

Faith Journey Flick **by Carol Duerksen**

FAITH JOURNEY FLICK:

“God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of Lost Boys of Sudan”

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Make plans to view the movie: “God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of Lost Boys of Sudan.” You should do this with your class in a private home, not a public building, due to license regulations on viewing videos.
- Preview the movie
- Make copies of the Movie Notes for each student

VIEW THE VIDEO:

After viewing the video, hand out the Movie Notes, one for each student. Read the Movie Notes, and then discuss the three paragraphs that talk about faith. (The first paragraph begins with “I am reminded. . .)

Then discuss the last question: “What can your faith survive?”

Session Reproducibles

MOVIE NOTES

By Kyra-lin "Kit" Hom

Through everything, these devout Sudanese Christians have kept their faith alive, even now trusting in God for support, courage, hope, and strength. For the boys, the title, *God Grew Tired of Us*, is painfully reminiscent of their long, circuitous journey from Sudan to Kenya.

It is in an interview with John after the boys arrive in America that God is first mentioned in the context of the lost boys' suffering. He recalls how, at 13, he learned to bury the dead bodies of his friends. "I thought that God felt tired of us and he want [sic] to finish us"; that was his explanation at the time. He had lost faith in God's love and mercy but never in God's existence. That small amount of faith flickering in his heart never died out. Now his faith in God has been unquestionably restored, and he prays for his friends in the refugee camp, his lost and possibly deceased family, and for himself in the strange United States.

I am reminded that faith that quivers during the darkest times is not faith at all but merely something someone has collected when life was comfortable and good. There is no substance or stability in this so-called faith, only shallow words and empty promises to a lord who was only accepted but never believed in.

So many people dump God by the roadside in harsh times, asking such simpleminded questions as, "How can a merciful, loving God make me suffer like this?" Are we arrogant enough to believe that we can understand God? So when we no longer have an explanation for his actions, we automatically assume that Christian faith is illogical and flawed, and therefore God must not exist--or at least is not the God we assumed him to be? That is not faith at all.

Faith is illogical. It is marked by something deeper than thought or philosophy and hence cannot be explained or defined by either. Certainly, there are beliefs and customs to abide by that may shift and change with time and age. But the core faith remains the same. That is what matters.

Panther, John, and Daniel remind us of this in more ways than one. Their faith survived the devastation of their families and villages, the burying of thousands of their friends, their own starvation and pain. They questioned God, but they never stopped believing in him. What can your faith survive?