

# A Narrow Path

Script Proposal

Written by

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<b>Working Title</b>	A Narrow Path
<b>Genre</b>	Documentary / Christian

<b>Target Audience</b>	Western Christians
<b>Duration</b>	Feature length ( ~ 1hr30 )

## Logline

Can a Muslim be saved? How would God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit each answer this question? This film follows three different stories, each with its own film style and perspective.

## Synopsis

Can a Muslim be saved? How would God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit each answer this question? This film follows three different stories, each with its own film style and perspective.

The first is a fictional story shot about Khalid. Khalid is a Muslim man from a small village in North Africa. Khalid has a dream where he meets Isa, the God of the Christians. Isa calls him into relationship but Khalid struggles to understand what this means. He also has to deal with the consequences of his actions. What will he decide?

The second story is a non-fictional travelogue following Jeff and Anneen as they attempt to ride motorcycles from South Africa to North Africa and along the way shoot a documentary. Through the guidance of Holy Spirit they meet various people that have sacrificed comfortable lifestyles in order to follow Christ. How will these encounters affect Jeff and Anneen, and their outlook on what it means to be a Christian, especially a Christian in a Muslim majority country?

The final story is the resulting documentary shot by Jeff and Anneen. The documentary investigates the relationship between Christians and Muslims in majority Islam states. Are Muslims friend or foe? What is the father's heart for Muslim people? Is it possible for Muslims to come to Christ? What obstacles do Muslims face in accepting Jesus as God? What is the role of the local and global church?

Each of these stories takes on its own unique style. How do these stories affect and influence each other?

# Story Breakdown

## Isa (The Reconciler)

### Style:

This is a fictional story shot using a script, planned camera movements and planned locations. It will be very much like traditional film and will also take on a cinematic visual style. The story will be shot in Arabic and subtitled.

### Person of God portrayed:

This story will try to incorporate elements of the personality of Jesus, in particular Jesus as a reconciler between man and God. Jesus calling people into relationship with God.

### Protagonist:

Khalid is a young unmarried man brought up in a traditional Muslim family. He lives in a small village in North Africa and has never left his village. He would like to go study abroad but his family would like him to take over the family business.

### Plot:

- Khalid is a Muslim brought up in a traditional family
- He wants to travel abroad to study and see the world
- He has a dream where Isa appears to him

## Holy Spirit (The Empowerer)

### Style:

This is a non-fictional story that takes on the form of a reality travelogue. It is a story of the protagonists' travels and their character development during these travels. It will take an informal, impromptu style. Story telling will happen through live events and conversations between the main characters and not voice overs or interviews. The visual style will be rough around the edges and use lots of point of view shots.

### Person of God portrayed:

This story will try to incorporate elements of the personality of Holy Spirit. It will be much more hands on and practical and show Holy Spirit as an empowerer and guide.

### Protagonist:

Jeff and Anneen are a young newly married couple. They are both professionals with an adventurous spirit and a heart for missions. They are slightly disillusioned by modern 8 - 5 working life and feel that there must be more. They feel God has called them to something greater. As a result they decide to dedicate a year to travel and shoot a micro-budget documentary in a bid to step out of their comfort zones and in the process hopefully find their calling.

## God (The Loving Father)

### Style:

This story takes on the form of an essay documentary. It relies on interview footage and b-roll footage, without natural sound breaks. It will be formal in appearance and won't present the interviewer or the leading questions. It will use lots of static camera shots with little movement.

### Person of God portrayed:

This story will try to incorporate elements of the personality of Father God. It will focus on God's love for all people and his commission to the church to love all people.

### Protagonist:

Not Applicable.

### Plot:

The documentary would attempt to answer the following questions:

1. How do westerners perceive Islam and Muslims? What do westerners believe that Muslims believe?
2. What do Muslims actually believe?
3. Meeting with a Muslim that has come to Christ through the use of dreams: What is their story?
4. How does a Muslim get from a Jesus encounter, through a dream, to

- At first he writes it off
- When he has another dream he mentions it to his new friend from overseas
- His friend gives him a bible
- At first he struggles to understand the stories in the bible, but through the help of his friend he begins to question his beliefs
- As he questions his beliefs he begins to wonder how his family would react and the consequences in his community
- With a bible and quran in front of him how will he decide to proceed?

**Plot:**

- Jeff and Anneen are dissatisfied with ordinary life
- They decide to take a year out to travel across Africa and shoot a documentary
- They meet people along the way that have given up a comfortable lifestyle in order to follow Christ
- As they progress through their trip they write a fictional story to support their documentary. Events they encounter effect how the fictional story progresses.
- They grapple with doubt as to whether they can really shoot a film and whether what they are doing is worthwhile
- Their faith is challenged as they face difficult situations. How will they respond?
- Will they make it to their final destination where they plan to shoot a short fictional film that supports their documentary?

actually giving their lives to Christ?

5. What are the consequences of accepting Christ for a person from a Muslim background?
6. What is the role of the local church in this journey?
7. What is the role of the global body of Christ?

# Story summary

Isa (The Reconciler)		
The Protagonist(s)		Khalid
Act 1	Story Setup	Khalid is a young man who grew up in a traditional Muslim family He dreams about traveling
		Isa appears to Khalid in a dream
	Inciting incident	Isa appears to Khalid in a dream
	Plot point 1	Khalid talks to his Christian friend about his dream
Act 2	Part 1	Khalid's friend helps him interpret the bible
	Midpoint	
	Part 2	How will his family and friends react if he becomes a Christian?
	Plot point 2	Jeff and Anneen decide to re-write the penultimate scene based on their experiences in their trip
Act 3	Climax	Khalid has a bible and a quran in front of him. Which will he choose
		Khalid prepares to be interviewed by a contact of his friend
	Resolution	Khalid is interviewed by Jeff and Anneen
		His choice is revealed

Holy Spirit (The empowerer)		
The Protagonist(s)		Jeff and Anneen
Act 1	Story Setup	Meet Jeff and Anneen. Who are they? What are they like? Dissatisfied with mundane 8-5 lifestyle
		They have a feeling that there is more to life than what they are currently experiencing
	Plot point 1	They decide to shoot a documentary
Act 2	Part 1	Riding through Africa. Life is exciting. This is amazing
	Midpoint	
	Part 2	Things get difficult. Will they be able to complete their documentary? Is the story worth telling? Self-doubt
	Plot point 2	An interview changes their idea of the message they are trying to bring across in their documentary
Act 3	Climax	Jeff and Anneen decide on the final interview / scene needed for their documentary
	Resolution	Khalid is interviewed by Jeff and Anneen
		Khalid's real name is revealed along with his actual (non-fiction) story

God (The Loving Father)		
The Protagonist(s)		Not Applicable
Act 1	Story Setup	What are peoples / Christians views of Muslim people? What do Muslims really believe?
		Interview with Muslim who became a Christian through a dream encounter
	Plot point 1	
Act 2	Part 1	
	Midpoint	
	Part 2	Muslims having dreams but not becoming Christians or going back to being a Muslim Muslims suffer consequences if they become a Christian
	Plot point 2	Dreams are not a substitute for outreach and discipleship
Act 3	Climax	Role of global church. Call to action for viewer
	Resolution	Khalid is interviewed by Jeff and Anneen

## Story interactions

The three stories will start off as separate stories with little interaction between them. This will help distinguish them as separate stories. Using different visual styles and storytelling techniques will also help distinguish them. As the film progresses there will be certain points where the stories cross over and influence each other. The penultimate cross over point leads to the stories combining in the 3<sup>rd</sup> act just after the climax in order to bring a cohesive resolution.

The turning point in the second act will coincide between all 3 stories and will take the form of Jeff and Anneen gaining revelation from an interview shot for the Father God story causing them to re-think and potentially re-write the Isa story.

The resolution for all three stories will be an interview between Jeff and Anneen and Khalid for the documentary. In the interview Khalid's true (non-fictional) identity is revealed along with his story, from which the fictional story was loosely derived.

## Plot devices

- The primary plot device will be the use of a fictional story about a Muslim man who has had an encounter with Jesus in a dream. This story will be told in snippets in between the documentary and travel story.
- Meeting people / interviewing people influences where the protagonists travel to next, who they try to meet.
- Similarity between Muslims and westerners/Christians can be shown by depicting a similar activity that is carried out in a different cultural setting (eg eating a meal).
- Each of the three different persons of the trinity will be linked to (and depicted) in each of the different stories told in the documentary. In this way:
  - Jesus will be depicted as the reconciler between man and God in the fictional story
  - Father God will be depicted as the Father of love in the formal documentary
  - Holy Spirit will be depicted as the guide/helper in Jeff and Anneen's travel story

## Recurring themes

- God is working / active in Islam states
- God loves Muslims
- God can / is saving Muslims
- Muslim people are ordinary people / similar to us
- The church is called to action

## Visual Style

The film takes on three distinctive visual styles. This to help the viewer identify which scenes belong to which of the three stories.

For the Isa story the visual style will closely mimic a blockbuster film. It will be shot in the cinescope aspect ratio (2.33:1) and be colour graded to give the feel of a blockbuster epic. Maximum dynamic range with slightly unnatural colours will also give it a dream feel. Shallow depth of field should be used to focus the viewer in on details that will be used to drive the story on. Lighting will be closely controlled for cinematic effect.

The second visual style is for all formal documentary scenes. This will consist primarily of interview and b-roll. Interviews will have a studio look with few distracting elements in the background. Maybe just a white background. This will be shot in 17:9 aspect ratio (cinema 4K).

The third visual style will be used for depicting Jeff and Anneen and their journey. The visual style will be much rougher around the edges with a less controlled hand held feel. It will make use of point of view shots, such as GoPro footage. The resulting image will look more like video than film. It will be shot in UHD (16:9)

Transitions between these styles will be highlighted to again solidify the change in narrative style. As the film progresses the distinction between the visual styles will lessen and the stories will begin to merge.

All narratives will be shot in 24 frames per second in 4k with the aim of theatrical release.

## Crew

The crew is primarily made up by Jeff and Anneen. During the shooting process it will be just the two of them. During pre-production and post-production they will seek out assistance with producing, colour grading and music score / audio.

Producer	Jeff Davies
Executive Producer	??
Line Producer	??
Director	Anneen Davies
Writer	Jeff Davies / Anneen Davies
Director of Photography	Jeff Davies
Cast	Actors will be needed for fictional narrative. This can hopefully be shot on location making use of locals as cast. Will need to be established in pre-production.
Editor	Jeff Davies
Colour Grading	??
Audio	??
Various fixers	??
Arabic translator	??

## Schedule

The schedule has been selected to coincide with Jeff and Anneen's travel arrangements. They have allocated 9 months from March 2015 for travel and shooting. After which a maximum of 6 months can be taken for post-production, however a preliminary allocation of 3 months has been made. This may be extended.

Concept development	March 7, 2014 – August 31, 2014
Pre-production	September 1, 2014 – March 01, 2015
Production	March 01, 2015 – December 01, 2015
Post-production	December 01, 2015 – March 01, 2016