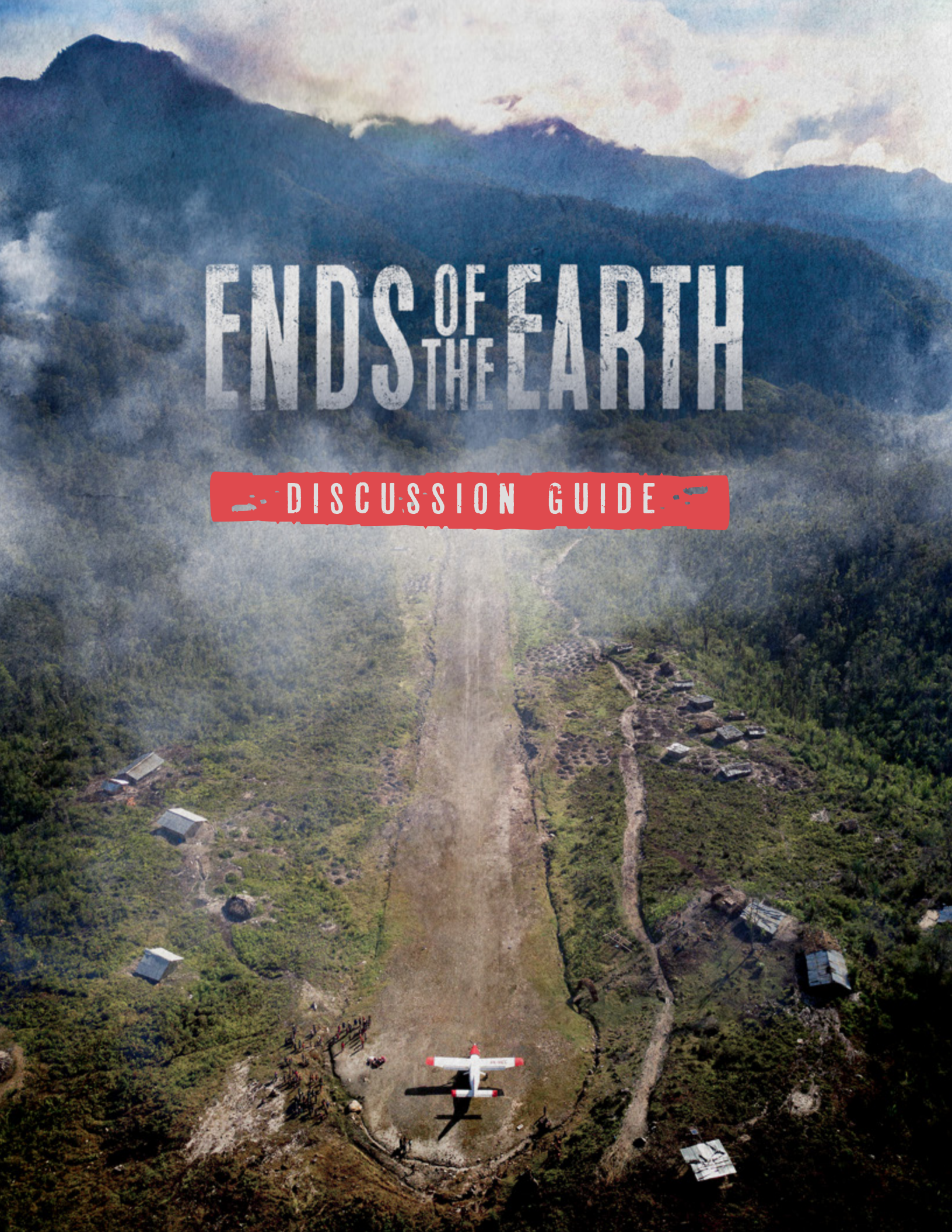


# ENDS OF THE EARTH

DISCUSSION GUIDE





## INTRODUCTION

Meant to challenge and inspire, ENDS OF THE EARTH will show audiences the unexpected ways God can use people's passions to transform lives. The documentary explores stories of faith, calling, and adventure by weaving together the true stories of MAF pilots — past and present — who strive with other missionaries, churches and organizations to take the gospel to the most isolated and inaccessible places on earth.

This Discussion Guide is intended to lead you and your group through the themes found in ENDS OF THE EARTH. Think of this as a starting point for broader discussions as you wrestle with what and how God is calling you to further engage with His work. Each day features a clip from the film, a Scripture passage further highlighting this theme, as well as a few questions for your group to wrestle with.

ENDS OF THE EARTH is available to watch in a number of ways and will inspire and challenge you to live out the calling God has placed in your heart. For more information on how to view this film, visit [EndsOfTheEarthMovie.com](http://EndsOfTheEarthMovie.com).







DAY ONE:

## ARE YOUR FEET BEAUTIFUL?

*“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” - Romans 10:14-15*

The last earthly words Jesus left His followers with were a command to take this message of the gospel to people living in their city, the surrounding area, their neighboring countries, and the ends of the earth.

In the centuries and millennia that followed, His followers were largely effective. They walked, rode, sailed, and in recent years, flew to places to share with others the radically beautiful message of the gospel. A movement that began as a handful of Jesus' followers, today is a global Body of believers. But there is still work to be done! There are still people who haven't heard the name of Jesus or experienced the life-altering power of the gospel. Some of those people live in places like Puluk. Some of them live right down the street from you.



Yet, a recent study by Barna shows that nearly half of young Christians in America “agree at least somewhat that it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone.” Many of us are shrinking away from the Great Commission. We must ask ourselves, do we have a hope worth sharing? Do we believe the world and people around us need a Savior?

The late pastor and theologian John Stott, said: “The Church, in other words, is fundamentally a missionary society, commissioned and committed to proclaim the Gospel of salvation to the whole world. As long as any inhabitants of the globe have not heard the Gospel, the Church should have a heavy conscience.”

In his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul asks how people can hear and respond to Jesus if they have never been told? What are we waiting for? Take a look at your feet. Are they beautiful?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think the Great Commission applies to all Christians? Why or why not?
2. Is it offensive to share your faith with someone? If so, why?
3. How would you explain the gospel to someone?
4. Think about the people in your life. Who do you know that needs the hope of the gospel?
5. The missionaries in Mokndoma spent years learning the Wano language and culture, building relationships, and sharing the story of the Scripture before sharing the gospel. What steps do you think are important to take in sharing the gospel with the people around you? Is it ever okay to simply proclaim the gospel before you have established close relationships?





## DAY TWO: MANY GIFTS, ONE CALLING

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.” - 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 (ESV)*

A lot of people come to MAF with a similar story: “I felt called to missions, but didn’t know where I could get plugged in.” Many of them express they don’t feel like they have what it takes to be a “missionary.” They aren’t pastors, Bible translators, or evangelists. Some are introverts and believed they didn’t have the personal skills needed to do ministry well.

But they knew how to fly an airplane and turn a wrench—and they wanted to be part of God’s global mission.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul compares the Church to a body. Each body has many parts—hands, eyes, feet—and just as these all work together for a common purpose, the Church, Christ’s Body, needs many people working together in many different roles to see His purposes fulfilled in the world.

Jesus’ Great Commission doesn’t have caveats. It doesn’t come with a list of necessary skills or giftings. It’s a calling for all. Wherever you are, whatever your skills, you are called to be part of this work.





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What gifts or skills do you have?
2. How could you use those skills to be involved in the work God is doing around the world?
3. What would it look like for you to get involved in this work? Are there any opportunities in front of you?
4. What do you feel like God is calling you to do with the gifts He has given you? Who is God calling you to that needs to experience the love and hope of Jesus?





## DAY THREE: LOSING YOUR LIFE TO FIND IT

*“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” - Matthew 16:25-26*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was killed by the Nazis during WWII, said: “When God calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Jim Elliott, a missionary killed in an effort to reach the Waorani tribe in Ecuador said, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

These quotes and Jesus’ words to His disciples in Matthew 16 force us to reevaluate our priorities. Where are we putting our hope? What are we hanging onto? All three of these men, Jesus, Bonhoeffer, and Elliott, were killed. Does God really want us to die for Him?

When we think about sacrifice, what often comes to mind are heroes of the faith like Elliott, Bonhoeffer, and many more who gave their lives for their faith. God might well be asking us to be willing to sacrifice it all, but often what God is asking is much more mundane—and much more daily.





“Saving your life” is not so much about running away from persecution as it is about a daily posture in which we put ourselves and our wants in front of others. Giving these things up, putting others first, and seeking God with our heart, soul, and mind is a daily discipline that shapes us to become more and more like Christ.

Jesus tells us that when this is our posture—when we daily take up our cross and “lose our life” we can expect so much more than we could ever imagine. A book might never be written about someone whose daily walk with God led them to quietly and humbly love and care for others by dying to their own needs, but this is exactly what Jesus calls each of us to.

Our daily posture of taking up our cross, might lead us across the world—or it might lead us across the street.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to “daily take up our cross”?
2. What might God be calling you to give up as you follow Him?
3. Who are some of the heroes of the faith who have sacrificed everything? Who are people you might know who are also sacrificing it all, but might never be noticed?







## DAY FOUR: A HOPE WORTH SHARING

*“... for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” - Acts 4:20 (ESV)*

Throughout Acts, we see followers of Christ going throughout the known world to share the message of the gospel. The Church exploded in numbers—often in the face of intense persecution. Over the years that followed as more and more people accepted this good news, it reshaped the entire Roman empire.

Historian Will Durant describes the early church in the Roman empire as history's greatest drama, in which Christians bore trials, built order among chaos, and fought brutality with hope. Durant says they “at last defeated the strongest state that history has known. Caesar and Christ had met in the arena, and Christ had won.”

Centuries later, in places like Mokndoma and Puluk, this transformation is still taking place—albeit on a much smaller scale. Real transformation happens as the gospel is shared and people follow Christ. But again, as Paul writes in Romans 10, this doesn't happen unless people go to the places and share. How can your neighbors, your community believe in whom they have not heard?



The gospel still has that power today. The message of Jesus still has the power to transform hearts and minds, families, communities, and even the entire world. But the Great Commission makes it clear that God wants to work with and through us to bring about this transformation. This change doesn't come through political might, it doesn't come through force, it comes when followers of Christ die to themselves, take up their crosses and follow where Jesus leads us—sharing the message of hope and love with a world in desperate need of it.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you really believe the gospel has the power to transform the hearts and lives of people and communities? Do you believe it is a message worth sharing?
2. What is keeping you from sharing the gospel with your neighbors, your community, or your world?
3. Who in your life needs to hear this message of hope?
4. What are you waiting for?







## DAY FIVE: A TIMELESS MESSAGE FOR ALL

*“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” - Revelation 7:9 (ESV)*

Sometimes the future of Christianity can look bleak. Statistics constantly come out showing the decline of Christianity in America and Europe! It's understandable for alarm bells to start ringing. More and more people are identifying as not religious! Less and less people are attending church!

But Revelation paints a different picture of where we are headed. John sees a great crowd of people from every tribe, people, and nation standing before the throne of God. John tells us to take heart because victory belongs to the Lamb—King Jesus!

Over the centuries, as missionaries took the gospel to places around the world, a crazy thing happened—it worked. As we look at our changing world, something exciting is happening. Christianity is exploding in places like Africa, Asia, and Latin America—what sociologists call the “Global South.” Today, there are more Christians living in these parts of the world than in places like the United States, Europe, and Australia.



This means we must not only rethink global missions, we must also reimagine what it looks like to join together with our brothers and sisters from different parts of the world in our own communities. Some of the largest churches in London are African-led. The majority of people immigrating to our country are Christians. Christianity is not declining in the world—it is changing!

More and more, white Western believers will find themselves partnering alongside people like Liku and Anut and serving together. These growing pains are not without challenges as we navigate to love and serve with respect in cross-cultural contexts, but these challenges pale in comparison to the hopefulness and beauty of seeing the gospel reach the ends of the earth.

Today, churches, mission-work, and the face of Christianity looks different than it has in the past—it looks more like John's vision of a multitude in Revelation 7:9.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about the future of Christianity in America, are you hopeful? Why or why not?
2. Who do you typically think of when you think of missionaries?
3. As Christianity in the Global South continues to grow, in what ways might churches in America rethink how they approach global missions?
4. What ways can your church partner with Global South Christians to share the gospel in your community and in the world?