

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

I ONCE WAS BLIND Small Group Discussion Guide

LESSON 1 | “WITHOUT RULES, WITHOUT WINNERS, WITHOUT PURPOSE”

1. Consider the dangers of “comfort and corner lots” related to the Gospel’s advance in Liberia. What evidence is there of this in your own community? (Rev. 3:14-22)
2. What is at the root of all sin—both in Liberia and in your own heart? (Rom. 1:18-32; James 4:1-3) How does knowing this change your view of the extent to which Christ suffered to pay your sin debt at the cross? (Psalm 75:7-8; Matt. 26:39; 1 Peter 2:21-25)
3. What about the Gospel moves a person like Roland to want to devote his life and resources to a place like Liberia? (Phil. 2:4-11)

LESSON 2 | “DON’T MESS WITH GOD!”

1. How was Satan’s power and God’s power proven real in Washington’s life? (Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13-14)
2. What is the true nature of spiritual warfare according to 2 Cor. 10:3-6 and Eph. 6:10-12?
3. Does your daily practice reflect the urgency and sobriety of one who is actually engaged in this type of warfare? (Eph. 6:13-20)
4. Read Col. 2:13-15, Eph. 5:8-14, and John 10:16; 12:31-32. What about Christ’s triumph at the cross enables ordinary men like Winston and Dennis to go into the thick of intense spiritual opposition with humble confidence? How should these truths affect your attitude toward difficult witnessing opportunities?

LESSON 3 | “THE MALAWU MIRACLE”

1. What comforts and conveniences are absent from the African believers’ lives? How is joy still evidenced in them? What makes this possible? (John 15:4-11)
2. Recount the story of Malawu and the miracle that happened there. What does it communicate about God’s authority to “deliver from the domain of darkness and transfer to the kingdom of his beloved Son”? (Col. 1:13-14)

3. What part did prayer and fasting have in the deliverance of Malawu? (Mark 9:28-29; Col. 4:2-4)
4. In light of God's overwhelming ability to deliver from Satan's power, how must we respond to events and situations in life where change seems impossible or hopeless? (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 8:31-39; 16:17-20)

LESSON 4 | "WATER OF LIFE"

1. If you had the opportunity to ask Johnny a question, what would it be? What does Johnny's story lead us to admit about ourselves in light of God's loving claim on our lives? (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Phil. 3:7-11)
2. What stood out to you as you watched Roland at work? What gifts and experiences has God given you that can be creatively used to bless others for Christ's sake? (Rom. 12:6-21)
3. How are the church leaders in Yomostown creatively engaged in teaching the Bible to the animists who are largely illiterate?
4. Compare and contrast Paul's approach in Acts 13:13-43 and 17:22-34. How should these passages shape the way we communicate the Gospel with people from differing backgrounds?

LESSON 5 | "WE ARE READY FOR YOU TO WAKE US UP!"

1. What were the various elements God used to bring the former Muslim man named Alphonso to Himself? How should this challenge our understanding of what God may choose to use to draw people to Himself? (Rom. 10:14-17; Heb. 1:1-2; 2:1-4)
2. Consider the following statement from chapter 5: "The African believers' Gospel advance would be slowed down—even stalled—if they concerned themselves too much with [protecting their church] buildings." According to Heb. 10:32-39 and 11:13-16, what about the Gospel makes this kind of response possible?
3. What are you prone to hold on to that may actually distract and stall you from moving forward into others' lives with the Gospel?
4. We often look at people and assume they wouldn't want the new life that Christ offers. How does the breakthrough in Pamlap, Guinea challenge this view and reflect the truth of Matt. 7:7-8; 9:37; John 4:35; 10:16; and Isaiah 55:5?