

GO:

THE KINGDOM JOURNEY

Episode 1: Mongolia

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET
OF HIM WHO BRINGS GOOD NEWS, who publishes PEACE,
who brings GOOD NEWS of HAPPINESS, who publishes
SALVATION, who says to Zion, "YOUR GOD REIGNS."

ISAIAH 52:7

INTRODUCTION

GO: the series, shares stories of how God is using real people to make a difference around the world. This documentary series offers an inspirational look into unique cultures, food, and ways that Christ calls people to Himself. Maybe you wrestle with fear, purpose, or calling. Maybe you're looking for ideas of how to reach people for God's kingdom. We want to explore these themes and ideas with you through the GO series.

In Episode 1: The Kingdom Journey, our host Jake Starkey travels to outer Mongolia. During the trip he meets an Olympic wrestling coach, a musician, and an American family who works with the people of Mongolia. We encourage you to keep an open mind and heart as you use this guide to discuss the movie.

This discussion guide is meant for small groups, youth groups, and families to use in conjunction with watching GO: The Kingdom Journey. In this guide, you'll find five sections. Each includes a clip to watch, a scripture passage to read, and questions to help spark a conversation about the overall themes of the film. Use any or all of the topics to facilitate meaningful conversations and further steps of faith!

Because open discussion can go in many directions, encourage your group to listen and speak respectfully and compassionately.



WHOSE KINGDOM?



READ: Luke 4:16-21 & Luke 13:18-19

WATCH: [The wrestler talks about purpose.](#)

The subtitle of this episode is “The Kingdom Journey.” But what kingdom are we talking about? The Bible speaks often about “the kingdom of God.” Luke mentions it over 30 times in his record of Jesus’ life and ministry. In some places it seems like God’s kingdom is seen when physical needs are met—food, healing, or justice. Other places clarify that these physical needs aren’t the end of the kingdom.

In Luke 4:16-21 Jesus teaches that God’s kingdom is the place where God reigns and that He—Jesus—is God. The people whose stories we’ve told in this episode are all meeting the physical needs, but their goal is to introduce people to the King of the Universe.

A mission requires a commander. Was there a time in your life when, like the people in this episode, you recognized Jesus as the king of your life? If not, who would you trust to talk with about this? If you have, let’s explore a little more about the kingdom of God.

DISCUSS:

- Jesus is worthy to rule everything; how does this reality change how you look at the world?
- For those who believe in Jesus, the kingdom of God is already a reality in their lives, but it’s not yet completed in us. What areas or attitudes keep your life from looking like the kingdom of God? What would it look like if Jesus were in complete control of these?
- Jesus is already the King of the Universe; what are some areas where His reign needs to be acknowledged? In your home, church, city, nation, or world?

BROKEN WORLD



READ: Luke 9:1-6

WATCH: [Ooyuma “I had a fear in my heart.”](#)

At the end of the last discussion, you may have wondered, “Where’s the hope?” God brings us through the reality of pain so that we’re amazed at His goodness. This is good storytelling. Creation reveals God’s power and right to rule. But after Adam disobeyed, God cursed the physical world to show us the ugliness of sin.

- Weeds and thorns show us that sin is everywhere.
- The agony of labor reminds us that new life comes with pain.
- Sickness casts a gravestone shadow over our lives.

We know we’re meant for more. Over and over in John’s gospel, Jesus says those who believe in Him will have eternal life. Those who, like Yuma, who know this is more than a metaphor, don’t need to fear death knowing that Jesus will “raise them up on the last day.” (John 6:40)

Repairing physical brokenness isn’t the end of the gospel, but many Bible passages show how God uses physical healing to demonstrate His power to rescue both body and soul. In Luke 9, Jesus connects the kingdom of God with physical healing. If our weak bodies remind us of the reality of sin, the return to health reminds us of God’s power to rescue from sin—to remake the world.

Healing doesn’t need to be miraculous. Notice how the people in this episode use their gifts to address the sin damaged world around them. Counseling, art, wrestling, and music all repair the brokenness in the world in specific ways. We should not solve physical problems without addressing the eternal problem of sin. Often, the call to go starts with noticing the brokenness sin has caused in the world. Let’s reflect more on this brokenness.

DISCUSS:

- Yuma’s story shows how Jesus’ love can remove the fear that comes from the curse. What fears of the curse keep you from the mission God has for you? How has Jesus’ love already provided for these fears?
- List some of the effects of sin on the world. How does it affect nature, families, and cultures?
- In what specific ways could addressing these results of the curse reveal Christ’s power to redeem the world?
- Is God calling you to be part of His healing in one of these areas?

CREATIVE CALLING



READ: Mark 1:16-20

WATCH: [The musician talks about how God used his love of music.](#)

When Jesus called Matthew, He called him out of a profession. But when Jesus called Peter in Mark 1, He modified Peter's vocation.

God places us in families and cultures. He gives us interests and talents. Sometimes a call to follow the Son of God is a complete change from your current path, but often Jesus uses our existing lives to help us understand the mission God has for us.

Jesus changed Peter's priority so that fishing for a living wasn't what he wanted. But Jesus used fishing multiple times to help Peter understand the Kingdom. He didn't need Peter's fish, but fishing would remain a powerful metaphor for Peter.

When Jesus called Paul, He turned his life upside down and transformed him from an enemy of the early church to a powerful preacher of Christ's forgiveness and redemption. But while Paul changed a lot about his life, Jesus used the leadership He had already developed in Paul to advance His kingdom. After humbling him, God used Paul's training as a scholar, his appreciation of both Jewish and Roman culture, and even his trade of tentmaking for His own purpose.

Let's look at how God uses talents and experiences He's given us for His glory.

DISCUSS:

- In what ways has God shaped your life? Think for a moment about your experiences, culture, training, and interests.
- How do your interests make you more sensitive to both the brokenness of the world and the potential for Jesus' healing?
- How has your training prepared you to address specific issues in the world?
- How have your experiences prepared you to love others as Jesus loves them?

BEAUTIFUL CULTURES



READ: Revelation 5:6-10

WATCH: [Trina talks about the beauty of the Mongolian people.](#)

In Revelation 5, those in heaven proclaim that Jesus is worthy to rule the world. Take special note of the song in verses 9-10. The passage says Jesus has, “by [his] blood you (he) ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” (ESV)

God designed every people group in the history of the world, and He has surrounded Himself with people from all these groups. How does John, the author of Revelation, know that they are from all these tribes, people, and nations, or that they speak different languages?

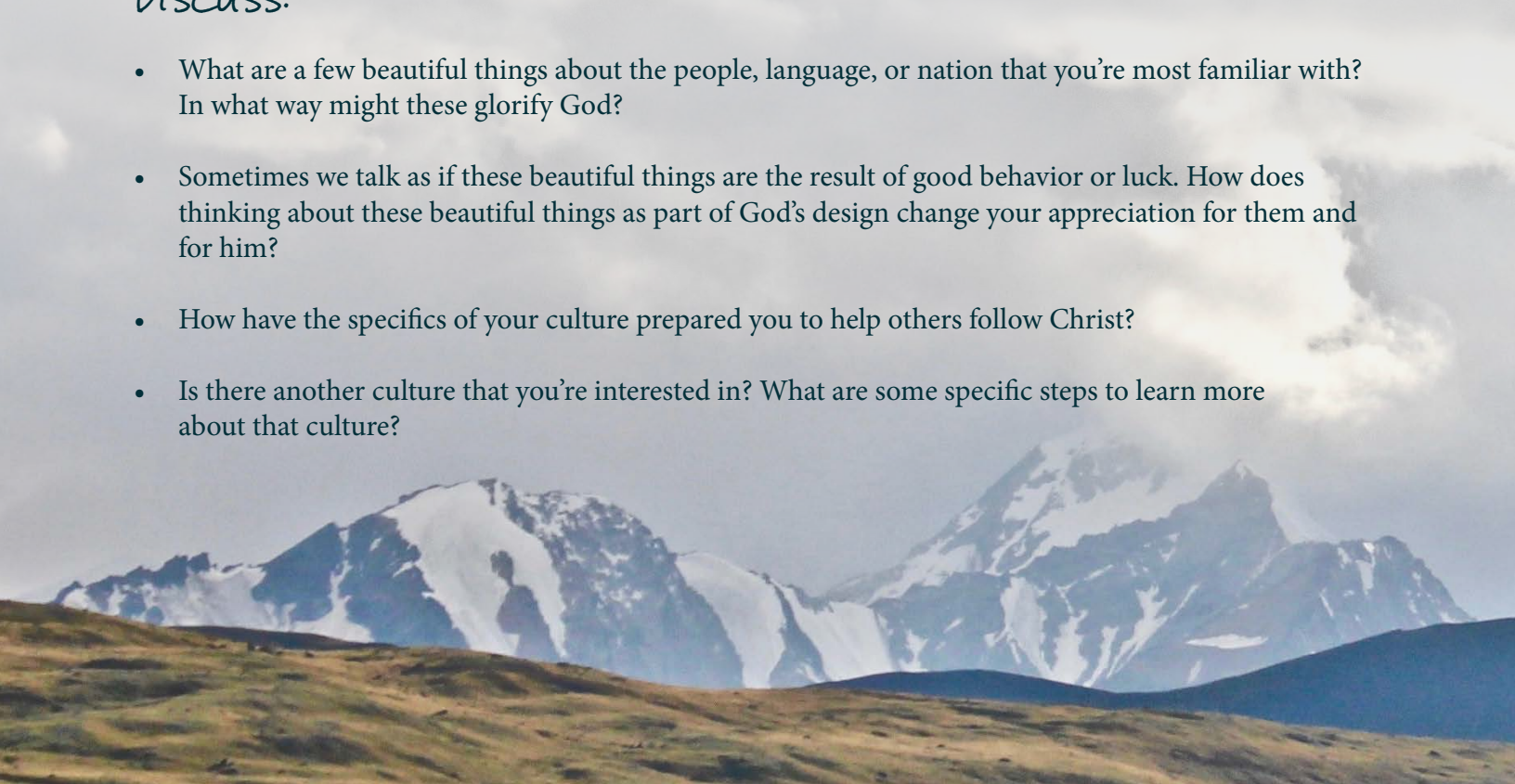
Some ideas about heaven suggest that our cultures and differences will be wiped away, making us sort of neutral worshippers. However, this does not match what the Bible says. Instead, God gives us a picture where our differences will not divide us. Instead, God will redeem our cultures so that we can see in each other the beauty of God’s work in each person.

Like the other parts of the gospel—like sanctification or communion—we don’t have to wait until heaven to start seeing the beauty of God’s creation. Although every culture has flaws, God has also prepared every culture in special ways to reveal His glory to the world.

This beauty, designed by God and displayed through the people of the world, is one of the main reasons we created the GO series, and this cultural beauty is the topic of discussion for this section.

DISCUSS:

- What are a few beautiful things about the people, language, or nation that you’re most familiar with? In what way might these glorify God?
- Sometimes we talk as if these beautiful things are the result of good behavior or luck. How does thinking about these beautiful things as part of God’s design change your appreciation for them and for him?
- How have the specifics of your culture prepared you to help others follow Christ?
- Is there another culture that you’re interested in? What are some specific steps to learn more about that culture?



GET GOING



READ: Mark 16:12-20

WATCH: [Micky "in every culture... read your Bible, and go."](#)

The Kingdom of God, the gospel, the truth about Jesus, isn't a solo sport. Jesus changes individuals, but He wants the love He's poured into us to overflow our lives until it affects others.

This series was made to help people see the need and the beauty of going on Jesus' mission—the beauty of bringing this good news to the world. For you, that might be going to another country, or it might be going to a family member.

The Bible makes a several things clear:

1. All Christians are called to make disciples. That means we're all called to GO.
2. Our goal is to turn people to follow Christ, not ourselves. But we all get sidetracked, so we have to keep preaching the gospel to ourselves as well as others.

As we wrap up, here are some questions that may help you think about these truths.

DISCUSS:

- If someone asked you what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus, what would you tell them?
- Early followers of Jesus were also called followers of "The Way." Jesus used this term for himself making the point that He's the only way to forgiveness and redemption. Are there things in your life or the manner in which you explain the gospel that could be unclear? What can you clarify to affirm the only way to be rescued from sin?
- If you're called to go, is there a specific person, group, or place God has burdened you for?
- If God has burdened you, what is a specific step you might take toward this call to go?

NEXT STEPS:

What should you do if God has given you something?

STEP 1: PRAY

- Thank God for showing you what to do.
- Ask God how to do it.

STEP 2: TELL

- Share what God is doing with wise counselors
- Ask them to help you to continue to move forward

STEP 3: PLAN

- If it is a big task break it into smaller tasks.
- Research how to accomplish what God has for you. An additional step that you may want to consider is fasting.

WHAT IS FASTING*?

- According to the Bible, **FASTING** is the act of voluntarily reducing or eliminating your intake of food for a duration of time for the purpose of seeking Him.
- **IT'S TO SHOW GOD** that you are **serious** in finding an answer to something in your life.
- **START SLOW**, consider dedicating one meal time to prayer.
- **DRINK WATER.**
- ***THIS IS NOT MEDICAL ADVICE.**
Consult your doctor if you have questions.

GO:

EP. 1: THE KINGDOM JOURNEY
MONGOLIA

GOTHE SERIES.COM

