

News Story Summary

In November 2018, an American missionary, John Allen Chau, was killed on a remote island in India by a tribe of indigenous people. The group he was trying to reach with the gospel has lived without contact from the outside world for hundreds of years, and Chau was determined to reach this isolated tribe. He had tried to talk to the natives on another occasion, but a tribe member shot an arrow at him, piercing his Bible. Nevertheless, he was determined to return.

Prior to his death, he wrote a letter to his parents, asking them to forgive the tribe if they killed him the next time he visited them. After his death, Chau's parents spoke to the press and offered words of forgiveness to the people who killed Chau.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase, "missionary killed with arrows")

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention idea, summarize the story above. Allow the group to reflect on the story. Poll them, asking the group to raise their hands if they would be willing to forgive the tribe members. Ask: *How would you describe the relationship between forgiveness and reconciliation? Do you think you can forgive someone without reconciling the relationship? Explain.* Say: *Most of us will never face a situation like this. However, you and I will face situations in which forgiveness and reconciliation are necessary. Today's Bible story talks about one man's reconciled relationship with his brother.*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, recall the story of John Chau. Ask: *Do you think John's parents would ever want to meet and talk to the tribe that killed him? Explain.* Say: *Think about a relationship in your own life that needs reconciliation. Ask: What barriers do you face in reconciling that relationship? Say: Reconciled relationships are a blessing from God, but they take work.* Provide a few moments of silence for adults to reflect on steps of reconciliation they need to take in a strained relationship. Encourage the class to seek God's help in healing that relationship.

Say: *The most important relationship in your life is the one between God and you.* Inform the group that you will stay afterward to talk with anyone who wants to know more about restoring their relationship with God.