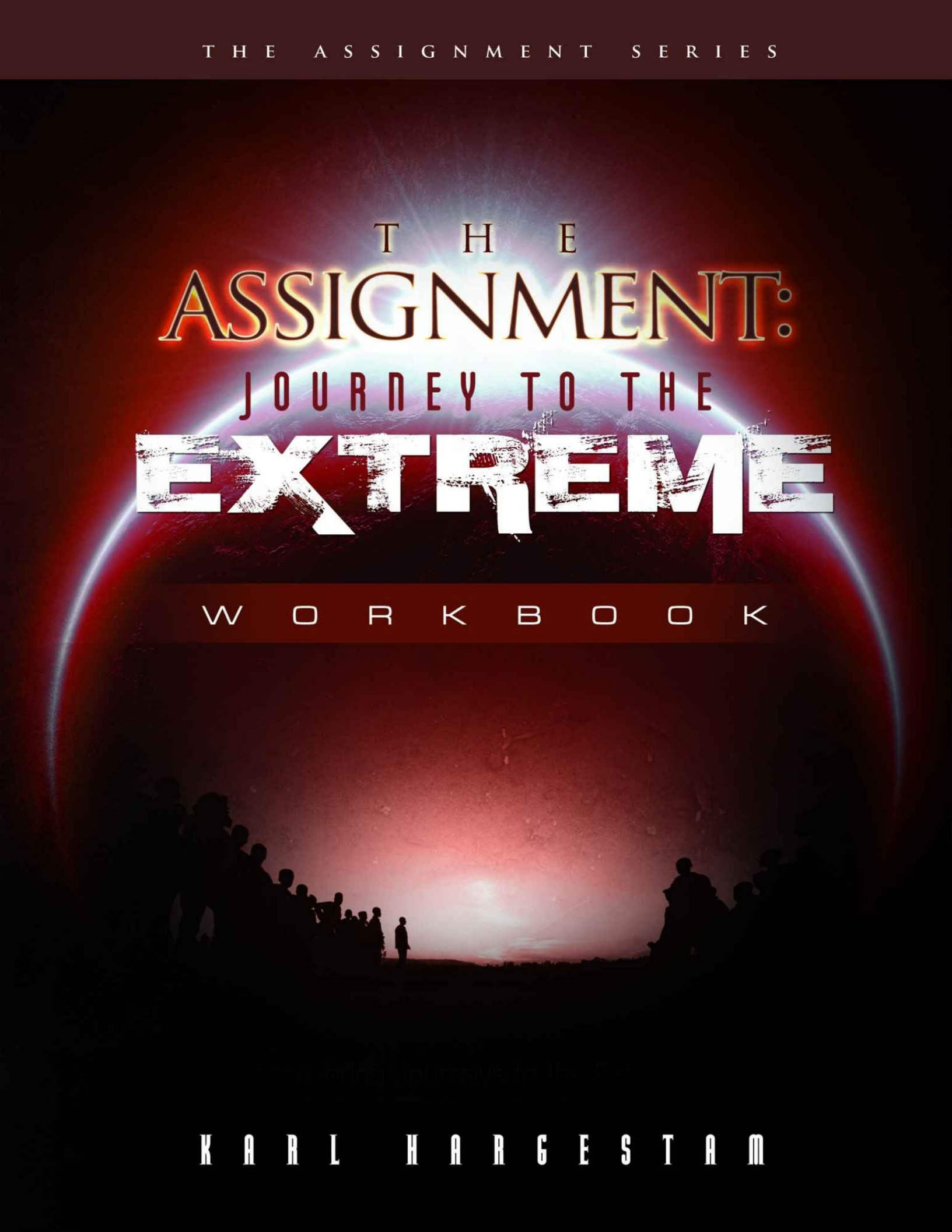
THE ASSIGNMENT SERIES

THE ASSIGNMENT: JOURNEY TO THE EXTREME

WORKBOOK



KARL HARGESTAM

THE ASSIGNMENT:

THE WORKBOOK

Based on the novel
"The Assignment: Journey To The Extreme"

By

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DEDICATION

To all pioneers whom God has called!
Be strong, do great exploits, go where no one has gone. Give one chance for every person!

INTRODUCTION

This study guide is designed as a companion for the first novel in "The Assignment" series, *Journey to the Extreme*.

It is intended to help individuals and classes use the novel's characters and their situations as examples to apply to the assignment in their own lives.

The church, given many commandments and instructions in the word of God, recognizes that the only assignment given to it is to make disciples of all nations. According to God's word, Jesus Christ will not return until the gospel is preached to all the world as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14). Every nation, tribe, people and language will be represented in the blood-washed church of Jesus Christ (Rev. 7:9).

Journey to the Extreme is based on real events and situations. The characters in the story are very representative of real-life personalities one might discover inside any ministry.
The story's situations present real-life challenges as they might be for anyone rising to the challenge of carrying out God's assignment in their lives. It is only when studying the hard realities of these challenges that we can best prepare for them. Like the novel, this Study Guide delves into issues with a fresh, honest introspection.

Each section of the Study Guide pinpoints moments in the chapters that serve as prime examples that will be useful to the reader. Examining the situation as it arose in the novel allows the student to learn the lessons beneficial to carrying

out his or her personal assignment.

Students will be challenged by these examples to search their own lives and personalities and see not only how they'd react in a given situation but how they need to spiritually root themselves in ways they hadn't thought of before.

It is encouraged for individuals to discuss the topics and share their thoughts and lessons with others. As shown in *Journey to the Extreme*, the path of an assignment often crosses another person's similar journey and positive results are often reliant on the assistance of a fellow believer.

LESSON ONE:

What Is The Assignment?

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." – Oswald J. Smith

SCRIPTURES

"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18)

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations; and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

"After, these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues, standing before the throne, and before the
Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands." (Revelation 7:9)

MESSAGE

At the core of the story in Journey to the Extreme is the belief that everyone has a right to hear the gospel at least once, and equally everyone has an "assignment" issued to them by God: to make disciples of all nations.

In the scriptures quoted above, we see how Jesus dictated that the gospel should be taught throughout the world. The only way for that to happen is through the individual efforts of believers.

Those efforts are generated at different times in people's lives and under differing circumstances. Common lifetime obstacles must often be overcome before one can fulfill their assignment.

Beginning in Chapter 1, we see the characters of the story coping with everyday life. Too often, the demands of daily routines impede our spirituality and the characters reflect this.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

Write answers out and discuss the following:

1. What struggles is Cole having in Chapter 1?
2. What are the challenges for Monique at the beginning of the story?
3. Does Randy have an equal amount of obstacles?

SELF-OBSERVATION

Having discussed the challenges presented for the characters of the story, take a look at your personal life and write out answers to the following:

1. How do financial pressures like those Monique suffers in the first chapter of the story affect you?

2. Do other people have misconceptions of you on the job the way Giles does about Cole?

3. If people do have misconceptions about you, then how does that impact the way you project your faith on the job?

4. Can people similar to Randy be found in your world of influence and do you see potential in them?

5. In Cole's position, how would you try to help a student like Randy?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

In Chapter 1, Cole repeatedly suffers from a mysterious dream that is trying to relay a message to him.

1. What does Cole's dream have in common with John's vision in the scripture from Revelation 7 that is listed at the beginning of this section?

2. Can you name at least two other references in the Bible where dreams were used by God to communicate with man?

3. God ever spoken to you through a dream? If so, explain.

FACTOID

According to the committee of Education and Labor, seven thousand students nationwide drop out of school every day and only about seventy percent of students graduate from high school with a regular high school diploma. Two thousand high schools in the U.S. produce more than half of all dropouts, and a recent study suggests that in the 50 largest cities, only 53 percent of students graduate on time.

Research shows that poor and minority children attend these so-called "dropout factories"—the two thousand schools that produce more than fifty percent of our nation's dropouts—at significantly higher rates.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

A. Of the 16,352 people groups by country, 6,650 are still considered unreached totaling 2,747,799,000 individuals. Of these 6,650 groups, 5,707 are in 10/40 Window countries. That means 86 percent of all unreached people groups are in the 10/40 Window.

B. 943 of the Least-Reached groups are NOT in the 10/40 Window, totaling 76,169,000 individuals. These groups are relatively

Source https://joshuaproject.net

LESSON TWO:

CALLED AND QUALIFIED

“If God calls you to be a missionary, don’t stoop to be a king.” – Charles Spurgeon

SCRIPTURE

“Who is among you of all his people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to
Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (He is
God,) which is in Jerusalem.” (Ezra 1:3)

MESSAGE

The Israelites were taken into captivity first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians, who were in turn conquered by the Medes and Persians. After a period of captivity, the King of Persia, Cyrus, offered an opportunity for the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem in order to rebuild not only the city but the Temple as well.

The scripture above represents the words of King Cyrus and his proclamation. It is also a call to everyone to accept an assignment and act on it by taking the king up on his offer.

This was not an easy task. Jerusalem was little more than a ruined village by this point, and the Temple a pile of rubble. Many families were settled into prosperous lives throughout the Persian Empire. To relocate to Jerusalem required great sacrifice. In their eyes, it was also a move without guaranteed results.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

In Chapter 2 of the novel, name three risks Teguash was facing by making his journey.

1. What do you imagine Teguash represented to his people?
2. In Chapter 3, what do you suppose Mulu studying at college meant to her family?

3. Do you suppose Mulu's interaction with the other characters in the story was coincidence or does she represent a "call" to accept an assignment?

4. How is Randy's life altered by his first interactions with Mulu?

5. What do you feel Rev. Hasbro's assignment is?

6. Do you feel the characters reacted to their callings appropriately? Why or why not?

SELF-OBSERVATION

Give examples where unexpected interaction with someone has led you to accept a spiritual challenge.

1. How does opposition, as represented by Seyum or Tamrat, lead you to pause before acting on your assignment?

2. What role do family considerations play in carrying out the assignment?
3. Are you open to redefining your relationships with people? If you have a mental status quo or pre-determined view of people or situations, how are you open to changing those to allow yourself to be accepting of new ways of accomplishing your assignment?

4. When Rev. Hasbro was considering the events and unsure of what step to take next, he turned to prayer. What role does prayer have in accepting your assignment?

5. What is your daily or weekly prayer routine?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

The characters in Chapters 2 and 3 are faced with opportunity. Mulu is furthering her education. Rev. Hasbro is given a chance to sponsor a missionary work. Cole is presented the opportunity of carrying out that missionary work.

The scripture in this section represents an opportunity as offered by the King of Persia. Opportunity often represents a challenge as is the case in the book of Ezra.

1. Name three other Bible examples where people were presented a challenging opportunity and accepted it against seemingly difficult odds.

2. What was the role of the Jewish Temple in biblical Times?

3 Relate that role to present day institutions.

4. Religious identity is an important theme in Ezra. Name other places in the Bible where this theme also comes into play?

5. How important is it for you to keep your religious identity in the modern world?

FACTOID

According to the Pew Research Center's 2009 findings, American prayer habits breakdown statistically the following way:
58% pray daily
17% pray weekly
6% pray monthly
11% seldom pray
7% never pray

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

The country of Mali has over 13 million citizens. These can be broken down into 62 different groups, of which 37 groups can be categorized as unreached. Only 1.8% of the country's population is Christian.

Statistics according to https://joshuaproject.net.

LESSON THREE

FAVOR IN CAPTIVITY

"The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." – Carl F. H. Henry

SCRIPTURE

"The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty." (Ezra 2:64)

MESSAGE

If there were a rebuilt Temple for the Jews, it meant there had to be a reconstituted priestly line. Captivity had decimated the priestly ranks and the structure they'd been bound by for generations.

In this chapter in Ezra, we read how several stepped forward to assume a role in the priestly functions but not all were accepted.

Furthermore, the number mentioned in this particular passage was not large considering the overall population, but it was enough to start the effort.

When presented with our assignment, we often seek safety in numbers because we translate that to mean less risk. Yet, following through on our assignment in the face of risk is often what it takes to succeed.

Another aspect of the history recorded in Ezra is that everyone had a role to play.
There were priests, those who supported the priests, and even dancers among this number.

We too have to learn to accept our role. The mission is to spread the gospel, but it takes people performing many different roles to fulfill that assignment.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. In Chapter 4, do you think Monique was too closed minded in Cole wanting to go on a Missions trip? Why or why not?

2. Why do you think Mulu's presence made such a difference in changing Monique's mind?

3. How important was the church's role in Cole and Monique's decision?

4. How did Aberra step forward in Chapter 5?

5. Even in the tribal culture in which Teguash and Aberra find themselves, can you list examples where they are following the tenets of the Beatitudes?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. What is the role of your spouse in allowing you to accept your assignment?

2. How do you communicate with your spouse or loved ones about your assignment?

3. Do you expect your church to point you toward your assignment, or do you look for opportunities on your own?

4. Explain if you have ever held a particular position or ideology, but then experienced a change of heart after a personal experience or after meeting someone contrary to your outlook that shed new light on your views.

5. With the dangers in today's society, do you think you could play the role of "Good Samaritan" as demonstrated by Aberra? Why or why not?

6. How do you feel constricted by everyday life in accepting your assignment?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

As the people mentioned in Ezra, the characters in the story had to step forward on their own, against long odds, in order to accept their assignment. Even though they were captive in some respects to their circumstances, they actively desired to fulfill their assignment.

1. What do you suppose the people mentioned in Ezra had to lose by stepping forward as described in Ezra Chapter 2?

2. Name other incidents in the Bible in which people took similar risks.

3. Even though the Jews eventually built the Temple, how do you imagine the Jewish exile shaped their view of this accomplishment?

4. In the story of the "Good Samaritan," what were the excuses given by those who refused to assist the man in peril?
5. Where is Samaria and what is its biblical importance?

FACTOID

Work began on the Second Temple in 535 B.C. and was finished in 516 B.C. with a dedication in 515 B.C. Cyrus the Great was King of Persia when the project started, and Darius the Great was the King of Persia when the building was dedicated.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

Jat are located primarily in both Pakistan and Kashmir.

99.9% of Jats are Muslim.
There are a few Sikh Jats, who used to live in Pakistan but immigrated to India during the partition in 1947.

Source https://joshuaproject.net.

LESSON FOUR

Hearts Moved, History Makers Made

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives ... and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."
—NATE SAINT, MISSIONARY MARTYR

SCRIPTURE

"Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the
Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem." (Ezra 1:5)

MESSAGE

There are several details about this passage worth pointing out. First, and most importantly, it states clearly that God moved the spirits of those men involved before they rose to accept the challenge of their assignment.

Clearly, a person's assignment must come from God. This seems obvious, but it is easy to swap man's plan for God's. It should always be remembered that God will provide opportunity for carrying out one's assignment.

Also, the above passage is clear that the heads of the tribes, those in authority, made the decision for everyone else. Leadership cannot be delegated. With responsibility comes hard choices, but by letting God prepare the way first, the right choices can be made for a successful outcome.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. What impact do you think Randy's home life had on his lifestyle?

2. In Chapter 6, do you think that Mulu did the right thing by attending Randy's court session and helping him out? Why or why not?

3. What were the differences in the way Randy and Mulu, both newcomers, were accepted by Rev. Hasbro's church?

4. How was Cole prepared for the cultural differences he encountered upon landing in Ethiopia?

5. Do you think Cole ever imagined confronting opposition like Tamrat? Explain your view.

6. Do you think the Rev. Hasbro's church had a good understanding of the situation into which they were sending Cole? Explain your view.

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. How do you react to friends or loved ones who have had legal problems?

2. How does your church reach out to young people with bad home lives?

3. How have you ever done anything to help someone with a bad home life improve his or her chances?

4. Name the missionaries or mission fields your church supports?

5. What do you know of the countries where the mission fields your church supports are located?

6. What do you think the values of a true leader are?

7. What outreach programs do you actively support?

8. How do you participate in those programs, e.g., volunteer, give money?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

The passage for this section centers on accepting a call to action and the responsibility of leadership.

1. Name three other examples where biblical characters accepted a call to action from God?

2. Two tribes of Israel are mentioned in this passage. What happened to the other 10?

3. Who were the Levities and what was their responsibility in regards to the Temple?
4. Having discussed earlier what you value in a leader, find characters in the Bible that match those values.

5. Name three characters in the Old Testament who had committed criminal acts but still were given an assignment by God.

6. What other books of the Bible refer to the building of the Second Temple?

FACTOID

Quick Facts about Ethiopia:

The capital city, Addis Ababa, was settled in 1886 and has more than three million inhabitants.

More than 80 percent of the country's population lives below the poverty line.

There are more than 80 languages with 200 dialects spoken inside the country.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

Moldova is considered one of the poorest countries in Europe. There are 31 different groups with a population of 3.6 million in the country, and it is estimated that 26 percent of these groups remain unreached.

Moldavian and Romanian are the two major languages spoken in the country.

Source https://joshuaproject.net and Wikipedia.com

LESSON FIVE

OPPOSITION HAS ARRIVED

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” – Jim Elliot, missionary martyr who lost his life trying to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador.

SCRIPTURE

“Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building.” (Ezra 4:4)

MESSAGE

Even with support from the King of Persia, once the people who’d volunteered to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple arrived, they were greeted by skepticism and harassment. Their purpose and mission was not accepted by the local inhabitants.

In the novel, Cole faces a similar situation. Even with the support of his home church back in Indiana, Cole has a hard time convincing other missionaries of his dedication. The local population is also reluctant to accept him.

With every assignment, there is opposition. Persistence is a key to success. Despite the problems with the locals living in Judah, rebuilding of the Temple continued.

Missionaries in the novel were also of a like mind. Whenever they faced an obstacle that might dissuade them, they persisted on their path until they found a solution.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. What kind of opposition did Cole face from among his fellow missionaries?

2. How was that opposition resolved?

3. How is Sanchez an example of persistence paying off?

4. How did the matter of logistics become a form of opposition in the story?

5. What opposition did Teguash face from Aberra’s fellow villagers?

6. What were some of the motivations behind Tamrat's opposition to the missionaries?

7. Name three ways the Horro priests tried opposing Cole.

8. Name three ways Tamrat tried opposing Cole.

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. What opposition have you faced when working in an outreach?

2. Have you ever been the source of opposition to someone else's assignment? If so, how?

3. What kind of daily opposition do you face in maintaining your spirituality?

4. Have you been persistent in trying to accomplish your assignment, or do you give up in the face of opposition?

5. Name situations in the past where you've overcome opposition.

6. Do you give credence to what others say about your assignment?

7. Think of three ways you might strengthen yourself against opposition in the future.

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. What ways did the locals in Judah dissuade those rebuilding the Temple as mentioned in Ezra?

2. How did Moses handle the opposition from Pharaoh?

3. How did Jesus handle his detractors when he was speaking?

4. How did Jesus handle his accusers during his trial?
5. What did Job say when others encouraged him to give up?

6. Name three incidents where fear acted as opposition in the Bible.

7. Who was Belshazzar?

8. What did Daniel say was the reason for Belshazzar's demise?

9. Who conquered Babylon?

FACTOID

On average, around 171,000 Christians are martyred for their faith each year. According to Christianity Today, approximately one-third of the world is considered Christian.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

The land of the rising sun, Japan, has a population of nearly 130,000,000 people that can be placed in 34 different groups.

The major religion in Japan is Buddhism, which is claimed by about 70 percent of the people. Less than 2 percent consider themselves Christians.

LESSON SIX

UNSATISFIED AND FRUITLESS

"Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself." —JOHN WESLEY

SCRIPTURE

"Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.'" (Haggai 1:5–6)

MESSAGE

This passage directly addresses the issue of materialism. This is a topic not only relevant in the time of Haggai but also in today's society.

Let's be honest, materialism is a consideration in how people approach their assignment. How many people have turned down a job solely on the basis of pay? How many church workers have avoided being involved in projects because there was little or no pay to it? How many of us set our goals based around the plan of living in bigger homes, driving fancier cars or dressing in designer clothes?

There is nothing wrong with making sure you and your family is taken care of, but as the scripture in this section indicates, materialism for materialism's sake is unfulfilling because it adds nothing to the spirit. When nothing is added to the spirit, one is propelled to seek more and more material gain to fill that void.

Assignments always require sacrifice. In most instances, this means sacrificing material possessions. However, it should be remembered, God never allows his own to be without what they need to complete their assignment.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. What was Monique's sacrifice in allowing Cole to make his journey to Ethiopia?

2. Name two personal sacrifices Cole made in accepting his assignment.

3. In the novel, what was the biggest sacrifice that Phil the Filipino made?

4. What did Mulu's father give up to assist Cole?

5. What do you suppose Dr. Peer was sacrificing by being in Ethiopia?

6. What habit did Randy have to give up?

7. Even though he was from a poverty stricken village, what materialistic things was Teguash risking to make his journey?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. How many of the goals that you've set for yourself involve money?

2. How many hours have you volunteered in the past six months to an outreach or charity project?

3. How much time do you volunteer to church projects over the course of a year?

4. How much money have you donated to the church or charity projects in the past six months?
5. What percentage of your income does this represent?

6. Name five items/activities you spent money on in the last three months that you could've done without.

7. What prompts you to spend money on a charity or outreach program?

8. Are the people you associate with driven by materialism, and if so, how does this impact your behavior?

9. What non-materialistic qualities bring about a sense of fulfillment?

10. Are these qualities present in your life, and how do you base your charity/outreach work on them?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. Why would materialistic gains be a concern to those coming back to Judah to rebuild the Temple?

2. Name ways materialism could creep into their society.
3. What materials did the Egyptians have to sacrifice to rid themselves of the Hebrew people?

4. In the wilderness, what did the Israelites end up doing with those goods?

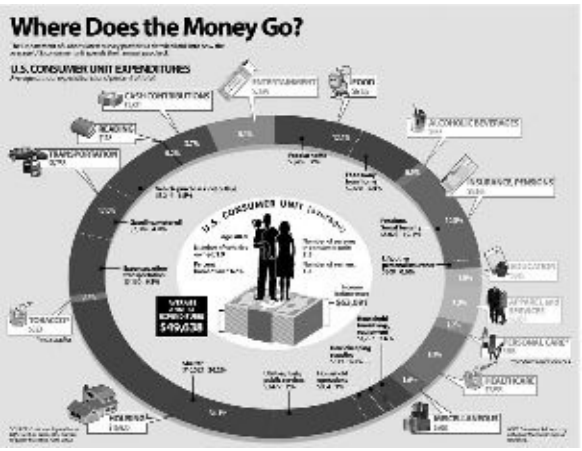
5. In what incident in the book of Acts did greed cost two people their lives?

6. What role did materialism play in the fall of the First Temple when the Babylonians visited Jerusalem?

7. What did Jesus have to say about materialism?

8. When dividing the land, what was the difference between the attitudes of Abraham and Lot?

FACTOID



UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

Home of the 2016 Summer Olympics, Brazil has a population of nearly 200,000,000 people that can be broken down into 289 groups. It is thought that 20 percent of these different groups remain unreached.

Source https://joshuaproject.net

LESSON SEVEN

THE PROPHET ARRIVES

“Never pity missionaries; envy them.
They are where the real action is—where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge.” —ROBERT C. SHANNON

SCRIPTURE

“Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built.”” (Haggai 1:2)

MESSAGE

The reason for prophets was to keep the people on the right path. They are guides who point the people in the direction they need to go and explain the consequences of actions chosen.

It is clear from the Old Testament that the people didn’t want the Temple to be rebuilt. Their materialism, personal agendas, and varied beliefs all played a part in that attitude. This is why God sent prophets.

No assignment issued by God is easy. There will be personal tests of character along the path of completing the assignment. As often as not, the people will have an opinion contrary to what your assignment calls for to succeed. Like the prophets though, a person must stay on message in the face of such contradictions.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. What kind of opposition did Cole receive from his fellow missionaries and how did he overcome it?

2. When landing in Aberra’s village, what kind of reception did the team first receive?

3. How did the team win over Aberra's village?

4. When attacked by the priests of the Horro, what were the different reactions among team members?

5. How did the team win over the priests of the Horro?

6. How did the villagers want to deal with the priests of the Horro, and how do you view their reaction?

7. How did the team intervene on behalf of the priests?

8. How did the elders of the village receive the word that the team came to spread?

9. How did the children react to the message of the team?

10. How did Phil the Filipino tailor his message?

11. What message was Dr. Peer spreading?

12. What value did Dr. Peer bring to the team's message?

13. What opposition did Dr. Peer face?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. What kind of obstacles does your church face in growing?

2. Do you ever argue that "the time isn't right" when it comes to church or outreach projects?

3. How do you face opposition in your spiritual practices?
4. How do you deal with them?

5. When do you listen to your spiritual teachers?

6. How do you prepare yourself spiritually for facing opposition?

7. What role does prayer have in overcoming opposition?

8. Who are your two favorite prophets in the Bible?

9. What qualities do they have that you like?
10. How have you incorporated those qualities into your life?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. What kind of opposition did Haggai face?

2. How did Haggai deal with his opposition?

3. What kind of opposition did Jeremiah face?

4. What was Jeremiah's fate?

5. What persistent opposition did Moses face?

6. What kind of opposition did Jesus face when meeting with non-believers?

7. How did he cope with this opposition?

8. Can you name two reluctant prophets in the Bible?

9. Can you name two willing prophets in the Bible?

10. What were the requirements for being a priest in the Old Testament?

11. How did this differ from the requirements for being a prophet?

12. What was the name of the prophet who confronted King David?

13. What were the names of the priests who opposed Moses and Aaron?

14. What was the fate of Jonah?

FACTOID

The name Haggai means “my feast.” According to the Jewish Encyclopedia, tradition holds that Haggai was a singer of Psalms and the first to use the term “hallelujah.”

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

The Asian country of Thailand is 95% Buddhist, 5% Muslim and less than 2% Christian.

There are 68,000,000 people in the country that can be broken down into 112 groups.
It is thought that 66 percent of these groups are unreached.

LESSON EIGHT

CHECK YOUR PRIORITIES

“Someone asked will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved? It is more a question with me whether we — who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not — can be saved.” —CHARLES SPURGEON

SCRIPTURE

“‘You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.’” (Haggai 1:9)

MESSAGE

Keeping an eye on our priorities is vital. As we see from this passage in Haggai, even after we accept our assignment, it is easy to become sidetracked.

When we do and our priorities are out of order, there are real consequences.

In Haggai 1:9, we find that the people didn't prosper because they didn't put God first. They worried about their own houses and lives and strived to better themselves. Yet, prosperity never seemed to come.

Why was that? Because as this verse says, God's house was in ruins. Everyone else had a house but God. So God took away their prosperity to bring their priorities back into line where they should be.

Our assignment needs to be foremost in our lives. All our other priorities should be behind that one. Its success is our top priority. If we don't make it so, not only will the assignment fail but so shall our other priorities.

God will intervene to keep us in line. We can ignore his signs of displeasure and keep on our self-made course to no avail, or we can choose to mend our ways. The decision is ours.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. Who among the missionaries do you feel had their priorities mixed up?

2. How did events intervene to keep Aberra's village on track to support Teguash?

3. What were Tamrat's priorities?

4. How did those differ from Aberra's?

5. How did priorities shift for Tamrat's cousin?

6. Did Hondo ever waver in his priorities?

7. According to the novel, what helped Sanchez keep his priorities straight?

8. What happened to Lady Marina's husband?

9. How did the priorities of the two Horro priests change?

10. What prompted those changes?

11. What priority changes did Cole make after arriving in Ethiopia?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. List the top five priorities in your life.

2. Which of these priorities are connected to your assignment?

3. When has God ever had to intervene to keep your priorities straight?

4. How do you describe your church involvement?

5. What groups or activities do you believe represent “God’s house”?
6. How are you involved in any of them?

7. What helps you keep your priorities straight?

8. What priorities in your life carry too much importance?

9. How do you reconcile the priority of family and church?

10. How often do you review your priorities?

11. How much studying do you do to prepare you for your assignment?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. Which major prophet was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire?

2. Who destroyed the first Jewish Temple?

3. Who destroyed the second Jewish Temple?

4. Why was the second Jewish Temple destroyed?

5. Who built the first Jewish Temple?

6. Which prophet was Elijah's student?
7. Which prophet anointed David as king?

8. What did Jesus tell the wealthy man who came to see him in the night?

9. What was the disciple Matthew's occupation when Jesus met him?

10. What miracle did the prophet Elisha perform after he was dead?

11. What miracle did Elijah perform for the woman with the cooking oil?

FACTOID

Average Christian gives 1.8 percent of their income.

5 percent of Christian giving goes to missions ($15 billion).

More is lost to embezzlement ($16 billion) than is given to missions.

Of mission funds, between 0.1 percent and 1.66 percent is focused on unreached.

95 percent of Christian ministers focus on their own people.

Of the 5 percent who become missionaries, 80–90% focus on ethne, which are mostly Christian.

Only 2.5–4% of missionaries are focused on the 25–28% of the world who are unreached.

Source https://joshuaproject.net

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

A traditional way missiologists identify people groups is by counting each group once per country of residence. There are 16,352 People-in-Country Groups, of which 6,650 are considered unreached. 1,034,000,000 individuals live in people groups (4,343) with very few, if any, believers.

Source https://joshuaproject.net

LESSON NINE

THE KEY TO UNLOCKING FAVOR

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply" — HUDSON TAYLOR

SCRIPTURE

"'And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the Lord—since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty. I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,' says the Lord. 'Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid—consider it: Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.'" (Haggai 2:16–19)

MESSAGE

Again we are faced with a passage of scripture where the Lord gives examples of how he either prevents someone's prosperity or blesses it. It is clear that the Lord reacts to what we do. Once action was taken on rebuilding the Temple, then the Lord blessed those involved.

It is also important to consider that the Lord never took away the instruments of prosperity. For instance the trees were still there, they just didn't bear any fruit.

As this scripture points out, the Lord withholding from us is not always enough to for us to get the point. For even though the people were stricken with a lack of prosperity, they didn't turn back to the Lord.

At times it can be hard for us to understand why things aren't working, but we must always make sure it isn't because of wrongdoing on our part.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. How long did it take Cole to realize he had an assignment from God?

2. What did God do to try to get his attention?

3. Cole's obedience to his assignment brought favor several times during his journey.
Can you explain what benefit he gained from helping Mulu?

4. How was Cole blessed when he agreed to follow Sanchez's plan to reach the Horro?

5. Speculate how being wounded worked in Cole's favor.

6. Cole standing up to Tamrat demonstrated what?

7. How did God favor Teguash?
8. When do you suppose Monique knew that Cole had an assignment?

9. Name three instances where non-believers helped favor those following their

assignment.

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. When have you ignored signs from God that things weren't right in your life?

2. What favor has God shown you lately?

3. How do you think of God as being involved in little everyday aspects of your life?
4. What concrete steps have you taken to fulfilling your assignment?

5. When have non-believers been used to assist you in your assignment?

6. Which parts of the Bible do you study on a regular basis?

7. From which parts of the Bible do you tend to learn the most?

8. What is your favorite biblical example of someone who has changed their path and ended up receiving favor from God?

9. What is your definition of "favor from God"?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. What famous description did God give to King David?

2. What happened to Jacob when he wrestled with an angel?

3 Who did the angel at the pool of Bethesda favor once a year?

4. Abel was shown favor over Cain how?

5. The Apostle Phillip converted which foreigner? How was this conversion done?

6. What was the key to Samson's favor from God?

7. How did David first gain the favor of King Saul?

8. What was the prophet Jonah's fate once he reached Nineveh?

9. Joseph fell out of favor with Pharaoh over what? He regained Pharaoh's favor how?

FACTOID

Babylon was the capital city of Babylonia in Mesopotamia (in contemporary Iraq, about 70 miles south of Baghdad). The name is the Greek form of Babel, which is derived in turn from the Semitic form Babilu, meaning "the gate of God." This Semitic word is a translation of the Sumerian Kadmirra.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

One-third (2.2 billion individuals) of the earth's population reside in only 252 Least-Reached people groups.

The largest Un-Reached group in the Middle East / North Africa without Scripture, Jesus film, or audio recordings is the Jabal Nafusah of Libya, with 167,674 people.

Source https://joshuaproject.net

LESSON TEN

CAN YOU HEAR THE VOICE?

"'Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire

of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help.
Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face—whose mercy you have professed to obey— and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world." —WILLIAM BOOTH, FOUNDER OF THE SALVATION ARMY

SCRIPTURE

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

"Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side."

"And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, 'Son of man, have you seen this?' Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river."

"When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. Then he said to me: 'This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.
And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live.

There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.'" (Ezekiel 47:1–12)

MESSAGE

According to John 7, the river is the Holy Spirit. This river speaks to us and leads us when we let go and allow it to have control. It is by its current that progress is made.

The river comes from the heart and produces living waters. It represents a change of heart—a change that produces results. What is inside cannot be withheld but instead spills forth with life blessing others in the process.

In ancient times, rivers did flow near the Temple and canals brought water to the Temple for sacrificial purposes. According to this passage in Ezekiel, which is very descriptive, the water will flow eastward toward the Jordan River and in the process wind through the desert bringing so much water that fishermen will use it.

If we are in tune with the spirituality that God has given us, then what we hold will spring forth like the rivers blessing those in our lives. Like the river in the scriptures, nothing will be able to poison our spirituality.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. Describe the river seen by Cole and Teguash in their dreams.

2. Why does the angel say that Cole can't see his reflection in it?

3. Why is Cole reluctant to step into the river?

4. Why is Teguash tentative of the river?

5. What does the Angel tell Cole to do?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. How does your own personal spirituality compare to the rivers in this section's scriptures? If so how? If not, why not?

2. Who have you blessed in the last month?

3. What does the term "living waters" mean to you?

4. Do you treat your heart as a temple?

5. How can you improve the way you bless others?
6. How have you set goals in this area?

7. How often do you listen to God's voice in these matters?

8. How does your church act as a temple with living waters flowing from it?

9. How do you think that Jesus speaks to you?

10. Can you think of times in the past when he's spoken to you? What were the circumstances?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. Which direction is the Temple facing in this passage from Ezekiel?

2. Name reasons why the Eastern direction is considered important.

3. What is the "Great Sea" mentioned in the passage?

4. Can you name other passages in the Bible where living waters are mentioned?

5. Where is En Gedi located?
6. Where else is it mentioned in the Bible?

7. What does the Bible say will happen when Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives?

8. Where is the Jordan River?

9. Where is the Dead Sea?

10. What is special about the Dead Sea?

11. What are the four rivers mentioned in the Genesis creation?

12. Where was Ezekiel when he had his visions?

FACTOID

In Greek and Roman times, the Jewish town of Ein Gedi was an important source of balsam until its destruction by Byzantine emperor Justinian as part of his persecution of the Jews.

A beautiful synagogue mosaic remains that includes a Judeo-Aramaic inscription warning inhabitants against “revealing the town’s secret”—the methods for extraction and preparation of the much-prized balsam resin—to the outside world.

In 1972, a national park was established around the modern kibbutz at Ein Gedi. The park is a sanctuary for many types of plant, bird and animal species.

The vegetation includes plants and trees from the tropics, desert and Mediterranean, such as Sodom apple, acacia, jujube and poplar.

The many species of resident birds are supplemented by over two hundred species during the migration periods in the spring and fall.

Mammal species include the ibex and the hyrax.

UNREACHED FACTOID

•Of the world's approximately 6,900 languages, 4,685 have at least one of the following:

Bible portions, the Jesus Film, Christian radio or Gospel recordings.

Total speakers of these languages is 6,200,000,000, or more than 95 percent of the world's population. 2215 languages are still waiting!

Source https://joshuaproject.net

LESSON ELEVEN

THE GREAT TEMPTATION

"Sympathy is no substitute for action."
—DAVID LIVINGSTON

SCRIPTURE

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'" (Matthew 26:36–41)

MESSAGE

Here we have a scene that takes place on the night Jesus was taken prisoner. The scene at Gethsemane was pivotal since Jesus knew what was about to

happen to him.

Being distressed, he decided to spend time praying, taking three of his disciples with him. His disciples fell asleep, and Jesus scolded them by reminding them that prayer keeps temptation at bay.

We may have the best of intentions. Our plans may be honorable. We may set out to do our assignment. But as this scripture says, the flesh is weak. Old habits may arise that hinder us. One way or another we get sidetracked from our goal or, as in the case of the disciples, don't have the endurance to remain faithful under certain circumstances.

Jesus' instructions were clear. We should "watch and pray," being ever vigilant to our assignment, so that we aren't deterred from accomplishing what we've set out to do.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

Each of the characters in the story was tempted by certain events or fears to abandon what he or she set out to do.

1. What was Monique thinking in the kitchen when she and Cole were discussing him having agreed to go to Ethiopia?

2. Lady Marina's husband fell into temptation how?

3. Rev. Hasbro prayed when?

4. Mrs. Sanchez watched out for her husband when?

5. When facing Aberra's village for the first time, who encouraged Cole to speak?

6. Who helped Hondo save Cole when Tamrat attacked him?

7. What do you think Sanchez's greatest temptation was?

8. What do you think Randy's greatest temptation was?

9. What do you think Dr. Peer's greatest temptation was?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. What are the three biggest temptations you experience that would distract you from your spiritual life?

2. How often do you pray?

3. Name times in the past when your spirit was willing but the flesh was weak.

4. Name a person, you can ask to pray with you in times of need.

5. How often do you read the Bible?
6. How many hours a week do you pray?

7. When do you pray?

8. How do you pray?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. Name another time Jesus was tempted.

2. Who were the two sons of Zebedee?

3. How did Peter react to Jesus' arrest in the garden?

4. What was the fate of Judas after Jesus' arrest?

5. What holiday had Jesus and the disciples been observing before his arrest?

6. Who ordered the arrest of Jesus?

7. What miracle did Jesus perform when he was arrested?

FACTOID

In the Garden of Gethsemane is the Church of All Nations, also called the Church of the Agony. It is built on the site of a church destroyed by the Sassanids in 614 and a Crusader church destroyed in 1219. Nearby is the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Mary Magdalene built by Russian Tsar Alexander III in memory of his mother.

The Garden of Gethsemane has many olive trees and is believed to have been a place in Jesus' time where olives were pressed. It is clear from scriptures that the disciples often went there.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

Around 3 million people live in the country of Oman: 93% of the country belongs to the Islamic faith, while 3% are Hindu. Less than 2% claim to be Christian.

Some 65-70% of the world's population live in religiously restrictive countries.

Source https://joshuaproject.net

LESSON TWELVE

CONNECT TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT

"God had only one Son and he made that Son a missionary." —DAVID

LIVINGSTON

SCRIPTURE

"And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'" (Acts 1:7–8)

MESSAGE

These words spoken in the scripture are the last Jesus said to his disciples before ascending up into heaven. It is not our place to question the timing involved with our assignment, but rather to proceed with it. God has chosen the time to give you an assignment for a reason.

CHARACTER EXAMPLES

1. Why did the timing seem right for Cole to go to Africa?

2. Why might have it seemed wrong?

3. Discuss the consequences of the timing of Mulu stopping in the middle of the road.

4. How did the timing of Cole's arrival help Sanchez?

5. How did Aberra's timing save Teguash?

6. Eric's nightmare helped convince Cole to do what?

7. How did Cole connect to his assignment?

8. How did it change him over the course of time?

SELF-OBSERVATION

1. Have you connected to your assignment? What is your assignment?

2. Under what circumstances do you question the timing of events in your life?
3. Do you trust the timing to work out?

4. What do you need to do to fulfill your assignment?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. What was Jesus' assignment?

2. What assignment did Jesus leave the disciples?

3. How many days did Jesus walk among his disciples after his resurrection?

4. From where did Jesus ascend into heaven?

5. Who spoke to the disciples immediately after Jesus' ascension?

FACTOID

According to Christianity Today, one of the largest Bible printing facilities in the world is located in Nanjing, China. The factory is owned by Amity Printing, which is a joint venture with the Bible Societies. In 2008, the factory printed more than 12 million Bibles.

UNREACHED PEOPLE FACTOID

2,718 people groups totaling 112,723,000 individuals have neither Scripture, the Jesus film or Christian recordings available in their primary language.

562 of Indonesia's 782 people groups do not have even Bible portions available

in their primary language. The largest of these is the Banjar, 3,916,000.

Source https://joshuaproject.net

“I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light”
—JOHN KEITH FALCONER

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



At the age of 21 Karl Hargestam left his home in Sweden, for the mandate God gave him to reach the unreached people in Africa with the Gospel.

During his early ministry in Africa, Karl, together with his family and staff, became the reason for an enormous change amongst African tribes that never

before had heard the name of Jesus. Many of these tribes now have strongly established local churches.

Karl and his wife Jennifer are founders of Joshua Campaign International, a pioneering mission and evangelism movement that reaches hundreds of thousands each year and has seen more than 3 million people respond to the Gospel.

In their crusades they have had crowds of more than 300,000 present at one single service. Thousands of churches have been planted as they call for a Gospel army of believers to join the great “assignment”.

Millions of people in Africa, Asia and the Middle East have been impacted by the work of Joshua Campaign and the “assignment” is now leading Karl, Jennifer and their team into new unconquered territories around the world.

Karl Hargestam



The Assignment television series is a reality based show produced by Joshua Campaign and airing on major networks and satellite channels around the world.

The Assignment follows Mission 1:11 students as they are sent into foreign fields for the first time to spread the Gospel. It documents their struggles, successes, and how they cope with the challenges that they encounter along the way.

To find when the show will be airing in your area or to order an online Season Pass to the series visit http://theassignmentshow.tv or https://JoshuaCampaign.org or call Toll Free 1-800-745-1332.



Mission 1:11 was created by Joshua Campaign to provide a pipeline of missionaries that can continue to go spread the Gospel to people who have never heard it before now. It is an expanding program open to all, regardless of background or age, who wish to pursue missionary opportunities.

The Mission 1:11 operates a Boot Camp where enrollees are placed in a crash course to prepare them for a mission field. The course includes spiritual and physical preparation focused on the practical implications on a mission field.

At the end of the classroom and field training that occurs Stateside, the Boot Camp participants are then flown overseas to a mission field such as Ethiopia where they are sent into remote areas which have never heard the Gospel. They work these areas for approximately a month. Here, participants put their training to use and gain firsthand experience of working a mission field.

To find out more about enrolling in the Mission 1:11 program visit http://Missiononeeleven.com or call Toll Free 1-800-745-1332.