



**DiscipleLand**

*Missionary Biography Questions*

Level 5, Quarter B—Nick & Lynne Swanepoel

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

Nick & Lynne Swanepoel

### Teacher Intro—NICK and LYNNE SWANEPOEL

Nick and Lynne Swanepoel (**Swan-ě-pool**) obeyed Jesus's call to serve the Rendille people in the remote village of Korr, Kenya. This tribe lived in small, spread-out villages in the Kaisut desert region. The people valued clan loyalty, beautiful beads, and nomadic living as they herded goats and camels.

The Swanepoels served with Wycliffe Bible Translators and African Inland Mission for a combined 33 years. They conquered challenges such as famine relief, language learning, Bible translation, and church planting. With limited resources, they taught the locals to read the newly translated New Testament. God established His Church among the Rendille; He forever transformed this colorful, vibrant group of people!

Note: Nick and Lynne Swanepoel have recently retired from the missions field. After training locals in Korr to lead the ministry, their work continues. "Water is Life" from the African Inland Mission shows the work among the Rendille people: <https://vimeo.com/15647910>

### Lesson 1—Nick's Story

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

*Big Idea:* God can transform people today to reach others for Jesus.

#### Discussion Questions:

Use a map or globe to show kids where Kenya is located.

**Imagine living in northern Kenya. How would you enjoy living in an African country?**

Show the location of Pretoria, South Africa. **Nick Swanepoel learned about God in a place called Pretoria, South Africa. Why did Nick choose to follow the Lord?**

**God used the Nick and Lynne Swanepoel to help people in a faraway country. What might God be preparing you for?**

### Lesson 2—Lynne's Story

The story so far... **Nick Swanepoel moved from Kenya to Pretoria, South Africa. As a young man, Nick met the Lord and was forever transformed. Now, let's meet Lynne...**

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

*Big Idea:* God uses a variety of situations to prepare people to serve Him.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Lynne made excuses to not attend the YWCA camp. How do you think she responded when her friends paid so she could go?**

**Lynne could have enjoyed a successful career as a physician. What does her choice to reach the street people in Cape Town tell you about her priorities?**

**How did Lynne show faith when some of the people she helped made poor choices?**

### Lesson 3—Nick & Lynne Meet & Marry

The story so far... **Although they were unaware at the time, God was preparing Nick and Lynne to be missionaries. As young adults, they believed the Good News about Jesus. God soon brought them together.**

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

*Big Idea:* God guides His faithful servants to join up and minister to others.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Lynne served God wholeheartedly, helping young people who had made a mess of their lives. How did Nick meet Lynne?**

**God led Nick and Lynne to each other. Lynne’s “radical faith” lifestyle inspired Nick. Why does God often use married couples to do His will together?**

**Nick and Lynne continued helping people make a fresh start to get off the streets. The work was nonstop and demanding. In what ways do you think this 24/7 ministry prepared the Swanepoels for missionary work?**

### Lesson 4—Call to Missions

The story so far...**Nick and Lynne met the Lord as young adults. God soon brought them together to minister to the lost in Cape Town, South Africa. The Swanepoels opened their home to people living on the street.**

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

*Big Idea:* God directs His followers so they accomplish His purposes.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Nick and Lynne prayed for wisdom about where to serve God as missionaries. What Bible verses spoke to Nick when about working with Wycliffe?**

**Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators required much preparation. How did God train Nick and Lynne to serve as missionaries?**

**God often sends people to share the Gospel in new lands. How does this remind you of New Testament events? What is He teaching you?**

### Lesson 5—The Rendille People in Korr, Kenya

The story so far...**Nick and Lynne moved to “Rendille Land”—a dry region in northern Kenya. They met the tribal people living in small villages. The Swanepoels would have many new challenges...**

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

*Big Idea:* God provides for His people in unexpected ways.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Describe some of the Swanepoels’ initial challenges. How would you transition to a new place like Korr, Kenya?**

**The Swanepoels learned customs and habits of the people they came to serve. Why is it so important to understand the people around you? How does this show God’s love to others?**

**God provided in miraculous ways. What do these episodes show you about God’s provision in times of crisis?**

### Lesson 6—Learning the Rendille Language

The story so far...**Each custom and habit of the people the Swanepoels served helped them minister in a new land. To translate the Scriptures for the Rendille people, Nick and Lynne needed to speak the language fluently...**

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

*Big Idea:* People in every part of the world need to hear God’s Word.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Why did Nick and Lynne need to learn the Rendille language? What challenges did they face?**

**God helped the Swanepoels understand the Rendille language to communicate God’s truth to them. How does understanding the culture help communicate the God’s truth in the Scriptures?**

**During this time of learning, Nick and Lynne continued to build their Bible translation skills. In what ways can you see God preparing you and those around you to serve others?**

### **Lesson 7—The Rendille Clans**

The story so far...**Nick and Lynne are serving among the Rendille people. Soon Nick and Lynne learned about the importance of clans...**

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

*Big Idea:* God gives wisdom about how to befriend and love others.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Clans are an important part of the Rendille family life. How is this similar to/different from your culture?**

**Each Rendille clan had traits that described their behavior. How would you describe your family (a.k.a. your clan)?**

**Nick and Lynne were accepted into the Rendille tribe because they were willing to honor the local customs. Why is this important?**

### **Lesson 8—Teaching the Rendille to Read**

The story so far...**Nick and Lynne were accepted into the Rendille tribe as part of the Salle and Rongummo clans. They have mastered the language and are now ready for the next phase of ministry.**

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

*Big Idea:* God helps solve communication barriers to tell others who He is and what He does.

#### Discussion Questions:

**The Swanepoels struggled to communicate the idea of “covenant” to the Rendille people. Why do you think understanding “covenant” would be important?**

**The Rendille culture had a shallow understanding of “promises.” Why is keeping your promises important?**

**Nick and Lynne needed to teach the people how to read. Why are reading skills important to you?**

### **Lesson 9—Famine Relief**

The story so far...**Nick and Lynne faithfully served the Rendille people every day. They translated Scripture, taught them to read, and helped them learn about God. But how would God provide when they ran out of food?**

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

*Big Idea:* God cares for the basic needs of His people.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Imagine eating nothing but tea and porridge every day! What would it be like to not have enough food?**

**God provided food in an unusual way. When the Rendille people received a generous supply of food from people they didn't even know, how do you think they responded?**

**Nick and Lynne learned during their years of ministry that God would supply their needs. In what ways do you trust God to meet your basic needs?**

### **Lesson 10—Emergency Medical Assistance**

The story so far...**The Swanepoels were always eager to help the Rendille people. God gave Nick and Lynne many opportunities to serve the people.**

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

*Big Idea:* God gives His people opportunities to help others in need.

#### Discussion Questions:

**The Rendille people cared for flocks of camels and goats. They were tough, hardy people who often encountered wild animals. What do you think it would be like to battle a lion?**

**The young warrior's friend ran to the Swanepoels for help. Where do you run for help during emergencies?**

**Are you available to help other who may face an emergency situation like this?**

### **Lesson 11—Church Planting with AIM**

The story so far...**Very few people in Korr, Kenya knew about God. Nick and Lynne realized they needed the Lord's help to grow the Rendille Church.**

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

*Big Idea:* God builds His Church His way.

#### Discussion Questions:

**The Rendille Church had a very slow start. What do you think motivated Nick and Lynne with such a small beginning?**

**How did the diligent effort to translate the Bible affect the Rendille people? How has God changed your attitude over the course of time?**

**The translation of the Gospel of Mark introduced the people to Jesus. What do you imagine it is like to read God's Word for the very first time?**

### **Lesson 12— Rendille Leadership**

The story so far...**Nick and Lynne served the Rendille people for more than 30 years. They learned the language, taught the people to read, translated the Bible, led the Church, and provided medical assistance. But who would take their place when they retired?**

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

*Big Idea:* God's raises up new leaders who are ready to serve Him.

#### Discussion Questions:

**Nick and Lynne needed replacements for their important work. Why is it important to have good leaders?**

**Nick and Lynne wanted to pass ministry leadership into the hands of the local Rendille rather than people from outside the region. How did the Swanepoels help train new leaders?**

**When the Swanepoels moved to Cape Town, they continued the Bible translation work. How do you think the Rendille people will respond when the whole New Testament is finished?**