

NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE

The Love Of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story goes beyond the picture.

This story may be told in one or six sessions. The triangle (►) indicates where to divide the narrative when teaching six sessions.



Show Illustration #1

The early morning sun in Portland, Oregon beat down on the head of the young man who was pedaling as fast as his legs would go. The school bell began to ring, and without a second to lose Jim Elliot rounded the last corner, sliding on the gravel as he made the turn. In a big cloud of dust, he skidded to a stop and hopped off his bike. Offering a brief apology to his classmate, Fred, who was waiting to lock the bikes, he hurried inside the school building.

Jim Elliot wasn't ALWAYS running late. He was just running late MOST of the time. He was well known for his energy and speed, along with usually being a tad bit late. Jim smoothed back his brown, windblown hair as he rushed into his class. He was a good-looking young man with rugged features and a solid build, but this didn't really seem to make much difference to him. He slid into his desk, pulling out his books as he did so.

Normally he enjoyed school but today he had a hard time concentrating as he thought about the conversation he knew was coming with John about the school dance.

The lunch bell rang and Jim, Wayne and Fred settled down with their lunches. Jim bowed his head to thank God for his meal. When he glanced up he saw Wayne and Fred looking at him strangely. He knew they didn't understand why he prayed. They didn't have a relationship with God so they couldn't know.

Jim remembered the night his relationship with God had started. He had been six years old when he realized he was a sinner and that he needed Christ. He realized that day that Christ had died on the cross for his sins, and rose again, making it possible for him to have a relationship with God. Afterward he had declared to his mama that the Lord Jesus could come whenever He wanted because he was ready now.

Jim smiled at the memory and shifted in his seat. He wanted Fred to have a relationship with this Jesus he had come to know. Jesus meant everything to Jim.

Show Illustration #2

"Hey Wayne, you coming to the school dance?" Jim looked up from his sandwich to see John, the president of the student body,

approach their table. "Oh no," he thought and prepared himself for the pressure he knew he also was about to receive from this popular six-foot athlete. Wayne ducked his head and muttered something about having too much going on right now. John sighed. "So Jim, what about you? You're in this student body as much as I am, and ought to support it."

There were some bad things that would be going on at the school dance, like smoking and drinking. Jim knew it was no place for a Christian to be. He knew what he needed to say. "Yes, I'm in the student body but not the way you are. I'm a Christian and the Bible says that I'm in the world but not of it. That's why I'm not going to the dance." Nobody said anything, and for a moment, it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The student body president studied him for a moment then backed off and apologized for mentioning it.

The older Jim got the more he realized how much he needed God. So many of his friends were looking for satisfaction in other things; money, careers, sex, friends, etc. Didn't they know a relationship with God filled you?

When Jim graduated from high school he decided to attend Wheaton College in Illinois' (Show map.) Even though Jim would be at a Christian school, he knew he still needed to make a deeper commitment to the Lord. He didn't want to just know a lot about God or only spend time with Him at church. No, he wanted to be entirely committed to God every day, no matter what the cost. Little did he know how much would be required of him in order to keep that decision.



► Show Illustration #3

It started in little things, like choosing carefully what foods he would eat. He chose fruits and vegetables and less desserts. Then it spread to making time for exercise and setting his alarm each night so that he'd have time to spend with God in the morning. The commitment to God also affected the way he interacted with girls.

"Jim, how come you don't go out with girls on the weekends, like the rest of us?" his friends would ask him.

"This is the time in my life where I can get to know God better" Jim would reply. "And besides I trust God enough to know that if He thinks I need a girlfriend, He will bring one along for me without me having to play the bloodhound."

