

## QUESTIONS FOR GROUP, CLASS AND FAMILY REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

INSPIRED BY THOSE WHO ARE SENT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

### John Chau

NORTH SENTINEL ISLAND

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The Lord clearly gave John Chau a desire and calling to go to the people of North Sentinel Island when John was a teenager. The North Sentinelese do not have any contact with the outside world. Their language is unknown, and tribesmen have responded violently to past contacts.

Violence nor isolation lessens Jesus' call to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). Neither dampened John's desire to be obedient, either. Every decision John made for the next nine years was to help prepare him to land on the beach, live among the North Sentinelese and share Jesus with them.

John knew he wouldn't have a hot water heater on the island, so he always took cold showers. John knew he would land with zero knowledge of the North Sentinelese language, so he went through linguistics training. John knew one way he could serve the islanders was through health care, so he trained as a wilderness EMT. He knew contact lenses wouldn't work without running water, so he had vision-correction surgery. He was vaccinated against all manner of diseases, knowing islanders' immune systems would be vulnerable to imported Western illnesses.

John made first contact with the islanders on November 15, 2018, approaching in a kayak offering gifts. Later that day, a Sentinelese boy fired an arrow at John, which lodged in the Bible he was holding.

John retreated and prayed for wisdom. Should he keep going? Should he turn back?

"God, I don't want to die," John wrote in his journal that evening. "WHO WILL TAKE MY PLACE IF I DO? ... Forgive [the boy who shot me] and any of the people on this island who try to kill me, and especially forgive them if they succeed."

The next morning, before being dropped off for the final time on North Sentinel Island, John penned a note to his family. "You might think I am crazy in all this," he wrote. "But I think it's worth it to declare Jesus to these people."



On the morning of November 17, the fishermen who'd dropped John off saw tribesmen burying John's body on the beach.

John often ended his letters, even journal entries, with the Latin phrase "soli deo gloria" — "Glory to God alone."

VISIT [VOM.ORG/MARTYR](http://VOM.ORG/MARTYR) TO WATCH THE FREE SHORT VIDEO OF JOHN CHAU'S STORY.

What were your initial thoughts, feelings and questions as you watched the video? What about John Chau's story inspires or challenges you? What drove his obedience to prepare for reaching the people of the North Sentinel island?

READ ROMANS 10:13-15.

Paul, in these verses, uses a logical progression to make a case for gospel proclamation. He bases the progression on one fact, stated succinctly in Romans 10:13 — "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

What does Paul mean by "will be saved"? What other Scripture passages come to mind that support your thinking?

How do people "call on the name of the Lord"? To what kind of action does that refer?

What do you think Paul had in mind when he specifically wrote "everyone"? Who is the "everyone" in your world that needs the gospel? Think of specific answers.

Paul's progression implies the following:

1. In order to call upon the name of the Lord (and be saved),
2. One must *believe*, but before belief comes *hearing*.
3. In order for one to *hear*, there must be one sent to *preach*. The word for "preach" in the Greek language means to proclaim the gospel message, which is the joyful task of every Christian [see Romans 1:6; Matthew 28:19–20].
4. Therefore, the one *preaching* must be sent. God is the One who sends us to bear His message of salvation.

Think through the italicized words above. In your own story of trusting in Christ, can you identify the specifics of the progression Paul writes about? Who was *sent* to you in order that you might *hear*? What was the message that they *proclaimed*, and how did they *preach* it?

Think through this progression in relation to your own obedience in sharing Christ. Who do you know that you are *sent* to? What message are you to *proclaim*? How is the best way for them to *hear* — testimony, scripture, story, act of service?

How does John Chau's story inspire you to obediently proclaim the message of Christ to those you know?

## Prayer Focus

Pray for front-line workers who live on the world's most difficult and dangerous frontier mission fields. Pray that they will continue in obedience to share the message of salvation in the face of opposition.

Pray for your own obedience to bear the message of Christ wherever and to whomever God may send you.

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