

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

“EVERY TRIBE” Small Group Discussion Guide

LESSON 1 | Killing Fields

For more information about the team JD works with, view the bonus feature “Profile of an Exceptional Team.”

- 1) JD, pioneer missionary and linguist, makes it his priority to preach the Gospel in areas where Christ is not known (Romans 15:20) and to do this work alongside co-workers from many organizations. Take a moment to consider what strengths might be present in JD’s ministry that could be lost if he was only working in areas that already have Gospel access or was trying to “go-it-alone.”
- 2) When visiting the Last Judgment carvings, JD used the images depicted in the artwork to begin a Gospel conversation with several monks. How might your efforts to speak to people about Christ be different if you searched for items or circumstances that are common to your experience and theirs and then used those shared cultural artifacts, memories, or events as starting points to begin conversations? Brainstorm some ways that you could incorporate this practice into your schedule. Compare notes as a group and propose strategies to encourage one another to follow through on these ideas.

LESSON 2 | The God of the Skies

- 3) Christians of the Krung and Brau tribes have organized their own Bible school, which gathers multiple times per year in various villages. Since the beginning, the Bible school has had as important values that it would be organized by local leaders and would be self-funded by the participants. Take a moment as a group to discuss some ways in which the school might look very different if it were run by Western leaders and funded with Western dollars.
- 4) The young woman named Yet, who is a member of the Tampuan tribe, is well-known as an evangelist—so well-known that other people bring contacts to her to be discipled. These connections form a Gospel network—a sort of Facebook of faith. Consider your own network. What people could you connect with one another for Gospel purposes? Who do you need to befriend and tell about Jesus? Pause for a moment to pray for Yet and her continued effectiveness as a Gospel networker.

LESSON 3 | Gossiping the Gospel

- 5) People of the animistic Jarai tribe sacrifice animals on behalf of dead family members in hopes that the awful brutality of the sacrifice will appease the deceased spirits. These image-bearers of the Jarai tribe need to hear the news of the One who was sacrificed with awful brutality for the sins of the world and who conquered evil and death and hell by His triumphant resurrection. Would you pray for more workers to take the Gospel to tribal groups like the Jarai? Would you ask God to pour out His mercy on the Jarai and save many of them? Pray that Jarai Christians would be bold in speaking to their brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers about the Good News of Christ’s love.

- 6) Jarai Christians, like the first-century church, “gossiped the Gospel.” “This [first-century method of sharing the Gospel] must often have been not formal preaching, but informal chattering to friends and chance acquaintances, in homes and wine shops, on walks, and around market stalls. They went everywhere gossiping the Gospel; they did it naturally, enthusiastically, and with the conviction of those who are not paid to say that sort of thing. Consequently, they were taken seriously...” (*Evangelism in the Early Church* by Michael Green, p. 173). Take a few moments as a group to consider some ways that this practice of Gospel gossip could be effective in your community. What people do you know or meet that would listen? What places do you go where people are interested in conversation? How could you intentionally look for these sorts of opportunities?

LESSON 4 | “Seek and You Will Find”

- 7) Would you characterize your practice of prayer as “an on-going conversation with an attentive Friend”? Take a moment privately to take inventory of the “rhythm” of your prayers in the past several days. Just at meal times? In large isolated chunks? Ongoing conversation throughout the day? Work as a group to develop strategies about how the discipline of prayer could become an on-going conversation and how you will serve one another in this pursuit.
- 8) Writing in 2 Timothy 2:9, Paul says that “the word of God is not bound!” Using the following categories as a starting point, discuss some ways that we betray our lack of faith in God’s word. 1) The way we structure our lives. 2) Our willingness to speak boldly about our faith. 3) The expectations we have of missionaries and mission programs. How might these areas change as we begin to walk in faith, believing God’s promise that His word is not chained, but is free to work as He desires?

LESSON 5 | Prison House Plundered!

- 9) JD exhorted the Krung believers that “You have the Bible, and you have the Holy Spirit. That is all you need to start churches and take the Gospel to your people across the border in Laos.” JD’s church planting equation is:

Bible
+ Holy Spirit
Everything necessary to start churches and share the Gospel

What other items do you find yourself wanting to add to that equation? What other items does the American/Western church often want to add to the equation? How might the spread of the Gospel in Cambodia look different if Krung believers waited until everything from your list is in place before going?