



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

– Hebrews 12:1-2





Jim Elliot **(1927 - 1956)**

A Man of UNSELFISHNESS

Jim's Story

Jim Elliot and some of his college friends enjoyed working as a team to spread the gospel. One day when they were traveling together, their car stalled on some railroad tracks. Then they saw the train coming! They scrambled out of their vehicle just seconds before the train demolished the car.

After the wreck, Jim told his parents, "It sobered me considerably to think that the Lord kept me from harm in this. Certainly, He has a work that He wants me in somewhere."

Following God's leading, Jim became a missionary after he graduated from college. He traveled to Ecuador to serve God among South American tribal people. After about a year, he married Elisabeth Howard, and their daughter, Valerie, was born while they were serving in Ecuador.

Jim still enjoyed working with a team to spread the gospel. His new teammates and fellow missionaries were Pete Fleming, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, and Roger Youderian.

God gave Jim a strong desire to reach the tribal people. The Waodani, an indigenous people group, had a reputation for violence and suspicion toward outsiders. Together the team prayed and devised a plan to reach out to the Waodani by dropping gifts from their plane. After some initial success in building a relationship with the Waodani, something went terribly wrong. There were those among the Waodani who did not trust the missionaries. They attacked and killed the entire team, after the plane landed on the Waodani beach.

Through the tragedy, God continued moving among the Waodani. After a time, they realized that the missionaries had unselfishly laid down their lives for the tribe.

Jim and his team had hoped that they would lead the Waodani to an understanding of Christ's love. In an unexpected way, the missionaries had accomplished that goal. The sacrifice of their lives helped the Waodani understand Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross and led many of the tribe to follow Him.



Key Bible Verse:

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

Key Word: UNSELFISHNESS

Unselfishness: Generosity, willingness to share, ability to put the needs of others before one's own needs.



Close Calls

The train incident wasn't Jim Elliot's first "close call" with danger. Once, while he was hunting, a bullet grazed his hair, barely missing his head.



Encouraging Friends

In college, Jim encouraged his friends to share what they had learned from the Bible each day. He greeted them by saying, "What's your verse for today?" How can you encourage your friends in their walk with God?



The Waodani

The jungle tribe Jim and his friends contacted was known as the Auca tribe. Auca, meaning "savage," was a name used by other tribes as an insult before the tribe was transformed by God's love. Now they are known by the name Waodani, meaning "the people." Their name is also spelled "Waoorani" or "Huaorani."



Going Back to the Tribe

Family members, including Jim's wife, Elisabeth, and his daughter, Valerie, returned to the tribe with a message of forgiveness and salvation for the men who had killed their loved ones. Valerie played with the Waodani children, while her mother ministered among the tribe. Many of the Waodani people responded to the sacrificial love of Jesus through these women and gave their lives to Him.



Nate Saint's Son

Nate Saint, a missionary pilot, flew the plane that helped Jim Elliot and the other missionaries reach the Waodani people. After Nate's death, his son, Steve, continued to spend school vacations with his Aunt Rachel, who was a missionary to the Waodani tribe. As a teenager, Steve was baptized by two of the Waodani men who had come to know Christ after killing Steve's father and the other missionaries. Later Steve Saint served as a missionary among the tribe.



A Flying Car

Steve Saint started a company in the United States that invents machines to help people spread the gospel in hard-to-reach areas. One of the machines is a flying car!



Missionary Stamps

The government of Ecuador issued postage stamps honoring Jim and the other missionaries who were martyred for their faith.

Jim Elliot's Famous Quote



Follow the instructions below to find Jim Elliot's motto. What do you think the motto means? In what ways did Jim prove by the way he lived that he believed his motto? The answer is in the Answer Key.

1. Jim Elliot served the Lord in Ecuador, South America. Cross out, in columns B, C, and E, the names of South American countries. (Refer to a map of South America if you need help.)
2. Jim Elliot demonstrated unselfishness. Cross out, in columns A, C, and D, words more than five letters long related to unselfishness.
3. Cross out the two-letter words only in columns B and D.
4. Cross out, in all columns, the first or last names of the five men who were trying to reach the Waodani tribe for Christ.
5. To read Jim Elliot's quote, start at the top of the grid, and going in order from left to right, copy the remaining words onto the dotted lines below the grid.

A	B	C	D	E
HE	FLEMING	BRAZIL	AT	IS
NO	PERU	FOOL	CONSIDERATE	YOUDEIRIAN
PETE	BY	GENEROUS	OF	CHILE
CARING	WHO	URUGUAY	GIVES	WHAT
HE	WE	CANNOT	IN	ARGENTINA
SAINT	KEEP	MCCULLY	COMPASSIONATE	TO
ED	OF	COLOMBIA	GAIN	JIM
KINDNESS	AT	WHAT	ON	HE
CANNOT	VENEZUELA	SHARING	TO	NATE
ROGER	LOSE	GIVING	THOUGHTFUL	PARAGUAY

“ _____ ”
 _____ .



Fan Your Gifts into Flame

Jim Elliot's missionary team worked well together to accomplish tasks. Jim was a leader and encourager, and Pete learned building skills. Nate served as a pilot. Ed had studied missionary medicine, and Roger had been a paratrooper and a church pianist.

What kind of missionary could you be?

What gifts has God given you to love and serve Him in missionary work or in other ways? Do you have skills that you can "fan into flame" to prepare you to serve God later?

Put a 1 on the line in front of any statement below that describes you sometimes or a little bit.

Put a 2 if it describes you generally or most of the time.

Put a 3 if it is a very important part of your life.

Leave the line blank if it doesn't describe you at all.

- ___ I like to organize groups for games or tasks. **A**
- ___ I like to invite people to church or Bible study. **E**
- ___ I am willing to try different kinds of food. **P**
- ___ I like to care for animals, or for younger children, or others who need help. **K**
- ___ I like to learn new things from the Bible and other sources to share with others. **T**
- ___ I plan ahead or make lists to help me manage my time. **A**
- ___ I am comfortable talking to people about my faith. **E**
- ___ I am concerned about people who don't know Jesus. **E**
- ___ Others look to me for help when they don't understand something. **T**
- ___ I am concerned about the poor and unreached people. **K**
- ___ I pray for the needs of others. **K**
- ___ I like to go to places I have never been before. **P**
- ___ I can motivate others to greater service for the Lord. **A**
- ___ I like to meet new people and learn about different cultures. **P**
- ___ I can patiently explain new skills and ideas to others. **T**

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God. ..."

— 2 Timothy 1:6

To fan something into flame means to make it more intense, or stronger.

Missionary Gifts and Ministry

Add up the total numbers for each letter above (A, E, T, P & K) and enter the numbers below to see how your gifts might be used for the mission field. The higher the number the stronger your gifting!

___ **A = Administrator: Able to organize and handle detailed plans**

___ **E = Evangelist: A messenger of the Good News of the gospel**

___ **T = Teacher: Teaches and disciples others**

___ **P = Pioneer: Willing to go to new places and start new things**

___ **K = Kindness (Compassion): Able to assist those in need**

Which section has the highest total? For example, if the "Teacher" section best describes you, you could offer to teach a class of younger children at your church. What else could you do to fan your gifts into flame?



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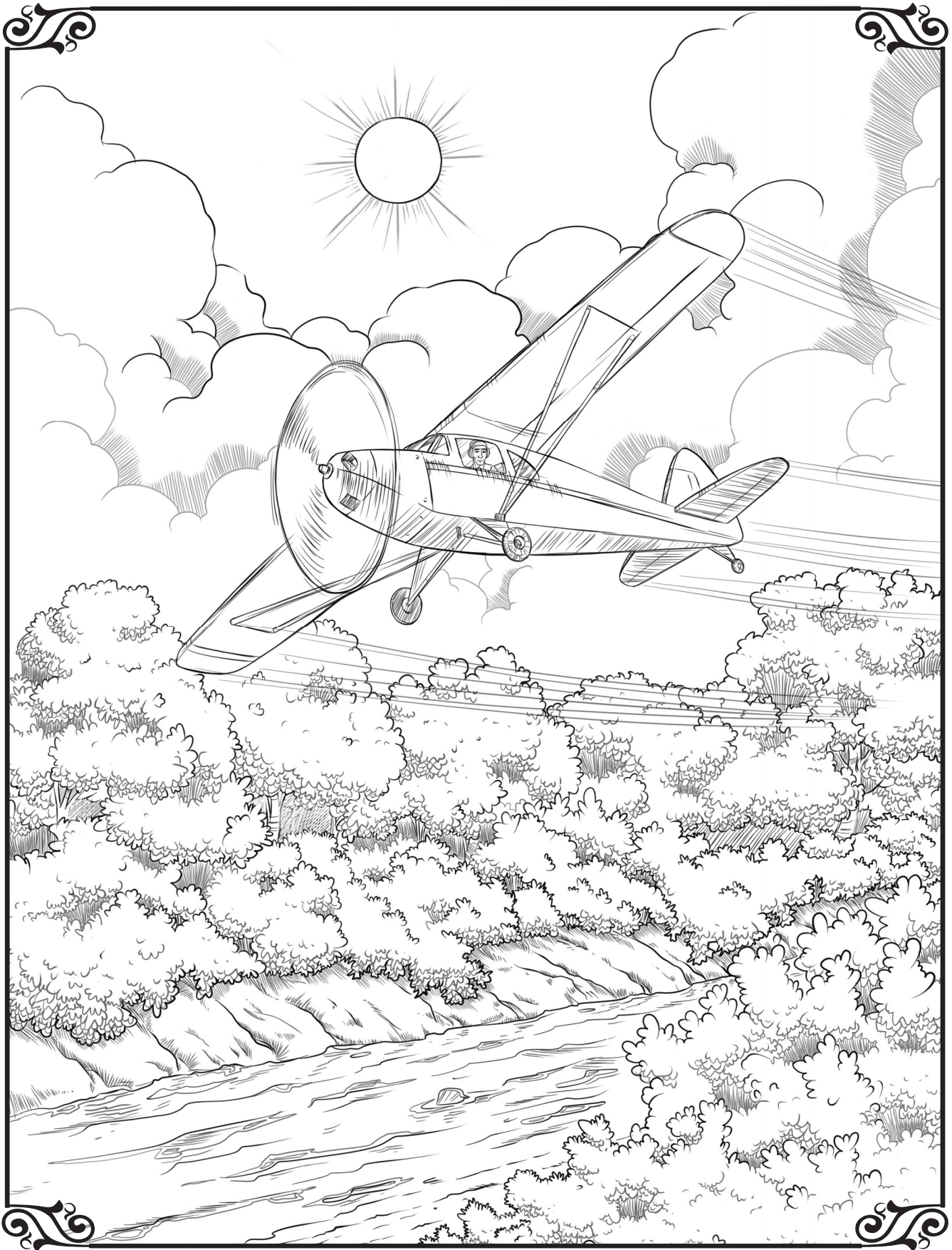
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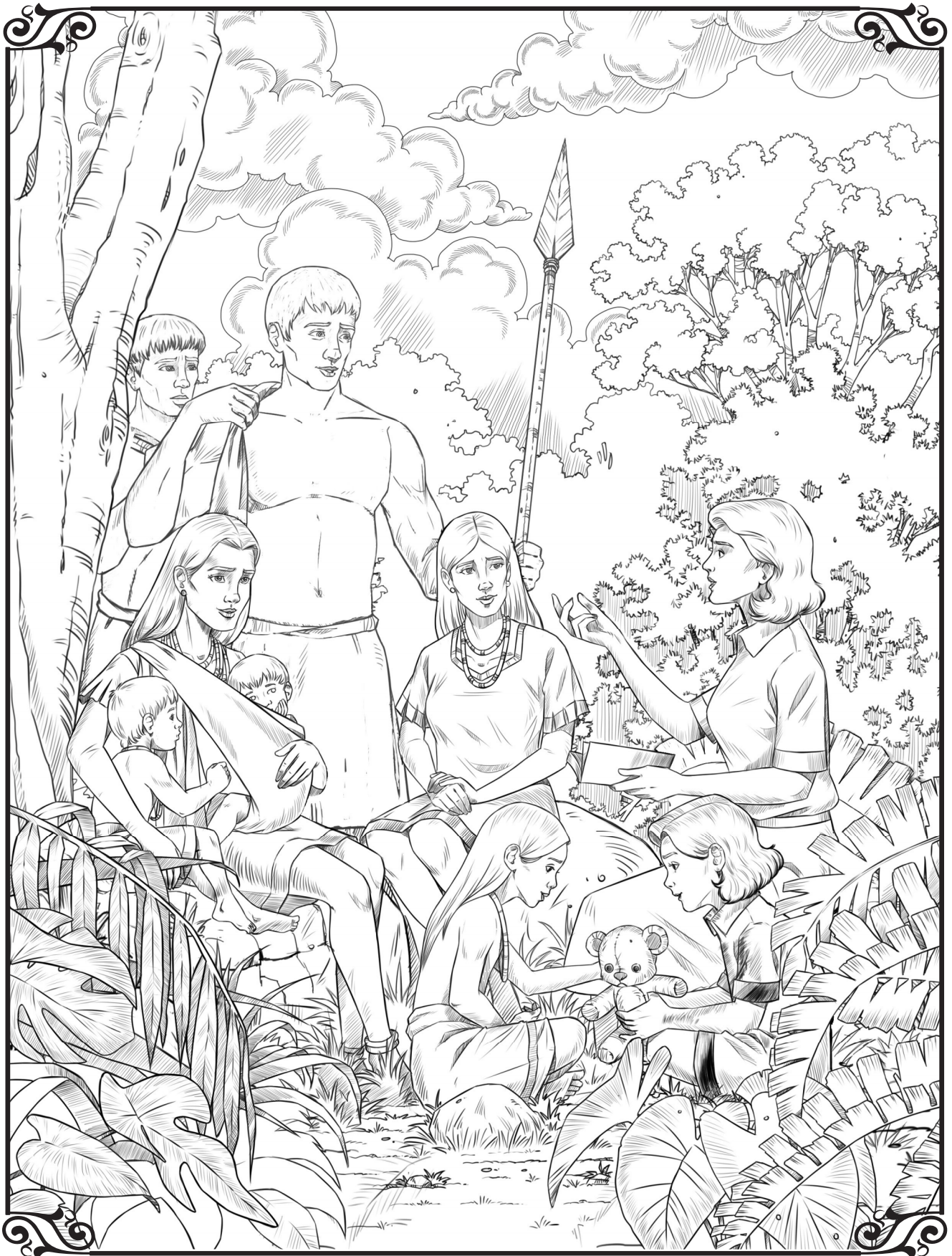
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The missionaries flew over the jungle to reach the Wadani tribe.



Jim's wife and daughter returned to the Wadani people with a message of forgiveness and salvation.

Losing and Gaining



“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose,” Jim Elliot wrote in his journal the year he graduated from college. (A fool is someone who acts in a way that is not wise.) How would you share this quote with someone else in your own words?

Cross out anything on the list below that Jim gave up to follow God’s call to Ecuador. Circle anything that he would never have to give up.

1. A comfortable house in America
2. Joy in the knowledge that he helped people come to know Christ
3. Frequent visits with friends and relatives at home
4. Safety
5. His life on earth
6. God’s love
7. The example he left for others in living a life of obedience to God
8. Opportunities for higher paying jobs in America
9. Freedom from guilt for his sins
10. Hope for eternity

The Bible says, “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

Does Jim’s quote agree with this verse?

John 12:24 (NIV) says, “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

How was that verse true in the life of Jim Elliot?

Are there things that Jim gave up that would have lasted forever if he had kept them? Would he have been able to keep them in eternity? Jim gave up what he would not be able to keep and gained what he could never lose.

Trusting Jesus as our Lord and Savior means giving up our right to have control of our lives and turning our rights and all control over to Him. Like Jim Elliot, when we trust the Lord, we pay less attention to things that we can’t keep and more attention to things that we can’t lose.

Matthew 6:19–21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”