

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

“FATHER, GIVE ME BREAD” Small Group Discussion Guide

LESSON 1 | KINGDOM FEET; KINGDOM HEART

1. It was said of the Ethiopian evangelists, “How seriously they take God’s Word!” What evidence did you see for that statement? Would others draw the same conclusion as they observe your life? Why or why not?
2. Thomas said that he didn’t want to just have “kingdom feet” like Jonah but also a “kingdom heart.” Read Jonah’s story. What are the parallels between your life and Jonah’s life (Jonah 3-4; I Corinthians 13:1-3)?
3. The sacrifices of Mekonnen, Fikra, and Thomas make sense only at the foot of the cross. How does living in the shadow of the cross bring perspective to the afflictions we may be asked to endure in this life (I Corinthians 4:9-13; Matthew 16:24-27)?

LESSON 2 | “FATHER, GIVE ME BREAD”

1. How does Michael’s ministry to “orphans and broken people” reflect the ministry of Jesus (Matthew 15:29-30; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 14:12-14)? What do these examples suggest about our responsibility towards the broken people we find all around us?
2. What made Michael an “unlikely sinner” transformed by God’s grace? Can you think of other “difficult people” in the Bible who found God? How are you “unlikely?”

LESSON 3 | HORIZONS

1. The pastors said they used to embrace the “health and wealth” mentality. What are some ways this same mentality subtly creeps into our churches?
2. Michael is said to be “Jesus’ hands” to needy children as he faithfully models the love of Christ through his tender care for them (Matthew 10:42; 25:37-40). Is feeding, clothing, and visiting the hurting eternally significant? What ministries of mercy are you called to in your community?
3. Michael’s heart was initially filled with fear and uncertainty about working with AIDS orphans. What do you think changed his heart? How does Luke 12:4-7 and 14:25-27 apply? What fills your heart with fear and uncertainty as you follow Jesus into difficult places?

LESSON 4 | A PLENTEOUS HARVEST

1. Only 2 out of every 100 Oromo Christians in Ethiopia have access to a Bible. In our culture, what are the challenges of having over-abundant access to the Bible?

2. Abdullah and Muzemir endured threats, hunger, and rejection from their own family, but God used their faithful prayers and witness to bring their Muslim father to Christ. Why is it often harder to be a bold witness to family and friends than to complete strangers?
3. When newborn Christians endure strong persecution, it demonstrates that true conversion is a radical, inside-out work. How does persecution tend to minimize insincere conversions? Explain from the following passages how persecution plays a positive role in the life of the church (Luke 6:22-23; Romans 8:16-17; II Corinthians 12:9-10; Hebrews 10:32-39; James 1:2-4).

LESSON 5 | SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

1. Michael and Kebede spend considerable time mentoring others with the goal of multiplying leaders. With so many pressing needs around them, is this a wise use of time (II Timothy 2:2)?
2. Spreading the Gospel throughout South Sudan and into the Arab north requires teamwork, creativity, and strategic planning. Do we see Christians making this same effort to reach our culture? What steps might God want you to take to spread the Gospel throughout your community?
3. Pastor Joseph spends time each morning sweeping up goat dung for the opportunity to minister to needy children. What does our willingness (or unwillingness) to endure inconvenience say about our commitment to the Gospel (II Corinthians 12:15)? Do you joyfully accept inconveniences if they allow you to help others?

LESSON 6 | GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST!

1. 30,000 Muslims have come to Christ in the past 8 years in just one Ethiopian province, and in the past 10 years the Malka-buta church alone has planted 19 churches and established 45 preaching points. Do you think such growth could happen in our culture today? What might be preventing this?
2. How did the actions of believers toward the converted sorceress impact her antagonistic son? What does that suggest about the potential impact of having genuine love for our brothers and sisters (John 13:35; John 15:8-13; Galatians 6:9-10)?
3. Ethiopian church planters like Gulilat often “dig latrines to make disciples.” Is this type of work “beneath” a Gospel laborer? Does mundane work such as this fit the pattern of leadership Jesus taught his disciples (Matthew 23:11; Luke 22:25-26)?