



DiscipleLand

Missionary Biography Questions

Level 4, Quarter D—Loren Cunningham

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

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4D—Missionary Biography

Loren Cunningham

Teacher Intro—LOREN CUNNINGHAM (1936—Present)

Loren Cunningham grew up in a Christian home where he learned at a young age to trust God. He saw God work powerfully in his life. One day he saw a vision of a map with waves going upon the shores. Suddenly the faces of young people appeared on the waves being carried around the world. Loren knew God would use him to somehow help young people go into all the world and preach the good news of Jesus. It took several years, but Loren began a ministry called Youth With A Mission and today thousands of young people serve God around the world.

Lesson 1—I'll Tell the World

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

Big Idea: God gives a desire to want tell others about Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

What were Loren and his family doing on a street corner on Saturday night? Would you like to sing and preach to people in your city? What street corner would you choose to tell people about Jesus?

Why did they leave? Has God ever given you or someone you know an urgent message? Did you follow it?

What might have happened if the Cunningham family had hesitated or questioned God's message? How do you think they felt when they saw the damage to the area where they had been standing? What are some of the things they might have said to God?

Loren's idea of writing a message on the moon was good, but had some problems. What are some of the problems with writing a message on the moon for everyone to read? What plan can you think of to tell people all around the world that God loves them?

Lesson 2—Pastor's Kid

The story so far...As a young child, Loren Cunningham saw God's power to speak to his mother and tell them to go immediately—saving them from being hurt in an earthquake. Loren began to think about ways to tell all the people of the world that God loves them.

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

Big Idea: God answers prayer.

Discussion Questions:

What did Loren lose? How did he respond when realized the money was gone? What happened when his mother prayed? Have you ever lost something and asked God to help you find it? What happened?

Have you experienced an answer to your prayers? Tell us about it.

What benefits would Loren have being a pastor's kid? What might be difficult about having your father be a pastor?

How many times have you and your family moved? What are some good things about moving? What are some hard things about moving? What kind of attitude do you think Loren had about moving?

What did Loren ask God to give him? Did God answer? How?

Have you ever asked God to give you opportunities to tell others about Him? Why not pray right now and ask God? How do you think God might answer that prayer?

What opportunities did God give Loren? How did he respond? Who might God want you to tell about Him? Take some time and practice what you would say when God gives you the opportunity.

Lesson 3—Pictures in His Mind

The story so far... **Loren Cunningham lost the grocery money. Instead of scolding, immediately his mother prayed and God showed her the money was hiding under a bush. Loren's father was a pastor and when the family moved to a new city, Loren prayed and asked God to give him opportunities to tell others about Him.**

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

Big Idea: God speaks through many different ways, sometimes through pictures in your mind.

Discussion Questions:

Read Mark 16:15. Why do you think Loren saw those words while he prayed at an altar? Has God ever shown or reminded you of a verse in the Bible? What was it?

Read Isaiah 52:7. Loren's mother wanted to help him remember his important decision to go anywhere and preach. What did she do? Has your mother ever helped you remember a special decision? Tell us about it.

What picture did God give Loren while he was a college student? What do you think the picture might mean? What did Loren think the picture might mean?

Why was Loren puzzled? How would you feel if God showed you a picture like that? What are some ways God might want Loren involved in the picture in his mind?

Have you ever asked God to show you a picture or speak to you in a picture? What happened?

Lesson 4—Around the World

The story so far... **In Loren Cunningham's mind, he saw words from a Bible verse about going into the world and preaching. He promised God that he would be a preacher. A few years later, Loren saw a picture of a world map with waves that became young people's faces. Loren wondered how God wanted him to be involved in sending young people to all the countries of the world.**

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

Big Idea: God uses young people to reach the world.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Loren take young people to Hawaii? What did the young people do in Hawaii? Why were some people against the idea of taking the young people on the trip?

Have you or someone in your family ever gone on a mission trip? Tell us about it.

What did Loren do after the Hawaii trip? Why did Loren want to go around the world? How do you think Loren felt as he saw so many different cultures and people groups? How would you feel?

At the end of the trip, what did Loren decide to do? What are some things you think he might be able to do to help?

If you went around the world and saw peoples' needs for Jesus, what would you want to do?

Lesson 5—"Let's Do It!"

The story so far...Loren took a group of 105 young people on a mission trip to Hawaii. Next, he went on a trip around the world to find opportunities for young people to go and serve God. He saw unlimited needs and decided he would do something to help!

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

Big Idea: When people promise to work for God, He gives them opportunities.

Discussion Questions:

Why did the two young men think they couldn't be missionaries? How do you think they felt about not having a skill to use as a missionary? At that time, most missionaries were pastors, teachers, nurses, or doctors. Do you know people who do missionary work? What jobs do they do on the mission field?

How did Loren react to the young men's desire to go, but inability to do a job like most missionaries?

What happened when Loren shared his desire for helping young people go to the mission field? How do you think Loren felt to have someone join with him? Sometimes a task God gives is big and it helps to have someone join with you. What could you do to join with another Christian in doing something for God?

What did Loren call the new organization? Why was that a good name? If you started a ministry to send young people around the world, what would you call it?

What amazing mission opportunity did Loren discover in Liberia? How did the two young men respond? How do you think Loren felt as the first two people went out for a year?

Lesson 6—Moving Along

The story so far...Loren Cunningham wanted to help young people go out on mission trips, but they didn't have typical missionary skills such as pastor, teacher, nurse, or doctor. A friend joined with Loren to begin Youth With A Mission. The first missionaries sent out by the organization went to Liberia to build a road to the leper colony.

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

Big Idea: God honors decisions to put Him first!

Discussion Questions:

What offer did Loren receive from his aunt? Did he take it? Why or why not? What would you have done? Do you think it was an easy or a hard decision for Loren to make? Why?

Do you think Loren made the right decision? Have you ever made a decision to put God first and say "no" to something else? Explain your answer.

Why was it important for Loren to marry someone who wanted to be a missionary?

Take time and pray for any married missionaries that you know or your church supports. Also pray for young people who are going to the mission field to not let anything stop them or lure them away from putting God first.

Lesson 7—Car Accident!

The story so far...Loren Cunningham's very wealthy aunt offered him a job with his uncle, but Loren turned it down so he could fulfill God's job of sending young people around the world to do mission work. Loren met and married Darlene, a young lady who wanted to be a missionary.

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

Big Idea: God sometimes alerts us to pray for others.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Loren and Darlene go to the Bahamas? What are some needs the young people had? How did God provide for their transportation? Would you have liked to ride in a dump truck or a mail boat?

Have you prayed and seen God meet your needs? Explain.

What happened as the Cunninghams traveled to speak in churches? What do you think Loren thought when God told him to pray for Darlene's lifeless body? Would you have prayed?

God answered Loren's prayer and they discovered that God had prompted others to pray for them also. Have you ever felt like you urgently needed to pray for someone? Did you find out if there was a problem happening at the time you prayed? Have you ever heard missionaries or anyone share a prayer story of praying at the exact time of a difficulty?

How do you think the Cunninghams felt knowing that God had saved their lives? How might that experience have encouraged them to keep doing God's work?

Lesson 8—Growing!

The story so far...The Cunninghams went to the Bahamas to help young people on the mission trip. They saw many exciting answers to their prayers. When they returned home, the Cunninghams traveled around to churches to tell them how God was using young people to accomplish great things. Surviving a terrible car accident reminded them that God still had work for them to do.

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

Big Idea: God shows us ways to get His job done!

Discussion Questions:

Why did Loren want YWAM to grow faster? Why did Loren fast and pray? Have you or your family ever fasted and prayed to seek God about something? What happened?

How did God begin to show Loren ways to multiply YWAM's efforts? What did the man from Tonga ask Loren? How do you think Loren felt when the man offered to lead the team of young people? Have you ever volunteered to help someone on a project? How did you feel? How do you think the person you helped felt?

What future plan did God show Loren during his time of fasting and prayer? How did his time of prayer and fasting prepare him to hear God? Why was it important for Darlene to hear the same message from God?

Why was a school of evangelism important? Loren and wife both grew up in Christian homes and had a good foundation in God's Word. The school would help young people who didn't have a good foundation or were new Christians. What are some of the things you think the young people might learn in a school of evangelism? Would you like to go to a school of evangelism?

Lesson 9—Just In Time!

The story so far...Loren was anxious for YWAM to grow faster. Then God showed him how other Christians could lead groups of young people to countries to serve God. After fasting and praying, God spoke to both Loren and Darlene to start a school to train young people in God's Word before they went on a mission trip.

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

Big Idea: God confirms His plans to us and provides what is needed to do His plans.

Discussion Questions:

Why did Loren and Darlene keep God's plan a secret? Do you think it was easy for the Cunninghams to trust God and plan to go to Switzerland before God had confirmed the plan?

Has God ever told you something that didn't make sense? What did you do?

Starting a school of evangelism in Switzerland was certainly sounded strange to the Cunninghams. How did God confirm that this was His plan for them? Has God ever used you to confirm something to someone else? Explain. Has God ever confirmed something to you through someone else?

Describe what you think life was like for the Cunninghams with a new baby and a new school in Switzerland.

What happened when they decided to buy the hotel in Switzerland to use for the school? Would you have enough faith to believe that God would send the money?

Have you ever experienced God answering a prayer "just in time?" Explain.

Lesson 10—Let God Provide

The story so far...Loren and Darlene Cunningham's message from God was confirmed when someone told them they were to start a school in Switzerland—the exact message God had given them. When it was time to buy the hotel for the school, they were ten thousand dollars short. Miraculously, God provided the money—just in time!

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

Big Idea: God wants us to trust Him to provide for our needs.

Discussion Questions:

Why were the missionaries headed to Munich, Germany? What are some ways they could serve God at the Olympics?

What problem needed to be solved before one thousand missionaries arrived? How did God provide for the need? How would you like to live in a castle?

At the beginning of the Olympics, people partied and celebrated without wanting to listen to the young missionaries. How did the YWAMers feel?

What tragedy occurred at the Olympics? After the tragedy, how did people respond to the young missionaries? Have you ever felt like God placed you in a certain place at a certain time to help or pray for someone?

Why did Loren want to buy a ship? In what ways would a ship be a great idea for YWAM? What did God show Loren? Why was it important for Loren to learn to let God provide? How do you think Loren felt when the ship's deal fell apart? What might have been different if Loren had let God provide everything for the ship?

Have you ever done something on your own and then realized that you weren't letting God take part in it? What might have been different if God had been involved?

Lesson 11—You Get By Giving Away

The story so far...**Loren Cunningham** needed a place in Germany for one thousand young YWAMers to stay during the 1972 Olympics. God provided a castle to house the youth. A tragedy at the Olympics opened the door for the young people to minister to thousands of people from around the world. An attempt to buy a ship for YWAM failed and Loren learned he must rely totally on God to provide for YWAM's needs.

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

Big Idea: God wants His followers to be generous to others.

Discussion Questions:

What did Loren want to start in Hawaii? What did Loren do with the money he collected? What was God teaching Loren? What happened when Loren gave away the money? Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed unusual? What happened? When have you been generous and later received generously from someone else?

When God sent a professor to start up the university, it freed Loren to focus on what? What happened the last time he tried to get a ship? How could Loren show that he learned his lesson from God?

How did God confirm that buying the ship was His plan? How do you think the Canadian man felt as he traveled to Hawaii to meet a man he didn't know and tell the man about the strange vision he had? Have you ever felt awkward doing something God asked you to do? What happened?

The Greek word *Anastasis* means "resurrection." Why was that a good name for the ship? What name would you have given the ship?

Lesson 12—Not Finished Yet

The story so far...**Loren Cunningham** felt God wanted YWAM to have a university in Hawaii. He raised money and then gave the money to another ministry because was teaching him to be generous. The next week, a different organization donated to YWAM so they could buy the hotel. Loren had another opportunity to buy a ship and this time God confirmed it was His plan.

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

Big Idea: God continues to send young people to serve Him around the world.

Discussion Questions:

How was the *Anastasis* used?

In what ways has YWAM grown?

What have you learned from Loren Cunningham's life? How would you like God to use you to reach people around the world?

If possible, use the Internet (ywam.org) and show your class the website about Youth With A Mission. Have the children look at all the different Discipleship Training Schools with different focuses (art, sports, adventure, etc.). Let the kids find a DTS they would like to attend.

Encourage your students to read more about the life of Loren Cunningham, one of the wonderful biographies in the series Christian Heroes: Then & Now, "Loren Cunningham: Into All the World," by Janet & Geoff Benge, published by YWAM Publishers.