Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

- 1. What always intrigued David about the Indians whenever he caught a glimpse of them?
- 2. Why didn't David refer to the Indians as "heathens or savages" as others in New England referred to them?
- 3. Which activity did David consider a great privilege and joy?
- 4. What would the Brainerd family do every morning and evening?
- 5. Back in eighteenth-century New England, what was a normal part of life?
- 6. What hardships did David endure during his childhood by the age of thirteen?

Chapter 2

- 1. Who did David live with at the beginning of this chapter?
- 2. What did David want to become even if he lacked assurance and the belief in his salvation?
- 3. While struggling to pray in the grove one evening, what transformation occurred in David?
- 4. What did David recount while he continued to pray in the grove?
- 5. What did David notice about the students' conduct at Yale?
- 6. How did David spend his evening after realizing his wretchedness and vileness?
- 7. As David excelled academically but not spiritually, how did God, in His infinite wisdom, grab David's attention?

- 1. What were the students behind David doing during the Lord's Supper?
- 2. What was David's reaction? What did he say to the students?
- 3. What other affliction did David experience?
- 4. Whose home did David decide to live in instead of on campus? Why did he decide to do that?
- 5. How did Thomas Clap view the revival that was happening through Whitefield and Tennet?
- 6. Why was David expelled from Yale?



Discussion Questions

Chapter 4

- 1. How did David pray while looking at the deer?
- 2. What was the difference between the "old side" and the "new side?
- 3. Instead of Yale, where did David go to study?
- 4. What did Bible meditation mean for David?
- 5. Did David pass the exam for the license to preach the Gospel?
- 6. What did David preach for his first sermon?

Chapter 5

- 1. Which tribe of Indians did David and Bellamy first preach to?
- 2. How was the message of the Gospel received by the Indians?
- 3. Which verse in the Scriptures did David remind himself about when he felt weak and tired?
- 4. What event crippled the spiritual work of the early missionaries and added a stronger barrier for future evangelism to the Indians in the 1670s?
- 5. Who approved David as a missionary to minister to the Indians?
- 6. What were some dangers of life in the wilderness of the Westward expansion?
- 7. Which Indian tribe was David assigned to minister?

- 1. How did David refer to the Kaunameek Indians?
- 2. Did David receive the degree from Yale after he sent a letter of apology to the college?
- 3. How did David teach the Indians the Gospel?
- 4. Which book of the Bible did David start to translate so they could use it in singing in Sunday worship?
- 5. What news came in during the Sunday worship?



Discussion Questions

6. Why was David able to have peace that surpassed all human understanding, especially in hardships?

Chapter 7

- 1. How did David exhort his younger brother, Israel, in the Christian faith?
- 2. What invitation was offered David as soon as he left his work with the Kaunaumeek Indians?
- 3. What were the three options of ministry for David? Which option did David choose?
- 4. Where did the Kaunaumeek Indians relocate after David's departure?
- 5. Which Indian tribe did David reach out to with the Gospel after the Kaunaumeek Indians?
- 6. Why didn't the Munsee chief want anything to do with the Christians?
- 7. How did David explain Christianity to the chief and what was his response?
- 8. What did the New York Presbytery decide to examine David for?

Chapter 8

- 1. What was the problem with working with Moses Tattamy?
- 2. After David's plea with the natives to turn from all vanities and the idols of this world, what were their responses?
- 3. What were some of the Indians' reasons for opposition toward Christianity?
- 4. Who was changed into a new man in Christ through David's preaching? How was he changed?
- 5. How did the people at Greenwich receive the preaching of the Gospel?

- 1. Why did David set out on a five-week journey?
- 2. Who were David's first true converts?
- 3. What great event occurred while David preached to the people in Crossweeksung?
- 4. How many Indian converts did David Baptize at Crossweeksung?



Discussion Questions

Chapter 10

- 1. What surprise did the Indians provide for David?
- 2. What does the Westminster Shorter Catechism say?
- 3. What was established in the Crossweeksung Indians' community on January 31st?
- 4. What transformations impacted the lives of the Indians through David's ministry of teaching with the Catechism?
- 5. What were some challenges that kept some Indians from receiving the Gospel? (list 4 challenges)

- 1. Who took David's place in ministering to the Indians as well as serving David's congregation while David was absent with a severe illness?
- 2. Which college did Dickerson establish with David?
- 3. After Jonathan Edwards informed David about his health condition, how did David respond?
- 4. Who was asked to accompany David and take care of him during his journey to heaven?
- 5. What wonderful news did John Brainerd bring with him on the visit to David?
- 6. How old was David when he passed away?
- 7. What inspiring lesson have you learned through his life and testimony in his ministry?



Answer Key

Chapter 1

- 1. David was always intrigued by their simplicity, "otherness", and 2. their mysterious life. These things made David curious about
- 2. David did not refer to the Indians as others did because he had compassion for them. They were fellow human beings who needed the gospel of Jesus Christ, just as much as any man or woman, boy or girl.
- 3. Reading. He also enjoyed learning about the English Puritans and the Great Reformers of Europe. He also took an interest in Theology and Church History.
- 4. The Brainerd family would spend time in family worship. David's father led in family devotions. They sang hymns together.
- 5. Attending Church, worshiping the Lord, and listening to sermons.
- 6. He lost both his parents and had to live with different family members. David felt that he did not have a true home.

Chapter 2

- 1. Pastor Fiske
- 2. A minister of the Gospel, and perhaps even a missionary to the **Chapter 5** Indians.
- 3. As he struggled in prayer, the Lord shattered his heart of stone and gave him a new heart; a heart that loved Jesus Christ.
- 4. He recounted the wonder of God's creation and how He is in complete control of everything that happens.
- 5. As those preparing for ministry, David noticed the students' conduct as quite out of step with the Christian life.
- 6. He spent the rest of the evening in anguish and felt little hope or delight in his thoughts on God. This would be a burden he will continue to carry throughout his life.
- 7. Through affliction. David caught measles and was taken back home so that he would slow down with his studies and enjoy sweeter communion with his Savior through prayer and meditation.

Chapter 3

- 1. They were disrespecting, dishonoring, and defiling the Lord's
- 2. He severely reproached and rebuked them.
- 3. He contracted tuberculosis, a disease that would accompany him for the rest of his life.
- 4. The home of Isacc Dickerman. He came to that decision because the lack of spiritual interest among his fellow classmates annoyed David.
- 5. Clap believed that the so-called "revival" was nothing more than a stirring of emotions, with no real and lasting change in the students.
- 6. He was expelled because of a remark he made about his tutor.

Chapter 4

1. He prayed for his love toward this world to be less and less and his longing for the world to come to become stronger, since he was a pilgrim, passing through toward his true home in heaven

- with the Lord.
- The "old side" held to orthodox teaching and strong education and were generally against the Christian revivals that were sweeping through the land. The "new side" embraced the new excitement over God and His Word. They supported preachers who may not have had formal religious education and training.
- 3. Pastor Mills at Ripton readily accepted David into his home and taught him theology and the practice of pastoral ministry.
- 4. Bible Meditation for Brainerd meant taking a small portion of Scripture and reading it over and over again and praying frequently over its content that God would apply the truths found therein to his own mind, heart,
- 5. Yes. He passed and was ready to step into the pulpit to deliver a sermon.
- 6. He emphasized the importance of fervent charity in his first sermon.

- 1. They preached first to the Scaticock Indians.
- The Holy Spirit empowered David to preach and attended his preaching so that the Indians even cried out for mercy and were greatly distressed over their spiritual condition apart from a relationship with Jesus.
- 3. 1 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- 4. King Philip, or Metacomet, led a series of attacks on the Elisabeth settlers, resulting in an all-out war between the colonials and the natives.
- 5. The Board of Commissioners of the Scottish Society.
- 6. There was constant danger of Indian attack, freezing to death, and a lack of food.
- 7. The Kaunaumeek Indians

- 1. He referred to them as "my people."
- 2. No. They required him to finish another year of study which would hinder his ongoing ministry to the Indians.
- 3. First, he taught them about their sinful hearts and minds and how they were in bondage to their sin. Their sin was to be judged by God Almighty because it was ultimately rebellion against Him. In the second theme, he taught them that Jesus, the Son of God, came and paid the punishment of sin by dying in our place.
- 4. The Psalms
- 5. France and Britain were at war against each other for the rightful claim of the territory where the Kaunaumeek Indians were.
- Because he was loved by God and he had a heavenly home, ready to welcome him on the other side of death.



Answer Key

Chapter 7

- David exhorted him to make a good improvement of precious time, to fill up his time in reading, meditation, and prayer, and let his heart be employed as much as possible in divine thoughts.
- 2. The East Hampton congregation had voted unanimously to invite and accept David as their permanent pastor.
- The three options were: ministering in the church in East
 Hampton, ministering in the church in Millington, or taking on
 a new mission among the Indians in Pennsylvania. Ministering
 among the Indians in Pennsylvania.
- 4. They relocated to Stockbridge, just as David advised them to do.
- 5. The Munsees
- 6. He did not want to do anything with the Christians after seeing these so-called Christians acting much worse than Indians naturally do.
- 7. David felt ashamed for what people had done in the name of Jesus Christ, condemned all conduct of these people, and explained that their way is not the way of Christ.
- 8. Ordination

Chapter 8

- 1. Although Tattamy was somewhat acquainted with Christianity, he was not a Christian.
- 2. All of the sudden, Indians began to cry out with tears of conviction and were more attentive to what David was saying. The Indians began to embrace Christianity.
- Some of the opposition came because they witnessed the vicious behaviors of certain so-called "Christians," wanting to preserve their customs and traditions, and the fear of the witch doctors.
- Moses Tattamy. He realized that his good works did not come from a heart of faith or a love for God even if others call it good.
- 5. Most people in the crowd began weeping over their lost condition and cried out for salvation.

Chapter 9

- 1. He went out to recruit a missionary companion.
- 2. Moses Tattamy and his family.
- The Indians were convicted and were concerned over their eternal destiny. It was the beginning of a spiritual awakening,
- 4. 25

Chapter 10

- 1. The Indians built him a cottage to stay in and minister to them.
- 2. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.
- 3. An English school for the Indians.
- 4. The drunkards and murderers treated others with love and kindness. Those who practiced witchcraft and idolatry now praised Jesus as their Savior. Separated couples confessed their sins and were reunited. Family prayers became a regular feature. The Indians also honored the Lord's Day.

5. 1) Many Indians witnessed ungodly and immoral behavior among white settlers and therefore didn't trust David's Gospel message. 2) They suspected David of tricking them into a trap to serve the white settlers as slaves. 3) Their polytheistic views hindered their belief in a monotheistic view of God, and the witch doctors, or powwows, planted the seed of fear within those who were interested. 4) David's challenge was the difficulty of translating various English words into the native language. Terms like Savior, sinner, justice, faith, repentance, etc. didn't exist in the natives' language.

- 1. His brother, John Brainerd.
- 2. Princeton University
- He responded that he was willing and ready to be in heaven with the Lord. God had kept David on this earth through various illnesses for one purpose: to make the wonderful gospel known to the world.
- 4. Jonathan Edward's daughter, Jerusha
- 5. Thirty new Indians had been convinced of the truth of the Gospel and came for further study in the settlement since David's departure.
- 6. 29.
- 7. Answers will vary.

