End Of The Spear is a true story about a small band of missionaries who sought to bring God's message of love to the primitive violent tribes of darkest Ecuador in 1956, but for their compassionate act the men were mercilessly slain. Years later, the wives of the fallen men return to the village to continue their husbands' missionary work, bringing their children to live amongst the tribesmen in the hope that through their forgiveness the natives might find faith.

Based on Elisabeth Elliot's international best-seller, Through The Gates Of Splendor, End Of The Spear is the remarkable journey of an Amazon tribesman who becomes family to the son of the North American man he kills. Mincayani (Louie Leonardo) is a Waodani warrior who leads the raid that kills Steve Saint's father and four other missionaries. Through a suspenseful series of events, young Steve Saint (Chase Ellison) is able to visit and live with Mincayani's tribe as a child. In 1994, Steve returns to the Waodani as an adult (Chad Allen). Together Mincayani and Steve confront the true meaning of the life and death of Steve's father, and the other men who were killed, while a lingering question is finally answered.

The free Bible Study Guide draws from themes in the film, touching on important topics such as God's call and the cost of that calling, the importance of forgiveness, the power of Jesus Christ to change the human heart, and how God is glorified even in the midst of tragedy. Each topic is complete with thought-provoking questions, related scriptures, and helpful lessons, making this guide perfect for parents to lead their family in discussion.

For more information and additional church resource material, go to www.foxfaith.com.
ABOUT THE FILM

End Of The Spear is a film for teens and adults. It provides an opportunity to discuss how God calls each of us to a specific purpose that ultimately is part of a bigger plan – one that God sees from beginning to end. Understanding the themes of the film – God’s call and the cost of that calling, the importance of forgiveness, the power of Jesus Christ to change the human heart, and how God is glorified even in the midst of tragedy – is the reason these and other topics are addressed in the movie and why we’ve created this Discussion Guide. With this booklet, you or any other leader can utilize the messages in End Of The Spear as a group discussion tool.

The lessons are supplemented with movie clips you’ve either received or downloaded online. These clips were specifically selected to help you set the tone and furnish the context for your discussion or Bible study. There are also suggested scriptures for your group to study in-depth, and we’ve provided several discussion provoking questions based on the different scenes. This guide is an easy-to-use way to kick-start interesting discussions within your small group, and it works without any of your group having seen the film. However, it is recommended that you announce your intentions of using the film clips ahead of time. For example, the week before you intend to have a clip-oriented discussion, you might show the film trailer (included with the clips) to your group or congregation and let them know that you will incorporate it into your discussion the following week (or the next time you meet). This will allow your members the opportunity to view the film themselves (rent or purchase) if they so desire.

Discussions:
In an effort to help you reinforce the themes and messages of End Of The Spear, we have chosen clips from the film that you can show to your group. These clips can be downloaded online or shown through a specially made DVD that you can request at the same website. These DVD clips are followed up with questions and scripture found in the Discussion Guide. The questions should draw your group members into a conversation about what they have just seen. It is not necessary to tackle these topics in a row, or all in one session. If you would prefer just to cover one or two, feel free. It is all up to you.

First of all, introduce the discussion by saying something like this: “We’re going to talk about several topics – God’s call and the cost of that calling, the importance of forgiveness, the power of Jesus Christ to change the human heart, and how God is glorified even in the midst of tragedy. We have some scenes from the movie End Of The Spear that we are going to watch and then analyze to see what we can learn from them.”

Next, give a brief overview of the film. Then, play the clip you have selected. Once the clip plays, then open the floor for discussion, using the questions and scriptures that are provided, or use some of your own. To finish, you can close each session by giving the brief “Lesson to Learn” provided at the end of the topic.

NOTE: Since some of your group members have likely not seen the film, it is a good idea to provide them with the context of the clip before watching it. This can be found in the italicized text that precedes the questions and scripture references for that particular clip.

Please keep in mind that you do not have to get through all the clips in order to have a successful discussion. Also, you do not need to sacrifice a good conversation to finish the scenes. As we mentioned above, discussion times go best when you allow...
One may ask why God would commission these five men to bring the gospel to these violent natives. The answer is the same as when He sent his Son, Jesus to die for us: He loves the whole world. That's why He asks us to share the good news to those who haven't heard it before.

In the case of the missionaries, their calling from God to reach the Waodani people in faraway Ecuador was so these natives could know love instead of hate, peace instead of chaos.

For each of us, God's call is unique. God's call for us may be right here in our hometown, to listen to the heart of a friend in need and share with them that Jesus is the answer. Or, it may be reaching out to someone alone who needs a connection, while letting them know that Jesus is the best friend they will ever have. In some instances, following Jesus can be leading a Bible study group, teaching a Sunday school class, or mentoring youth.

Whether the call is to the mission field far away or the one here at home, God is calling each of us to use our strengths, talents, and abilities for His purpose. When we do, we act as His disciples, bringing the good news of His love to those who, in Nate Saint's words, "aren't ready for heaven yet."

**THE COST OF THE CALL**

**Tragedy**

Nate Saint and Jim Elliot have made positive contact from the air with the Waodani natives, exchanging gifts that include a parrot from the tribe. With weeks of this successful interaction, the decision is made by Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Roger Youderian, Jim McCully and Pete Fleming to make one-on-one contact. Also, the missionaries agree to not take up arms against the natives, even if it is warranted, because the Waodani “aren't ready for heaven yet.” Fearing for his dad's safety, young Steve Saint teaches his father a Waodani phrase that he has learned from his Aunt Rachel, then begs his dad to use it if he gets into trouble. With tender good-byes, the five missionary men leave their wives and children behind, flying deep into the rainforest to land...
Gimade's sister, was alive. But something went wrong. Sin entered into the picture. Because the tribesmen caught Nenkiwi and Gimade together without a chaperone, it ignited a family feud. To protect themselves, the two lovers blamed the missionaries for their situation, lying that the men had attacked them. Since the Waodani’s method for problem solving was to spear, Mincayani and the others attacked the missionaries. But even though Satan was at work to defeat God’s message of love for these people, the five men demonstrated it fully by refusing to shoot the Waodani in their defense. Even in his last moments, Nate Saint spoke words of kindness to Mincayani, telling him that he was a "sincere friend." This approach was new to Mincayani and it troubled him greatly then, and in the days ahead.

The Bible speaks about taking up our cross and following Jesus. The scriptures also add, If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will save it. (LB) Certainly, these martyred missionaries gave up their lives for Jesus Christ, but found an eternity with their Lord and Savior. And, their example of what it means to love others, even in the face of death, has lived far beyond the grave.

CHANGED HEARTS

The Visit

Years earlier in the midst of tribal conflict, a little girl named Dayumae makes a choice to flee to the “foreigners” rather than stay with her tribe and face certain death. In her new environment with missionary Rachel Saint, Dayumae learns about Waengongi, His carvings, and how to walk His trail. In turn, Rachel is able to study the primitive language of the Waodani tribe. Then, in 1956 when Dayumae is an adult, she learns the tragic news that her Waodani family members are responsible for the deaths of the five martyred missionaries. As a result, she wants to return to her tribe to teach them about God’s love and forgiveness. Rachel Saint and Elisabeth Elliot, family of the martyred missionaries, agree to go with her, hoping that the Waodani tribe will not harm women and children.

Questions:

After the deaths of the missionary men, Dayumae talks about returning to her tribe to stop the cycle of violence. But, when Rachel Saint, widowed Elisabeth Elliot, and Dayumae go to the Waodani village, they encounter resistance from Mincayani and the others. What does Dayumae say that convinces them to let the women and children stay?

The way of the Waodani is one of desperate violence – spear or be speared. Still, Kimo begins to change as he learns about “Waengongi’s carvings” from the women. How does his new demeanor affect the other men? Why are they unsettled about his changed heart?

The Bible says in II Corinthians 5:17 that when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become a new creation; the old ways are gone. What specific changes and actions do we see in Kimo after he becomes a Christian? Think of biblical examples of individuals who were changed once they met...
Jesus. Read Acts 9:1-19 about Paul and his encounter with the Lord.

Lesson to Learn:
A changed Waodani heart first began with Dayumae as she learned about the “Creator God.” Years later, Dayumae realizes that although she has changed, her family is still living in violence – violence that has killed members of the missionary family that she loves.

Because of this tragic incident, she feels strongly that she and the missionary women should return to her people to share God’s love – love that could stop the cycle of violence. With her sister Gimade’s arrival at the missionary home unharmed, Dayumae realizes that, likewise, the safest method for returning to the Waodani is with women and children only.

What convinces the Waodani to allow the “foreigners” to stay unharmed was the Truth that pierced the tribesmen’s hearts. Dayumae tells Mincayani and the others that Waengongi, the Creator God, does not want violence. She says the martyred missionaries “…came to tell you that Waengongi has a Son. He was speared, but he didn’t spear back, so the people spearing him would one day live well.”

Coupled with Dayumae’s words and what some of the natives have seen on “Palm Beach” when the missionary men offered no resistance, new ideas are set in motion. Change occurs in their village. This proves to be troubling for Mincayani and the other men in the tribe as they see Kimo’s altered behavior. “They want us to be weak,” says Mincayani, referring to the missionaries and the Waodani belief that spearing increases their strength. Based on years of tradition, it is understandable that changing from their old ways would prove to be fearful to the Waodani and cause opposition.

Still, as Kimo grows closer to God, his demeanor and actions notably change and he becomes an example to the others. Instead of becoming weaker, Kimo turns out to be stronger in his determination to stand up against the cycle of violence. Instead of being a follower, he becomes a leader. This transformation is not lost on the tribesmen.

Indeed, this conversion is what the Bible promises us when we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts. We only have to look to the scriptures for examples. One is Paul, the apostle, whose life changed dramatically. Even though that was in biblical times, it’s no different today. God is still in the business of changing lives. Our cycle of unholy living can end when we meet Jesus face-to-face. If you’re looking for a “new trail” in your life, then turn your heart over to Him. Like Kimo from the Waodani tribe, the results will be amazing.

FORGIVING THE PAST

Love Thy Neighbor
Young Steve Saint and his mother, Marj, travel from the United States to visit his Aunt Rachel, but they find themselves in the midst of warring tribes. There is even internal conflict as Kimo refuses to fight the Aenomoni tribe to avenge the spearing of a fellow Waodani tribesman. Then, after a night of being threatened by the Aenomoni tribe, the Waodani women, Kimo, and the missionary families find silence as the morning dawns. The “fever” has made the Aenomoni tribesmen too weak to attack. But, word spreads to their tribe that the Waodani are well. Before long, the Aenomoni bring their sick to the Waodani village. In spite of the Aenomoni’s hostile actions, the missionaries, Kimo, and the Waodani women show mercy and love to an age-old enemy.

Questions:
- The news reaches the Aenomoni women that the Waodani tribe and missionaries do not have the “fever.” Out of desperation, the women bring their sick children and loved ones to the Waodani village. Who is the first person to step forward and offer help? How difficult would it be for Kimo, a tribesman with a history of hostility against the Aenomoni people, to set aside hatred and help his enemy?


- The Christian walk stresses that we show forgiveness and mercy. Read Matthew 18:21-22 & Ephesians 4:32. Discuss how you (or someone you know) have faced a situation that requires forgiveness or compassion when it was undeserved. What were
Because of his determination, the Aenomoni were allowed to stay while the missionaries and the Waodani women cared for their sick. As a result, the Waodani and the Aenomoni discovered a new way of life, one that their hearts had unknowingly yearned for. In this situation, past grievances were set aside and new relationships were formed. It was the beginning of change between the two tribes.

We can’t help but be amazed at the love and forgiveness that was exhibited by the missionary women as they worked side by side with the very people who had murdered their loved ones. But, because of their willingness to forget the past and follow Christ’s teachings, a tradition of violence was broken.

It has been said that change happens when “we let go and let God.” The scriptures specifically tell us to forgive, to love and pray for our enemies, and to show compassion. When we follow these commandments, setting aside our anger and hurt, God can move in ways far beyond our expectations.

**Lesson to Learn:**
When the Aenomoni men came in the darkness of night to the Waodani village, it was with the purpose to avenge their sickness. But, two women who had formerly belonged to their tribe, pleaded for the safety of the others, saying that the Waodani tribe was well. By dawn, the Polio “fever” had weakened the attackers. The Waodani, along with the missionaries, were safe.

In desperation, the Aenomoni women brought their sick families to the Waodani for help. As a result, Kimo stepped forward to offer assistance. First of all, this took remarkable forgiveness and a strong desire to follow Waengongi’s “carvings.” Secondly, it took tremendous courage to stand-up to the rest of the male Waengongi, risking the possibility of being speared by Mincayani and the others.

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