DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 5, Quarter B—Rolland & Heidi Baker

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

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5B—Missionary Biography
Rolland & Heidi Baker

Teacher Intro—ROLLAND and HEIDI BAKER
Rolland and Heidi Baker followed Jesus to the place were they met the poorest of the poor. After that there was no turning back. Establishing ministries in Indonesia, Bali, Hong Kong, and London, they finally settled in Mozambique, the poorest country in the world. There they served Jesus by caring for orphans and the sick.

The challenges of providing physically and spiritually for so many children under unspeakable conditions of poverty and evil were met in Jesus. Time after time as discouragement and exhaustion threatened to collapse the entire ministry effort in Mozambique, the Holy Spirit poured out more grace and mercy on the ministry.

Note: Rolland and Heidi's is an active ministry in Mozambique. Find more information at their website, *www.irismins.org*

Lesson 1—Meet the Bakers
Read the story from page 12 of the DiscipleLand Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: God uses people today to reach others for Jesus.

Discussion Questions:
Show kids where Mozambique is on a map or globe. **Crystalyn is a teenage girl from America living in Mozambique. How would you enjoy living in an African country?**

Mozambique is a country with many orphans living on the streets. Why was the Baker family taking them in?

The Baker family brought these children into their own home. How hard do you think it would be to have strangers constantly coming to your house? Why would any discomfort the Bakers feel be less important than having this occur?

What things did the Baker family provide these children? If you had an orphaned child come to your home, what could you provide for them?

God used the Bakers to help in a faraway country. What might God be preparing you for?

Lesson 2—Rolland's Story
The story so far…**The Bakers are a family helping orphans in Mozambique. Rolland, Heidi, and their son and daughter open their home to kids who have none. But their story started much earlier...**

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

Big Idea: God prepares certain people to tell about Him in faraway lands.

Discussion Questions:
Rolland's grandparents were missionaries. How might that fact have affected Rolland's view of missionary work? Of God's power?

Rolland could have studied science and had a successful career. What does his choice to study at a Bible college tell you about his priorities?

Rolland's faith began when he was a young boy. God uses many people starting at a young age. How many of you are open to God using you?

What two things did Rolland say are part of faith? (Knowing God well and following Him.) **What does following God in faith teach us over time?**

God led Rolland and Heidi to each other. Why does God often use married couples to do His will together?

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Lesson 3—Heidi's Story

The story so far…**God was preparing Rolland and Heidi to be missionaries in Mozambique. Rolland's story was one of devotion to God from an early age. Heidi's story is slightly different.**

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

Big Idea: God trains people to serve Him in the best way.

Discussion Questions:

Growing up, Heidi did not know God, but later she could see that He had been working in her life. How?

In what other ways was God preparing Heidi? How different do you think a Native American reservation is from the beach culture of Southern California?

Heidi was sixteen when she finally became a Christian. What does this tell you about your friends that are not yet believers?

What do you think a "radical sponge for Jesus" is like? Whom did God bring into Heidi's life to help her grow?

Heidi continued to work with the Choctaw Indians. How do you think she saw her work with them differently after she became a believer. Why?

Lesson 4—A Valuable Lesson

The story so far…**God was preparing Rolland and Heidi to be missionaries in Mozambique. Rolland had been raised in a Christian family. Heidi came to Jesus when she was sixteen.**

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

Big Idea: God provides through the generosity of His people.

Discussion Questions:

How was Rolland and Heidi's attitude about their wedding gifts different than most people's? What brings about such a worldview shift?

Going to Indonesia without resources was a big "leap of faith." Does this remind you of any particular New Testament events? Why?

How did God respond to the Bakers' needs? How did this affect their trust in Him?

Why does God often send people out without any resources? What lesson is He teaching us?

Lesson 5—Good Samaritans

The story so far…**After Rolland and Heidi married, God sent them to Indonesia. Even though they had no money nor church support, God provided what they needed.**

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

Big Idea: God directs people's paths in unexpected ways.

Discussion Questions:

How did Rolland and Heidi reach people in Southeast Asia for Christ? What other creative ways can the Gospel message be presented.

Even though the Baker's served God through Christian drama and dance, God revealed a new plan to them. Why do you think God sometimes redirects our paths?

What was God's new mission for the Bakers? How did He want them to look at others?

The Bakers found themselves in very poor conditions. How difficult would it be for you to live in a slum?

Why do you think the Bakers decided to help Muslim women? Why would Muslim women be more receptive to the Gospel?

How did God work among the people to whom Rolland and Heidi ministered? Why are such successes a cause for rejoicing?

Lesson 6—Granny Church

The story so far…**The Bakers had been ministering in Indonesia through Christian drama and dance. God gave them new work among the poorest of the poor.**

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

Big Idea: God ministers to us even as we minister to others.

Discussion Questions:

The Bakers followed God to a brand new place. How difficult would it be to start over, with no money and no knowledge of the language?

Why did God bring them to sit in the park?

The old Buddhist "grannies" didn't want to hear about Jesus. Why did the Bakers stay?

Rolland and Heidi learned just as much from the poor and the poor did from them. Why is it important to be open to what others can teach us?

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Lesson 7—Hot Potatoes

The story so far…**God brought the Bakers from Indonesia to Hong Kong. They ministered to the poor Buddhist grannies there until Heidi's health became poor.**

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

Big Idea: God's people can serve others during any chapter of their lives.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Rolland and Heidi move to London? What did they do in addition to their studies?

How did the Bakers help the homeless in London? Why did they take time to develop relationships?

Once again, God responded powerfully to the Baker's efforts. Why is it important to serve others, no matter what your current circumstances?

During this time of learning, Rolland and Heidi continued to seek God's direction. How can you make a habit of listening for God's will in your life?

Lesson 8—Called to Mozambique

The story so far…**Rolland and Heidi left the east to study theology in London. Even during their time there, they helped the poor and sensed God's new chapter for them.**

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

Big Idea: God can work even in the most terrible situations.

Discussion Questions:

Rolland and Heidi were excited about going to Mozambique. Why would they get excited about such a dangerous place?

What had the Baker family prayed? Why did they believe the Gospel could be so effective?

What would have discouraged you most about the situation in Mozambique? How would you have prayed for the people back then?

The situation for the people there, especially the children, looked hopeless. Why was it so important for the Bakers to go there?

How would you respond to someone who complained about all the pain and suffering in places like Mozambique?

Lesson 9—A New Ministry

The story so far…**Rolland and Heidi had found a new mission field—Mozambique. But it was a dangerous country filled with suffering people. Would the Bakers be able to make a difference?**

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

Big Idea: God presents big challenges to those willing to accept them.

Discussion Questions:

Imagine millions of refugees living in tents! Thousands of orphans! Where would you start if you were the Baker family?

Rolland and Heidi were offered the job of taking over an orphanage. Why? What do you think they did before deciding whether or not to accept the offer?

How do you imagine the Bakers felt when they saw the orphanage in Chihango? How would you feeling, living in a place like that among "wild" kids?

What lesson had Rolland and Heidi learned in all their years of ministry? What did they trust God to do?

Lesson 10—Letter from Chihango

The story so far…**The Bakers had arrived in Mozambique and agreed to take over an orphanage. The facility was run-down with no resources and wild kids running all over the place.**

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

Big Idea: God provides.

Discussion Questions:

Why were Rolland and Heidi excited?

Why didn't the Bakers turn anyone away? Why were they not worried of running out of food or space?

For what prayer did the Bakers ask? What did they say they needed?

How would you feel, receiving a letter like this from someone you know?

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Lesson 11—A New Trial

The story so far…**The Chihango orphanage grew from 80 to 300 kids in a single year. Rolland and Heidi knew God would provide what they needed.**

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

Big Idea: God brings new trial that show His sufficiency.

Discussion Questions:

The orphanage was closed. Why would God allow something like that to happen? Do you think the Bakers were angry with God? Why or why not?

Where did the Baker family and the orphans go? How could hundreds of kids fit into a home designed for a family of four?

At their lowest point, God presented a great opportunity to trust Him. Why didn't Heidi let her friend make more chili?

What did they do instead? How did God respond?

What did this miracle reinforce for the Bakers? What does it teach you about trusting God?

Lesson 12—Always Enough

The story so far…**Rolland and Heidi have moved the Chihango orphans to their home. Hundreds of kids stay at a house meant for a small family.**

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

Big Idea: God's provision is always enough!

Discussion Questions:

How did God provide for the Mozambique orphans? Who partnered with God?

Did the Machava orphanage "spring up" overnight? What did it take to provide the children with a new home?

Why do you think Heidi began a new ministry? What does it tell you about how well the orphanage was going?

Why didn't death threats stop Heidi from ministering at the garbage dump? What was the result of her perseverance?

What are some of the powerful things God has done in Mozambique? Do you think God is finished with the Bakers or the people of Mozambique?

What work still needs to be done? Will God provide enough for the work to continue?

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