



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

**Level 6, Quarter C—Contemporary Missionary
Vignettes**

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

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6C—Missionary Biography

Contemporary Missionary Vignettes

Teacher Intro—CONTEMPORARY MISSIONARY VIGNETTES

Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is an ongoing task that continues today and into the future until the Lord returns. Individuals are born every day who need to hear about God's love and forgiveness. Kids need to see that missions is a vital and relevant component of the Church's kingdom work.

This quarter they'll meet twelve missionaries from the past century who contributed significantly to world missions efforts. Each vignette will emphasize God's ability to use the unique gifts and talents of those willing to serve Him in missions. Reinforce with the children that today's world needs even more individuals willing to give their all for Christ so that the Great Commission can culminate in the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9)!

Lesson 1—Tom & Betty Sue Brewster

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

Big Idea: God can do great things with people of all abilities.

Discussion Questions:

Tom lost the use of his body in a swimming accident. Why did Tom know that God could still use him?

For what reasons did God bring Betty Sue into Tom's life?

Is missions simply being in another country among other people? Why or why not? How did Tom and Betty Sue participate in missions?

Campus Crusade had been translating their ministry materials *literally*. What difficulties might result from this approach?

Why was the language learning system that Tom and Betty Sue developed important to missionaries? How did their lives show they were committed to serving God in missions?

In what "support" areas could you participate that would further the Great Commission?

Lesson 2—Clarence Jones

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

Big Idea: God's people can use modern means to spread the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

Why would radio be a good tool to help missionaries?

Clarence had been involved in Christian radio broadcasts in the United States. How was God preparing him for a missionary call?

Did God bless Clarence's ministry? How?

How did Clarence continue to expand his missionary efforts?

How is HCJB still reaching people today?

How would you enjoy using radio or television to reach others for Christ? What creative ideas would you implement?

Lesson 3—Gary Haugen

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

Big Idea: God cares about justice for the oppressed.

Discussion Questions:

There are countries in the world where great evils are being committed. How did God open Gary Haugen's eyes to injustice?

Gary had worked with Bishop Desmond Tutu, a well known humanitarian. Why are so many world humanitarians Christians?

What abuses do you imagine are happening that the IJM fights against? Why is it important for Christians to oppose injustice?

Gary is taking on the world slave trade. It seems like an impossible task. Why does Gary think he can make a difference?

How can you make a difference in the world around you?

Lesson 4—Rochunga and Mawii Pudaite

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

Big Idea: God grows ministries in exponential ways.

Discussion Questions:

Why was Rochunga's father so concerned that his people did not have a Bible in their language?

Rochunga dedicated his life to Bible translation at age ten! Is there anything you feel dedicated to at your age?

When Rochunga and his wife completed the task, how did God respond? Why did God give them an even bigger task?

Why is giving people their own Bible to read important? What impact can God's Word have on an unbeliever?

How might God be calling you to catch a "big vision" to serve Him?

Lesson 5—J. Christy Wilson

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

Big Idea: God honors the prayers of godly men and women.

Discussion Questions:

What do you think it would be like to live in a country with no churches? How else would God's people meet?

How do you think Christy and his wife felt about being forced out of Afghanistan? Why might God allow situations like that to occur?

How can prayer be a ministry? Why would praying for Afghanistan be as important as going to Afghanistan?

What would be the purpose of a missionary convention? Why would someone benefit to going to one?

Christy Wilson started Urbana in 1946. How do you think he felt to see the conference going strong 50 years later? How would you feel to be part of a movement or program that would have such a lasting impact?

Lesson 6—Betty Greene

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

Big Idea: God uses anyone willing to take risks for Him.

Discussion Questions:

There were very few women pilots in Betty Greene's day. What characteristics make a person try things they might not normally try?

What gave Betty a sense of peace, even as her airplane was about to crash?

Betty wanted to use her unique talents to serve God. As she spoke to others she learned there was nothing in place for pilots to minister. How did she respond?

Betty flew to some pretty amazing places. Where you like to go and what would you like to see in your lifetime?

When Betty became older, she was no longer fit to fly. What did she do to continue to serve God?

Lesson 7—Donald McGavran

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

Big Idea: God wants to reach all "nations" with the Gospel message.

Discussion Questions:

Donald and his family served in India for more than thirty years. If you could choose one other country to live in, where would it be and why?

God had other plans for Donald. What were they? Why did the missionary society feel that work was important?

In what way had missions organizations been viewing the world? What was Donald's new way?

In Jesus' Great Commission, He tells His followers to make disciples of "all nations." The original Greek has a closer meaning to people groups than to countries. Why is this significant to Donald's work?

Do you think the Great Commission can be "finished"? Why or why not? Make sure kids understand that there is no right or wrong answer to this question. Missiologists continue to debate it back and forth! The point is that as long as the task is unfinished, we must continue to work at it.

Lesson 8—Setan Lee

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

Big Idea: God wants people to respond passionately to His salvation.

Discussion Questions:

Setan was imprisoned simply because he was from a wealthy, educated family. Why is persecution usually more about who someone is than about what he or she did?

Setan prayed to a god he did not know. Why did the one true God answer his prayer?

How do you think Setan felt when he discovered the identity of the Lord who saved him from the firing squad? What about discovering Jesus had died to forgive his sins?

How did Setan respond to this information? What was the result of Setan's response? Do you feel like the people in your church proclaim Jesus with the same intensity? Why might it be different?

Setan became a missionary to his own people. How might we approach our faith differently if we felt that we were missionaries in our own home towns?

Lesson 9—Eliza Davis George

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

Big Idea: God raises up humble people to serve Him.

Discussion Questions:

Eliza was still serving God as a missionary in her 70s. Why didn't she "retire"?

Eliza was committed to training Liberian natives to spread the Gospel. Why is it important for a native people to know how to tell the Good News?

Eliza was the daughter of former slaves. How did God use this to shape her desire to reach people in Africa?

What amazing things was God able to accomplish through a nearly 80 year old woman?

What important step did Eliza take to ensure that ENI would continue doing the Lord's work?

Lesson 10—Isobel Kuhn

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

Big Idea: Christians serve God bravely and creatively.

Discussion Questions:

Isobel was in China with her family. Do you think it is a good idea for entire families to serve as missionaries? Why or why not?

Who did Isobel trust to keep her healthy? How did God honor that trust?

How did Isobel use her creativity to serve God?

How did Isobel ensure that the Lisu people could truly understand God's Word?

How did Isobel show courage in serving God? What kind of hardships would you be willing to face to tell others about Jesus?

Lesson 11—Anand Chaudhari

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

Big Idea: God uses people who can relate to their own people.

Discussion Questions:

Anand had been a Hindu priest before coming to Christ. Why had he not found the answers he was looking for in the Hindu religion?

By accepting Jesus, Anand knew he would face family rejection and persecution. Why did Anand become a Christian anyway? What more did he do beyond that?

Why did Anand feel there needed to be a different approach than presenting the Gospel the way Western missionaries had done? Was Anand's approach successful?

How did God bless Anand's ministry?

How would you design a ministry to reach people in your community?

Lesson 12—Heather Mercer & Dayna Curry

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

Big Idea: God's people risk severe penalties to obey Him.

Discussion Questions:

Heather and Dayna knew they were taking a great risk to share the Gospel. What motivated them to reach people in Afghanistan?

How do you think the two women felt, being imprisoned in a foreign country for obeying Jesus? How would you feel if it became against the law to be a Christian?

During their captivity, the terrorist attacks of September 11 occurred in the United States. What kept Heather and Dayna from panicking about their own fate?

Even though they were banned from Afghanistan, how did Heather and Dayna continue to help the people there?

Where would you be willing to go to tell others about Jesus?