers in Bristol?** (God provided an inexpensive house big enough for Mr. Craik to join them.) **What addition was made to the Mueller family?** (A daughter, Lydia, was born to the Muellers.)

How did a book open George's eyes to a need in Bristol? (He read about how God provided for orphans and then he realized there were orphans all around him in Bristol.) **What did George do about the need?** (He began to feed the orphans breakfast and teach them a Bible study.) **What needs around you has God opened your eyes to see? What are you doing about it?** Let the children respond to these questions.

George still desired to be a missionary. Why didn't God send George to a foreign mission field? (George's special mission field was in Bristol with the orphans.) **How do you think George felt when he realized he wouldn't become a foreign missionary?** Encourage responses. **George could have insisted that he become a missionary and found someplace that would take him. Instead, George trusted that God had a plan for his life and that God's plan would be better than anything George had planned. Do you have a plan of what you want to be when you grow up?** Give each child an opportunity to respond. **Are you willing to seek God and do what He wants you to do?** Lead the children in a prayer asking God to reveal His plans to the students and that the kids would desire to follow God's plan for their lives.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God has a special plan for each child's life.

Take a photo of each child using an instant camera or use a digital camera and print off the photo in the church's office, if possible. Have the kids glue their pictures on a paper and create a border that says, "God has a good plan for my life." Set out markers, sequins, stickers, and other materials to decorate the picture.

Lesson 7—The Orphan Home Opens

The story so far... **The Muellers moved to Bristol, England where George preached with his friend, Henry Craik. A daughter, Lydia, was born and George discovered the needs of orphans around him. He began to feed them breakfast and teach them about the Bible. God was about to reveal His special plan for George's life.**

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

Big Idea: God's Word speaks to people and gives direction.

Discussion Questions:

What was George waiting for before he opened an orphanage? (He waited to hear from God.) **What answer did God give George?** (God spoke through Psalm 81:10 and promised to provide for the needs of the orphans.) **Hebrews 4:12 tells us that God's Word is alive and active. Have you ever read a verse that seemed to speak directly to you? Tell us about the experience.** Give children an opportunity to share with the group.

How did God confirm that George was doing the right thing? (God sent the money, then gifts of furnishings for the home, and even volunteers to work at the home.) **How do you think George felt when he saw such immediate answers to his prayers?** Let the kids answer. **What surprised everyone on opening day?** (There were no orphans.) **How did George handle the situation?** (He humbly prayed and asked God to send the orphans.) **George could have blamed others or been discouraged for the failure on opening day. God promises that when we humble ourselves, He will lift us up (James 4:10). How did God immediately respond to George's humble prayer?** (The next day the first orphan came.)

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to turn to God for direction.

Bring in several compasses for the children to examine. Talk about how compasses are used and let the children experiment with them. Then pass out paper and have the children draw a compass. Instead of labeling north, south, east, and west, let the children write different phrases and reminders to trust God. Examples: trust God, let God lead, turn to God for direction, etc.

Lesson 8—Father to the Fatherless

The story so far... **George desired to start an orphanage, but he sought God's timing. One day he read a verse and knew God was telling him to start the home and He would provide all that was needed. The completely furnished and staffed home opened, but George had forgotten to pray for children. Soon the first orphan home was filled.**

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

Big Idea: Time spent in prayer is a wise investment.

Discussion Questions:

How many homes did George have for children? (Three.) **How many children received his help?** (96.) **How do you think the children felt to be in the homes?** Possible answers: grateful, hopeful that they could accomplish something with their lives, loved and cared for, etc.

George found that spending an hour in prayer allowed him to accomplish more in four hours than he could if he worked five hours without any time of prayer. How much time do you probably spend in prayer each day? Let the children respond.

Why was Psalm 68:5 and encouragement to George? (The verse was God's promise to be the Father to the fatherless.) **Many children aren't orphans, but they don't have a father involved daily in their lives. How could this verse encourage them?** Allow time for answers.

George loved to remind God of His promises to provide. Why do you think more people don't see answers to their prayers like George did? Possible answers: they lack faith, they don't recognize God's answers or remember His faithfulness to them, etc. **Would you like to see answers to your prayers? What can you do to help your faith in God grow?** Give each child an opportunity to give an answer.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a prayer record to see God's faithfulness.

George recorded his prayers as a visual reminder that God answered and many times answered very quickly. He made two columns and wrote his request in one column. In the other column, he recorded the exact time of the answer. By comparing when he made his request and the time of the answer, George could see the thousands of times that God sent an answer within minutes.

Let the children use paper to make a prayer record with two columns. Encourage the children to record any answers to prayer and then share the information at the next class.

Lesson 9—Empty Plates

The story so far...**George had opened his third home for orphans and he continued to preach. This busy man discovered that he could accomplish more by starting his day with a prayer time. God, the Father to the fatherless, continued to miraculously provide for the orphans.**

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

Big Idea: God's answers are right on time!

Discussion Questions:

What was the problem at breakfast time? (The plates were empty and no food was in the home.) **Why didn't George or the children panic?** (God had always provided for their needs.) **How did God send an answer?** (A baker baked bread and a milk cart broke down outside.) **How do you think the children reacted to this miracle?** Let the children share their ideas.

Imagine what it was like to stand in front of an empty plate with a hungry stomach and wonder if you would eat anything. Then imagine Mr. Mueller leading in prayer and thanking God for the food that would be provided. Would you have been able to thank God for food—not knowing if or when it would come? Lead a discussion about George's example of thanking God even though he didn't yet see the answer.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that faith doesn't trust in physical sight, but trusts in the unseen.

Find some cheap sunglasses or old eyeglasses or have the children draw the frame of a pair of glasses. Create a flap to go on top of each lens. On the outside of the flap write the word "Faith." Cut some paper to cover the lens and on write "Trust God" and "Don't trust your eyes."

Lesson 10—Ashley Downs

The story so far...**On one occasion the children stood for the breakfast prayer and noticed the empty plates. After thanking God for what they were about to receive, a baker dropped off bread and a broken milk cart unloaded fresh milk for everyone. God had supplied their needs—not a moment too late!**

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

Big Idea: Completely depend on God to supply your needs.

Discussion Questions:

Did George get tired of daily asking God to supply for the orphans? (No, he enjoyed trusting God.) **How would feel if every day you had to trust God for all of your needs?** Let the children respond.

When someone donated a home, why didn't George immediately fill it with children? (He prayed about it first.) **What did tell George to do?** (God told George to build a home.)

George wasn't discouraged when he found the perfect land, but the owner wasn't available to talk with him. Over the years, George had learned that God's timing was perfect. What happened the next day when they met? (The man had woken up and felt that George should have the land for much less money.) **Has God ever delayed you doing something or receiving something and things turned out better because of the delay?** Give the kids an opportunity to share their experiences.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder that God will provide.

Jehovah Jireh is the name for God that means, "the Lord will provide" (Genesis 22:14). Set out beads or dried beans. Take cardboard or heavy paper and have the children glue the beads or beans to spell out Jehovah Jireh. In the space around the words, have the children write down things they look to the Lord to provide for them.

Lesson 11—Not Finished Yet

The story so far...**Every day became another day to trust God to provide. Money came in, but it always came in just in time and just for the right amount. This daily lesson in faith would prepare George for his greatest challenge yet.**

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

Big Idea: God plans big things that only He can accomplish.

Discussion Questions:

After building a new orphanage, what did God tell George to do? (God told George to open another home.) **Why might people think George had misunderstood God about building a home?** (The money wasn't coming in for the project.)

When the money started to come in, what unusual item was donated? (Windows were donated.) **George looked to God to confirm His plan. How did the windows show God's confirmation to George?** (The current house didn't need 300 windows, so God must want him to build.)

How many homes did George eventually build? (Five.) **How many orphans lived in these homes?** (2,000.) **How do you think living in the homes changed their lives?** Let the kids answer.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Create a visual reminder to pray for God to use them in big ways.

What are some big plans that God might have for you? Possible answers: to be a missionary, work in a company that I can share my faith with the people, translate a Bible, etc. Discuss ways the kids can prepare themselves for whatever big plan God has for them. Set out paper to cut out a bracelet, or if possible, purchase blank rubber bracelets from a craft store. Have the kids decorate the bracelet to say, "God, use me in big ways." Encourage the students to look at the bracelet as a reminder to pray for God to use them. Lead the children in a prayer modeling how to ask God to use you in big ways this week.

Lesson 12—No Time to Rest

The story so far...**Throughout his early Christian life, George had wanted to be a missionary. He chose to serve God by taking care of orphans. George had started five orphanages with two thousand children. Now God had a surprise for the 70-year-old George.**

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

Big Idea: Sharing your faith encourages others.

Discussion Questions:

What did George finally do when he was 70? (George became a missionary.) **Traveling in the late 1800's meant trains, carriages, and slow boats. Why do you think George wanted to travel so much during his old age?** (He wanted to share the Gospel and encourage others to trust in God.)

George traveled around the world telling people about the Gospel message and God's faithfulness to him. He shared stories of the miraculous ways that God had provided for the orphans. As he shared his faith, people were challenged to trust God to provide for them. Have you shared God's faithfulness with someone? Did it encourage them? Let the children share their experiences.

How old was George when he died? (93.) **George was known as a man of faith, what would you like to be known as?** Give each child an opportunity to respond.

What lesson did you learn from studying the life of George Mueller? Allow students to answer.

Do Something About It...

Objective: Watch a story about George Mueller.

Obtain a copy of the story of George Mueller on the Veggie Tales DVD of *Gideon: Tuba Warrior* (2006). Watch the video together and talk about the impact George's life had on people during his era and even current generations. Pray with the children, asking God to grow each child's faith and use each child in a powerful way to impact his or her world.

