



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 6, Quarter B—Jim & Elisabeth Elliot

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

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6B—Missionary Biography

Jim & Elisabeth Elliot

Teacher Intro—JIM & ELISABETH ELLIOT

In the jungles of Ecuador lived a people so savage that they were known only by that description in the local language—*Auca*. But God loved the Aucas, and he sent five missionaries to reach out to them. Jim Elliot was among the five who gave their lives in order that God's message would penetrate the Aucas' hearts.

Elisabeth Elliot embodied Jesus' love in embracing her "enemies"—her husband's killers. Her expressions of forgiveness and compassion helped win souls for Christ. The Aucas shed their savage ways and took on a new identity in Christ—the Waorani. Jim and Elisabeth powerfully illustrate the power of shining Jesus' light into the darkness.

Lesson 1—Pale Stranger

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

Big Idea: God calls people to follow Him wherever He leads them.

Discussion Questions:

Why was Jim so happy to meet the Auca's?

How would you have felt entering the muddy jungle waters? Would you like to be a missionary to a jungle tribe? Why or why not?

Why was Jim willing to risk his life to reach an unreached people group?

Do you think there are unreached people groups today? (Research and name some.)

Jim was willing to sacrifice his life to take the Gospel message to the Aucas. In what ways has serving Jesus meant sacrifice for you?

Lesson 2—Flashback

The story so far... **Jim Elliot wades across the muddy jungle water to make contact with the fierce Auca tribe that had never before been friendly to outsiders.**

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

Big Idea: God brings people together to fulfill His purposes.

Discussion Questions:

What did Jim and Elisabeth's childhoods have in common?

Have you talked with missionaries or had them stay in your home?

Many missionaries felt a calling to the mission field as children. Do you feel God calling you to the mission field?

Why did Jim want to stay "single-minded" about the mission field?

Are you single-minded about something? What?

How can single-mindedness be helpful to Christians?

Lesson 3—Operation Auca

The story so far...**Jim and Elisabeth met at college and both felt called to the mission field—but to different parts of the world! God worked in their lives and brought them together in Ecuador, where they married.**

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

Big Idea: God fits together the experiences of our lives into His plan.

Discussion Questions:

How would you have handled the situation of the thatched home? What uncomfortable situations in your life do you need to endure right now?

Why do missionaries choose to endure hardships on the mission field? Your prayers and encouragement can help missionaries endure uncomfortable situations. Which missionaries will you pray for right now?

How did Jim and Elisabeth show they had humble hearts? What situations do you exhibit a humble heart?

The Elliots didn't try to reach the Aucas alone, but joined together with other missionaries. What are some reasons why missionaries sometimes don't work together? How can you work together with other Christians to reach your community for Christ?

Lesson 4—They Need to Know!

The story so far...**Jim and Elisabeth begin their work with a peaceful Quechua tribe, but feel God leading them to reach the fierce Auca tribe. They move closer to the Aucas and work together with other missionaries to reach the Auca tribe.**

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

Big Idea: God rewards perseverance.

Discussion Questions:

To what degree should missionaries listen to other people's advice? If you were warned about reaching a dangerous people group, would you pursue it or stop?

Why do you think the tribe was so fierce?

An airplane was the only way to find the tribe hiding in the thick jungle. What other ways can airplanes assist missionaries?

God gave Jim the desire and goal of reaching the Aucas. Has God given you a desire for a people group? If so, what people group?

Lesson 5—Dayuma

The story so far...**Although people warned the Elliots against trying to reach the Auca tribe, they continue to follow God's plan for their lives. A missionary pilot helps them locate the Auca settlement.**

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

Big Idea: God brings people to help missionaries fulfill His plan.

Discussion Questions:

How do missionaries solve communication or language problems today? Would these same methods have helped the Elliots?

Do you learn languages easily? What might help you learn a language?

Years earlier, God had planned for a girl to help the missionaries reach her tribe. How do you think Jim and Elisabeth reacted when they discovered Dayuma?

When has God sent someone to help you with a problem you were having?

How would you have felt to hear Dayuma's warning? Would that change your plans to reach the Aucas? Why or why not?

Lesson 6—Canvas Bucket

The story so far...**Years earlier an Auca girl had escaped from her tribe and helps Jim Elliot learn some Auca phrases. She warns then not to trust the Aucas.**

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

Big Idea: God helps missionaries build friendships to reach people with the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

Why is creativity necessary for missionaries? Have you heard of some creative ways missionaries have reached people with the Gospel?

Why did the missionaries desire a friendship with the Aucas?

What gift items would be useful to the tribe? What items would not be good to drop?

Who are you having a hard time reaching with the gospel? How could you help build a friendship with that person?

Lesson 7—The Parrot

The story so far...**The missionaries fly over the jungle and drop gifts to show that they are friendly. Jim uses the loud-speaker to tell the tribe, “I like you. I am your friend.”**

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

Big Idea: Confidently follow God’s plan.

Discussion Questions:

What are some of the spiritual blessings the missionaries experienced?

Why was Jim so confident that it was time to move closer to the Aucas? What helped Elisabeth feel confident? When have you been confident of God’s plan? How would you handle feeling a lack of confidence in God’s plan?

How did the missionaries react to the parrot gift from the Aucas?

How would you have felt sleeping in the tree house near the Aucas?

Lesson 8—Contact!

The story so far...**The missionaries decide that it is time for the men to set up camp near the Aucas. They build a tree house on the beach and wait.**

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

Big Idea: God moves the pieces into place in His plan.

Discussion Questions:

Why didn’t Jim hesitate to enter the water when he saw the Aucas?

Jim might have felt fear, but he didn’t react with any fear of the Aucas. How might missionaries deal with fear? How do you deal with fear?

How do you think George felt when he was in the airplane?

Why do you think the Aucas didn’t spend the night at the camp?

How do you think the missionaries felt that night?

Lesson 9—Tragedy

The story so far...**At last three Auca appear and Jim leads them to the camp. The male Auca rides in the airplane. Contact with Aucas has been made!**

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

Big Idea: God allows tragedies but works things out for His glory in the end.

Discussion Questions:

What thoughts might have gone through the men’s minds as they see the approaching Auca men?

Why do missionaries risk their lives to reach people?

Why didn’t the missionaries fight or hide?

Have you seen God take a difficult or tragic situation and turned it around for His glory?

How do you think the women dealt with not reaching the men by radio?

Lesson 10—The Best Plans

The story so far...**The Auca men head towards Palm Beach and the missionaries excitedly prepare for contact with them. The spears that pierce the missionaries appear to end the quest of reaching the Aucas with the Gospel.**

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

Big Idea: Christians can comfort each other and unite together when life is difficult or tragic.

Discussion Questions:

How do you think the women coped as they waited for news? What would you have said to the women or prayed for them?

Why was it important for the women to unite?

Why didn’t the women despair or doubt God? What verses might have helped or comforted the women?

Put Jim’s quote in your own words.

Lesson 11—A Wife Continues

The story so far... **The men's bodies are found and the women unite as the world learns about the tragedy. Jim's life and death inspire others to go to the mission field.**

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

Big Idea: Forgiveness speaks powerfully and softens hearts towards the Gospel message.

Discussion Questions:

Why didn't Elisabeth leave Ecuador after her husband's murder? Would you have stayed?

How do you think Elisabeth felt as she walked into the Auca village and saw the men who killed the missionaries?

Why is forgiveness so powerful? When have you forgiven someone and seen change it makes in someone else?

What do you know about the Bible translation process?

Lesson 12—No Longer Aucas

The story so far... **It is now Elisabeth's turn to have contact with the Aucas. She, her daughter Valerie, and Rachel Saint, the pilot Nate's sister, choose to live with the Aucas who killed the missionaries!**

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

Big Idea: We may never know how God uses our simple acts of obedience to Him.

Discussion Questions:

Why did the Waorani not want to be called Aucas?

Have you seen someone's life totally change after becoming a Christian?

Have you read any biographies or seen any movies about Jim Elliot? Why do you think his life's story is still popular?

How does the story of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot affect you?