

SESSION ONE:

Read a Story Script

D R . G E O R G E H A R L E Y

(Narrator • Dr. George Harley • Villager)

NARRATOR: In 1926, George Harley started a medical mission among the Mano tribe in Africa. The villagers welcomed the doctor and even helped him build a clinic and a chapel. Harley and his wife had a baby named Robert, and for the next five years, Dr. Harley treated thousands of patients in his clinic, but not one person visited his chapel.

DR. HARLEY: One day when Robert was five years old, I looked out the window of the clinic and saw him running across the field, but suddenly he fainted. I ran out and picked up my little boy, and he was hot with a fever. I tried every treatment I knew. But nothing helped. The fever raged, and soon the disease took our boy's life.

VILLAGER: Later, I saw Dr. Harley carrying a wooden box through the jungle, and I asked him about it. He told me his son had died, so I helped him carry the box with his son in it. We came to a clearing in the forest. We dug a grave and put the box in it.

DR. HARLEY: But after we covered up the grave, I just couldn't stand it any longer. I fell down on my knees in the dirt and began to sob. My beloved son was dead, and there I was in the middle of an African jungle, eight thousand miles from home and family. I felt so alone.

VILLAGER: When Dr. Harley started crying, I was shocked. I squatted down next to him and stared at him. He just kept crying. Finally I leaped up and ran through the jungle, screaming, again and again, as loud as I could, "White man, white man—he cries like one of us!"

NARRATOR: That night as Harley and his wife grieved in their cottage, there was a knock at the door. Harley opened it. There stood the chief and almost every man, woman, and child in the village. They were back again the next Sunday and filled the chapel to overflowing. They wanted to hear about Jesus. Everything changed when the villagers saw the tears of the missionary. Everything changes when we see the face of God.¹

¹ Adapted from Max Lucado, *Because of Bethlehem* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2016), page 18.