

### I. How it all Began

1. Where did Robert Moffat's family live when he was a boy, and what did his father do?
2. Why was Portsoy the perfect place to be a child, and what years did Robert live there?
3. Why could the children not play outside at night and what did they do inside instead?
4. When Robert was 11, to where did they move, why, and what blessed Robert there?
5. What does our family do in the evening, and how can we make the most of our time together?

### II. A Very Early Start

1. How old was Robert when he joined the workforce at Parkhill at Polmont and what was getting up like for him, and what did a winter work day include for Robert?
2. After his apprenticeship, for whom did he go to work and where, and what did he play for entertainment?
3. Robert didn't see his family often because of travel distance; what favor did his mother ask of him before he went even further away to Cheshire?
4. Where on a long walk did Robert see a poster, what was it about, and which word struck him?
5. Though some disapproved of his choice, when Robert changed churches he became born again in Christ Jesus; does our family attend a church where we can hear and come to trust in the Good News of the Gospel of Christ; why or why not?

### III. All Change!

1. What things did Robert think would prevent him from becoming a missionary?
2. Who did Robert go to see and what did the man do for Robert when they met, and after?

3. What did Mrs. Leigh have to say to Robert about his decision to become a missionary?
4. When and where did Robert first stand on African soil and what did a man tell him?
5. What would our family think, say, and do if one of our members wanted to travel to a dangerous, faraway place to work as a missionary?

### IV. On the Move

1. Where was the missionary society sending Robert, with who, and how did he prepare?
2. As they traveled, how did the land change, and what did they see along the way?
3. Who did they meet after their wheel was fixed, what were they like, and what did they say?
4. How did Robert redirect the evening Bible study to include the Hottentots?
5. When we hear someone insulting another person or people group, how should we respond as Christians?

### V. Burning Hooves

1. What happened once the wagon train reached Bysondermeid?
2. When Robert and the porters continued, who warned them of what?
3. Facing starvation, who did God send just in time, what was provided, and said?
4. What did Robert get to enjoy at the house in Pella?
5. Do you think Mary could have survived the journey so far with Robert, why or why not?

### VI. Namaqualand at Last!

1. How did the wagon train cross the Orange River and what was precious to Robert?
2. When Robert arrived in Namaqualand, how long had he been gone from Cape Town and Mary?
3. When Robert met Africaner, what did the chief ask him, what was provided for him, and what was one problem with it?
4. Did Africaner attend Robert's services and what did the chief do after Robert's fever?
5. Sometimes when we hear about someone from others, we prejudge them; as Christians, what should we do instead?

### VII. On the Trail

1. How long after planting was Robert able to harvest crops and what were they?
2. Besides growing his food, what else did the young missionary have to do for himself?
3. What two things made the area hard to live for everyone, including the chief?
4. Why did Robert want Africaner to go to Cape Town with him and why was the chief stunned about the idea?
5. Lord Charles Somerset took pleasure in the great change he saw in Chief Africaner and even gave him a gift of a wagon to become a free man at peace; how do we feel when we see sinners living differently because of Christ and how can we show them love?

### VIII. Good News!

1. How had Robert and Mary communicated all this time, and when he arrived in Cape Town what was the good news for him about her?
2. The London Missionary Society planned to have Robert travel for a year on a fact-finding trip to many mission stations, but what was God's plan?

3. After they married, Robert and Mary went on a long trek to their new mission station; what did Robert think about Mary after the wagon train made it up one steep climb and an ox snorted beside her?
4. When they arrived in Lattakoo, Robert asked Mary if they should start a girls school; what was her reply?
5. Why is it important for sinners who are saved — such as Chief Africaner — to share their testimony and encourage others before they die?

### IX. The Eight-day Loaf

1. What made the young missionary so upset about his one loaf of bread being stolen?
2. What ingenious thing did Robert build to water his garden, and what happened with it?
3. What did Robert do one day when he saw men digging a grave as children sat nearby?
4. In order to bring rain, the natives had a rainmaker come; was he trustworthy and helpful?
5. Robert was very courageous when he stood up to the chief regarding the rain coming only from God. Even today being a missionary is very arduous, so why do people choose to serve God with their lives on the mission field?

### X. Wars and More Wars

1. When the chief told Robert he would forbid his men from going with him to the Mfengu, what did Robert do?
2. When Robert and his men came across a young woman who was wretched and starving, then an old man and a boy, what did they do?
3. When war broke out, what happened and what did the missionaries do with the injured women and children?
4. How did Robert finally master the Tswana language?
5. Mary was very patient with Robert's work, including when he left for 3 months at a time with no communication, knowing he was always in danger. This could still happen to a couple today with a spouse serving on a remote

mission field or deployed in the military. How can a spouse be patient and supportive during such hardship?

### XI. Tswana in Print

1. Why did learning the Tswana language well help Robert prevent “sacks in sermons”?
2. When the spelling books finally arrived, what could the Moffats do with them?
3. Why was it important to the chief and elders that their children should learn in Tswana?
4. What special gift came just in time for the new church dedication and who came to it?
5. After years of steadfast service, the Moffat’s were finally seeing the fruit of their work, including with the excited natives wanting sewing classes. Why is it important to never give up when doing God’s work?

### XII. Chief Moselekatse

1. When two Ndebele men came to Kuruman, what was their purpose and how did the chief respond?
2. What did the men see the people doing there and what interested them the most?
3. On the road to the Ndebele village, what did Robert see?
4. Why did the 800 warriors stand and shout at Robert and what interested the Chief?
5. Why was it important that Robert spent time with the dangerous Ndebele and what can we learn from his example?

### XIII. Singing ABC

1. Why was it important to his mission work that Robert learned gardening as a youth?
2. What was Robert translating into Tswana and how long did it take him to finish?

3. Why did the family have to travel to Cape Town?
4. While in Cape Town, what did Robert learn, and later purchase to help the mission?
5. Robert and Mary were both hard-working, talented people that God could fully use on the mission field. How can our family members be further equipped for God's service?

### XIV. Home from Home

1. How long had it been since Robert had been in Great Britain and how much of his life had he spent in Africa?
2. What had Robert finally accomplished and what could be done with it in Great Britain?
3. What other things could they do in Great Britain to advance their African mission work?
4. While on the ship to Great Britain, what blessing then tragedy happened to the Moffats?
5. When they arrived in port, a minister came to welcome Mr. Moffat back to Great Britain. What can our family do to encourage missionaries who return to their homeland?

### XV. 'My Name is David Livingstone'

1. Why do missionaries not often get to rest when they return to their homeland?
2. When Robert told the story of the weeping mother, with what did he end and how did people respond?
3. How did Robert usually travel to speak, why did he become ill, and how did he continue to serve God while recovering?
4. Who was the young man that came to nearly every meeting in London where Robert spoke, what did he want to do with his life, and what did Robert encourage him to do?
5. What life skills — such as sewing, gardening, and medicine — are our family members learning now that might benefit people in the mission field if one of us should go there?

### XVI. Old Friends

1. Later, what did Robert work on that took him sometimes a whole day for one verse?
2. Instead of going to Britain again, where did Robert decide to travel to?
3. When Robert arrived at the kraal, how did he find the Chief and what did they do?
4. How old was Robert and why did the missionary society ask him to go to Chief Moffat?
5. Why did the Moffat's return to Britain even though they felt like Africa was their home?

### XVII. About the Author

1. Who wrote, *Robert Moffat, Africa's Brave Heart* and what nation is she from?
2. Why did she write it and how many books has she written?
3. What else has Irene done in her life, and what does she enjoy doing now?
4. What position does she hold and for what organization?
5. Why and how do you think Irene was able to write such a great missionary biography?

### XVIII. Robert Moffat Timeline

1. When and where was Robert Moffat born, and when did he die?
2. What and when were some of the things Robert did before he arrived in Africa?
3. What and when were some inventions during Robert's lifetime?
4. What and when were some things about food which happened in his lifetime?

5. What are some things you think Robert really appreciated about his life serving God in Africa?

### **XIX. Thinking Further Topics**

(These are optional to read as they are similar to the family discussion question answers above.)



### I. How it all Began

1. Robert Moffat's family lived in Portsoy, Scotland; his father was a seaport Customs Officer, who made sure trading was legal, nothing illegal was landed or shipped, and all taxes were paid in full.
2. The children could have adventures and go exploring; there was a cliff-top path high above the small bay; there was the shore, safe and dry at high tide and low tide; there was the harbour to explore; there were sounds Robert would remember years later like the gulls screeching, the chains rattling, the slapping of sails in the wind; he lived there from 1797-1806.
3. There were no street lights, so they gathered in their home around the open fire; their mother taught them to knit, sew, and darn their clothes which they recycled; they played a game on the rag rug to remember where the rags came from, and they learned to read the Bible and the Shorter Catechism.
4. Mr Moffat changed jobs, he was appointed at Carronshore, a river port a long way from the open sea. Robert was blessed by the new exploring to do, new boat technology, an experience of education at Mr. Paton's school on practical subjects like book-keeping and math, also learning astronomy and geography by listening in on the older boys' class.
5. Answers may vary.

### II. A Very Early Start

1. Robert was 14; he got up in the dark at four o'clock on a winter's morning, washed his face after breaking ice in the bowl of water; with cold hands he dug along a line with a spade for two hours, then had hot porridge and creamy milk; going back to work before sunrise.
2. He went to work for the Earl of Moray at Donibristle near the sea on the east coast of Scotland; he played his fiddle at night and in the summer ran races to swim in the sea.
3. She asked him to read a chapter of the Bible every morning and every evening, not to please her but rather to please God; to read the Gospel and pray, so God would teach him.
4. In Warrington he saw the poster; it advertised a meeting by the London Missionary Society, with Reverend William Roby of Manchester; the word "missionary" struck him.
5. Answers may vary.

### III. All Change!

1. Robert had only been to school for a few months in his life, he couldn't go to college or university, the missionary society would want clever people who had done a lot of studying, and as a young boy he first wanted to be a sailor, but now he just wanted to be a really good gardener.
2. Robert went to see Mr. Roby, who was very kind to Robert, talked to him for a long time, and offered to write to the mission society on his behalf; Mr. Roby wrote them several times until they agreed to accept him, then suggested to Robert he should get a job near Manchester so Mr. Roby could spend time with him

studying.

3. Mrs. Leigh told Robert she thought he was making a very big mistake; that he had become far too keen about Christianity and should settle down and be a good gardener.
4. On January 13, 1817 Robert Moffat disembarked from the Alacrity at the port of Cape Town, South Africa; a man pointed out the fort built by the East India Company and said they ran everything, including himself and Robert.
5. Answers may vary.

### IV. On the Move

1. They were headed beyond the Orange River to the kraal of the infamous Chief Africaner; Mr. and Mrs. Kitchingman, the wagon driver, and a large group of porters traveled with Robert; he had to learn to pack a covered wagon with sixteen or eighteen oxen with all his worldly possessions as a home for several months.
2. The land became poorer with homesteads further apart; they saw grazing sheep and oxen, and wild animals like springboks.
3. They came to a homestead of a Boer family who treated them as special guests; they were friendly and grew all their own food; they said they wanted to have a proper service not just reading the Bible, and the man compared his servants to worse than dogs or baboons.
4. Robert carefully selected Matthew 15:21-28 to read; this convicted the Dutch farmer, so he sent his sons to call the Hottentots to come and worship God with them all together.
5. Answers may vary.

### V. Burning Hooves

1. Robert, his friends, the porters, and oxen were all utterly exhausted so they stayed a month recovering from the trek.
2. They came to homesteads where the farmers warned them of the violence of Africaner, telling Robert that the chief would kill him, even use his skull for a cup!
3. Some men arrived on horseback with mutton they could eat; one man was a missionary who told Robert they passed his porters catching the runaway oxen, and they were getting close to Pella and the Orange River.
4. Robert got a break from living in the wagon, could eat at a table, and lay in a bed for the first time in months.
5. Answers may vary.

### VI. Namaqualand at Last!

1. The porters took everything apart and made rafts to carry it all across while Robert swam across the river; Robert's seeds were the most precious to him.
2. He had been gone from Cape Town 4 months, and from Mary a year and 4 months.

3. Chief Africaner asked Robert if he had been appointed by the Directors in London; the Chief then had women quickly build Robert his own hut; it was built of willows in the shape of a beehive and leaked every time it rained.
4. The Chief attended nearly all of Robert's services and listened very carefully; after Robert recovered from his fever, the Chief carried his New Testament everywhere and often read it.
5. Answers may vary.

### VII. On the Trail

1. After three months, Robert harvested his first wheat; he also grew Indian corn, cabbages, melons, and potatoes.
2. He fixed broken guns, was a carpenter, blacksmith, cooper, tailor, shoemaker, miller, baker, and housekeeper.
3. Water was scarce and it was difficult to grow food.
4. Robert wanted the chief to go to Cape Town with him so the Governor could see he was a different man since he became a Christian; Africaner was an outlaw with a large reward on his head.
5. Answers may vary.

### VIII. Good News!

1. Mary and Robert had written letters to each other that took a whole year to arrive; Mary shared the good news that her parents finally agreed to their marriage and she would arrive in Cape Town before the end of the year.
2. When Robert and the other missionaries headed out to visit the different stations, they could go no further than Bethelsdorp because of a war, so they had to return back to Cape Town early, which meant Robert could meet Mary when she arrived.
3. Without saying a word aloud, Robert thanked God that his wife was the kind of woman who could laugh despite all the difficulties she was meeting day by day.
4. She wasn't sure if it was worth it since the women seemed to do all the work and the girls started working when they were very young, so they wouldn't have time for reading and writing.
5. Answers may vary.

### IX. The Eight-day Loaf

1. The young missionary had not only baked the bread, but he grew the wheat for it, ground the flour, smelled it while baking, and ate only one slice a day, so it would last 8 days.
2. He dug an irrigation ditch from the river to his garden; the natives diverted the water to their gardens; he came up with a plan to share the ditch water so everyone could share.
3. Robert realized the men would bury the children alive with their dead mother; he got the men to allow him to take the children to his home so he and his wife could raise them as their own.
4. The rainmaker was a fraud; he kept tricking the natives into giving him more and more things but rain never came.
5. Answers may vary.

### X. Wars and More Wars

1. Robert went anyway, taking just a few men who already worked for the missionaries.
2. The missionary group helped the woman, old man, and boy despite the fact they were from enemy tribes; they sent the woman back with a message to the Mfengu to talk instead of fight; they helped the old man and boy in clear view of the Mfengu trying to show they meant peace.
3. Both sides fought bravely but the tribes defending the missionaries won; Robert and his men took the injured women and children back to their mission to help them recover, then sent them back to their own tribes.
4. He trekked 6 days away to live with a young chief's family for 10 weeks; not hearing either English or Dutch helped him speak and understand Tswana like a villager.
5. Answers may vary.

### XI. Tswana in Print

1. When interpreters translated Robert's sermons, they often didn't use the correct words; now Robert could preach in the Tswana language, so the people could hear the correct message of salvation instead of "sacks".
2. With the spelling book in the Tswana language, the Moffats could finally start a school for the children to learn to read and write in their native language instead of Dutch.
3. They felt that when the children learned in Dutch, their minds were being stolen; if they learned to think in Dutch instead of Tswana, the children would be lost to their people.
4. The gift of communion dishes from Mary's good friend helped celebrate the new church building which was full of natives who came to watch the baptism of 6 new believers.
5. Answers may vary.

### XII. Chief Moselekatse

1. They came in peace to learn about the white men, but the chief was concerned they were declaring war; the chief provided a great feast, inviting them to stay to watch the white men living there.
2. The messengers saw the people sewing, sitting on chairs at tables, and eating with utensils; they were most interested in the church service and amazing, kind singing.
3. He saw the destruction caused by the Ndebele: houses knocked down and human bones everywhere.
4. The warriors were part of a welcome ceremony; the Chief was interested in the missionaries' wagon wheels made of wood with metal encircling them.
5. Answers may vary.

### XIII. Singing ABC

1. He was able to teach the natives how to raise a diversity

of crops to feed themselves.

2. Robert was translating the book of Luke into Tswana and it took him years.
3. The Moffats had to take their older daughters to boarding school for furthering their education.
4. Robert learned to use a printing press; he purchased a small one for the mission to use.
5. Answers may vary.

### XIV. Home from Home

1. It had been over 20 years since Robert left Great Britain, and he had spent half his life in Africa.
2. Robert translated the whole New Testament into Tswana; he could get it printed there.
3. They could tell people in England and Scotland about their work, fundraise, buy more seedlings to plant orchards, buy lots of material and notions to take back for the sewing class.
4. Mrs. Moffat had another baby, but their 6-year-old son died just 3 days later.
5. Answers may vary.

### XV. 'My Name is David Livingstone'

1. Missionaries are invited to travel from one place to another to speak at meetings.
2. Robert explained how important it was to have the Bible translated into all the African languages, and for people to learn to read, so they could read it for themselves; people were very generous at the end of meetings, giving money for missionary work.
3. The railroads didn't reach most of the towns Robert spoke at, so he took stagecoaches; the weather was cold and damp so he got sick; a doctor told him he had to rest so he used that time to finish translating the Psalms into Tswana.
4. Dr. David Livingstone came; he wanted to be a missionary in China but the Opium wars prevented him from going there; Robert told him he would be suitable for Africa.
5. Answers may vary.

### XVI. Old Friends

1. Robert translated the Old Testament into Tswana.
2. He decided to take a three week journey to visit Chief Moselekats'e's kraal.
3. Robert found his old friend very frail, so treated him, stayed three months, then they walked together back toward Robert's mission, thanking each other for their kindnesses.
4. The London Missionary Society wanted Robert, who was 62, to move to the Ndebele people, taking two other missionaries to continue the work there. Robert got King Moffat's permission first but he wanted Robert to also stay.
5. Answers may vary.

### XVII. About the Author

1. Irene Howat wrote the book and is from Scotland.
2. Irene Howat has a passion to share her Christian faith through writing, especially with children, and she has written over 30 books.
3. She supported her husband in his ministry and raised three daughters; she draws, paints, spends time with friends, and watches detective films.
4. For nearly ten years she has been the Chairman of the Scottish Fellowship of Christian Writers.
5. Answers may vary.

### XVIII. Robert Moffat Timeline

1. Robert Moffat was born at Ormiston, East Lothian, Scotland in 1795; he died in 1883.
2. In 1809 Robert started work as a gardener; in 1813, he moved to Cheshire, England to work as a gardener; in 1816 he sailed to South Africa.
3. In 1814, part of London was the first place to be lit by gas; in 1815, Humphrey Davy invented a miner's lamp; in 1816, David Brewster invented the kaleidoscope....
4. Food was canned for the first time in 1810; Australian frozen meat first sold in London in 1879.
5. Answers may vary.

### XIX. Thinking Further Topics

(These are optional to read as they are similar to the family discussion question answers above.)