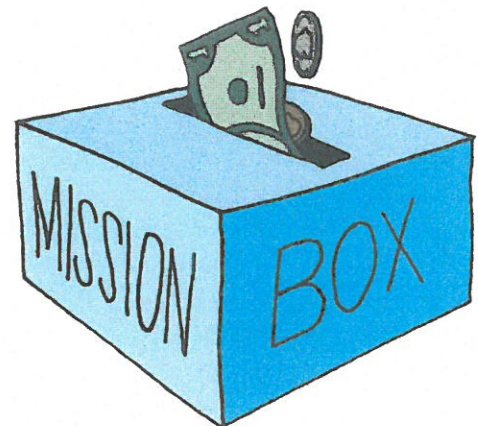
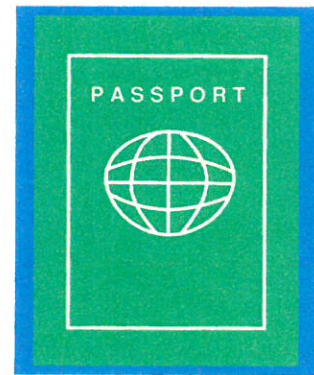


Missions for Kids

By Patricia Mercier



Missions for Kids

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Curriculum Overview.....	2
The Great Commission.....	3
Sending God.....	6
Sent to the Nations.....	8
Unreached People Groups (UPG).....	10
Pray for the Harvest.....	15
Giving to Missions.....	17

Missions for Kids



Introduction

This curriculum was created to give children a Biblical picture and a taste for missions. The hope is to stir up within them a sense of adventure and desire to participate in missions and mission projects within the church. These lessons were designed for a Sunday School Class or Small Group Time that lasts between 45 minutes and an Hour and a Half. You may need to adjust the curriculum to your time frame and group of children. Each lesson includes a memory verse, Bible story, craft and an activity or game. It was created with the idea of hands-on learning so that items are not just presented to children, but that they begin to participate and consider these ideas for themselves.

Please feel free to adapt this curriculum to meet your needs as a Christian community desiring to train up the next generation. May God bless you with creativity and wisdom as you bring missions alive. For further information on missions and the local church, please read Triumph: Missions Renewal for the Local Church and Healthy Churches in a Sick World by Howard Foltz. Also, it would be good to pray through Operation World by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk. A good book for the children to use to pray for the nations of the World is Window on the World: When we pray God works by Daphne Spraggett with Jill Johnstone.

Missions for Kids



Curriculum Overview

	Memory Verse	Story	Craft	Activity/Game
The Great Commission	John 3:16 Disappearing Verse	Matthew 28	Gospel Beads/ Caterpillar	Salvation Game
Sending God	Romans 10:15 Pass it On	Luke 4:17-19	Beautiful Feet Verse Picture	Follow the Feet
Sent to the Nations	Genesis 12:3 Verse Puzzle	Genesis 12:1-3	Nations Collage	Taste of the Nations
Unreached People Groups (UPG)	Matthew 24:14 Verse Grab Bag	Unreached People Group Teaching	UPG Poster	10-40 Window Countries Puzzle
Pray for the Harvest	Luke 10:2 Find the Hands	Matthew 13:24-30	Praying Hands	Prayer Game with Globe Ball
Giving to Missions	Luke 6:38 Verse Scramble	2 Corinthians 8:1-5	Banks or Door hanger	Faith Promise or Grace Giving



The Great Commission

I. Teacher Preparation

A. Introduction

This lesson was designed to teach the basics of why the church has a missions program. We are all called to support missions in one way or another whether we take mission trips, give money and pray for those who do, or help train the missionaries. We all have a part to play. What is your role in missions? Do you need to reconsider your role? Look into your church's missions programs and or activities so you can talk to the children about what your church is doing in the area of missions.

B. Bible Study

Read Matthew 28:16-20. Consider the words of Jesus and what command was given to them. As current disciples of Jesus, what are we commanded to do? Memorize John 3:16 and think about its significance. This is one of the main evangelistic verses and should be emphasized for the children to learn.

C. Materials Needed

1. Chalkboard & chalk
2. Suitcase packed for a missions trip
3. Gospel Beads – colored beads & leather or safety pins (p.4)
4. Caterpillar – colored pompoms & construction paper (p.4)

II. Lesson Material

A. Introduction

(Have a suitcase with clothes and other items you might take on a missions trip). Discuss with the children what you have in your suitcase and ask them if they know where you might be going. Explain that this suitcase is ready for a missions trip and talk about what it means to go to a new place and tell others about Jesus. Let them know that we will be talking about missions for the next six lessons.

B. Memory Verse Activity

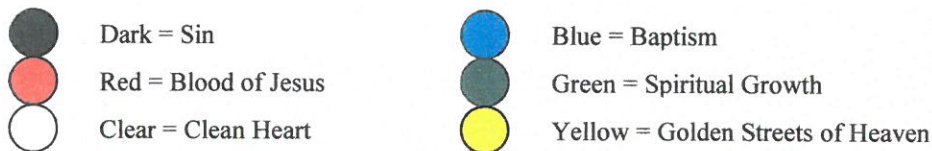
“For God so loved the World that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Disappearing Verse: Write the verse on a chalkboard and read it through a few times with the children. Then erase the first verb, draw a line where the verb was and then have the children repeat the verse filling in the missing word. Remove one main word at a time having the children fill in the missing words until there are no more main words. Then begin erasing the few words left until the whole verse is erased and the children must reproduce it by memory. (If you have younger children or run out of time, do not erase all of the words, only a few main ones).

C. Bible Lesson and Discussion

Read Matthew 28:16-20. Talk about what it means to make disciples. Ask the children what this verse means and what they are commanded to do as followers of Jesus. Ask them if they know how to tell others about Jesus. Have they ever explained the gospel story to anyone? Well, their craft will help them to share the gospel with others.

D. Craft: Gospel Beads or Caterpillar



Gospel Beads: You can either create a bead bracelet or bead safety pin. Oriental Trading sells kits that you can use for each child to put this craft together or you can purchase the beads and leather for the bracelet or a big safety pin for an easier craft.

Caterpillar: Get colored pompoms for each gospel color and have the children glue them together on a piece of construction paper to make a caterpillar. Glue eyes onto the first pompom.

Explain what each color stands for and talk about the gospel implications of each one. When discussing green; talk about how to grow spiritually – reading the Bible, going to Church, prayer, etc. Review the colors several times and then have the children partner up and explain the gospel story with their colors. Let them know that this is a good tool for telling others about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian.

E. Activity/Game: Salvation Game

Choose two kids, one to play Jesus and the other to be lost. Have the rest of the kids form “trials.” Forming obstacles ex: they can ball up to be a rock, or form a bridge, lay in the path like a log, etc. Blindfold the lost child and place him at one end of the obstacles and Jesus at the other end. Jesus must lead the child safely around the obstacles.

The lost child must follow Jesus in “blind faith”. Take turns having different children be Jesus and the lost child and make different obstacle paths. Emphasize trusting in Jesus and what it means to be saved.

F. Application Time and Prayer

Talk about what it means to tell others about Jesus. Have the children make a commitment to try and tell at least one person this week about Jesus. Pray that the Lord will give them boldness to witness and tell others about the love of Jesus.





Sending God (God is a Sending God)

III. Teacher Preparation

A. Introduction

This lesson focuses on the mission of Jesus and how God sent Him on this earth to bring the good news and we are also called to do the same. We are to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Are you telling others about Jesus? Have you ever taken a missions trip?

B. Bible Study

Read Luke 4:17-19 and think about what Jesus' mission was when He came. Think about how He accomplished His mission. Memorize Romans 10:15. What does it mean to have beautiful feet? Do you have beautiful feet?

C. Materials Needed

1. Bean bag or soft object
2. construction paper
3. crayons, markers, or paints
4. (optional) glitter & glue or stickers
5. Many cut out feet and masking tape

IV. Lesson Material

A. Introduction

Ask the children what are inside of their shoes? (Feet of course). Explain that today we are going to talk about what it means to have beautiful feet. Have the children stand up when you call out the color of their shoes. Call out all the possible colors until every child is standing. Then tell them that everyone has beautiful feet and today they will learn how to use them best.

B. Memory Verse Activity

“And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” Romans 10:15

Pass it On: Gather the children in a circle and put the verse where they can read it. Assign each child a word of the verse, you may have to repeat the verse twice to make it around the circle depending on the number of children you have. Then pass the bean bag or another soft object around the circle having each child say their word when receiving the bean bag. See how fast the beanbag can be passed and the verse can be said. Repeat a few times and then see who can say the whole verse.

C. Bible Lesson and Discussion

Read Luke 4:17-19 and explain that this is why Jesus came to earth. Talk about how He accomplished this mission. How can we follow in Jesus' footsteps? Talk about what it means to set people free from sin. Review the gospel story using the colors they learned last lesson. Talk about how they can set others free by telling them about Jesus and having them pray to ask Jesus to come into their lives.



D. Craft: Beautiful Feet Verse Picture

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Isaiah 52:7

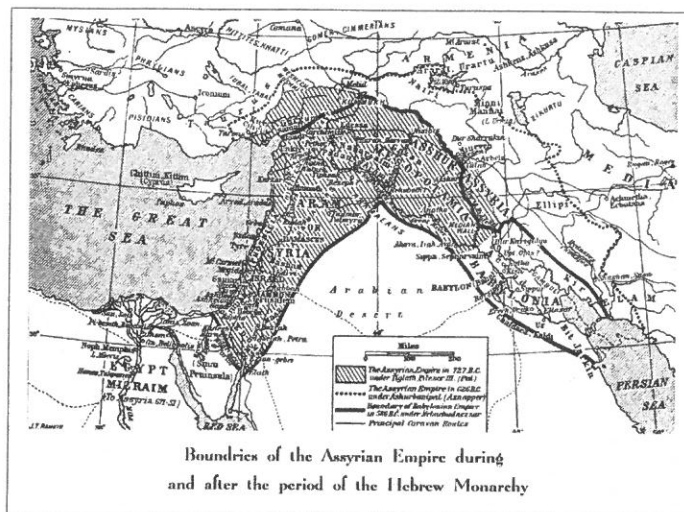
Have the children trace their feet onto construction paper and cut out the outline (keeping the two feet together). Write the verse above on the feet and then have the children decorate them to make them beautiful feet. Discuss what the verse means.

E. Activity/Game: Follow the Feet

Cut out many feet ahead of time and have them taped (use masking tape) around the church so that they create a maze for the children to follow. Have it end in another room or some out of the way place that they cannot see when they begin following the feet. Where the feet stop, write out the memory verse on poster board or construction paper and have the children read it when they get to the end. Have each child follow the feet to the end. (You may want to send one or two children at a time and have a teacher at the end to collect them and talk about the verse when they get there.)

F. Application Time and Prayer

Ask the children what it means to have beautiful feet. Talk about how they can share the gospel with others and have beautiful feet. Review the gospel colors so that they can remember how to tell others about Jesus. Pray that the children will have beautiful feet and tell others about Jesus.



Boundaries of the Assyrian Empire during
and after the period of the Hebrew Monarchy

Sent to the Nations

V. Teacher Preparation

A. Introduction

This lesson explains the covenant that God made with Abraham. Abraham was blessed so that the nations would be blessed and come to know God. He was sent to the nations and so was Israel. God meant for the nations to hear the Good news and it is our responsibility to make sure that they do.

B. Bible Study

Read Genesis 12:1-3. Consider what it would mean to leave your country and travel without knowing where you were going? Would you be able to do it? Could you trust God to direct you? Memorize Genesis 12:3. What does this have to do with us today? Remember that anyone who believes in Jesus is a son of Abraham (Gal. 3:14, 16 & 29h). We are meant to be a blessing to the nations.

C. Materials Needed

1. Poster board (2 pieces)
2. Magazines and other pictures of people from many nations
3. Glue & Scissors
4. Food from different countries (p.10)

VI. Lesson Material

A. Introduction

Ask the children what two items they would make sure that got packed if they would move. After letting the children name their favorite items talk about what it is like to move to a new place. Tell them that the man in the story today had to move without knowing where he was going and God had a great purpose for this.

B. Memory Verse Activity

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:3

Verse puzzle: Write the verse on a poster board and then cut it into puzzle pieces. Give each child a piece or two of the puzzle and see if they can all work together to put the puzzle together. Read the verse and then undo the puzzle and give out new pieces to each child to redo the puzzle again. Read the verse after putting the verse together each time.

C. Bible Lesson and Discussion

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and talk about what it would be like to move with Abraham in the desert. What blessing was placed on Abraham? Why? Talk about what it means to be a blessing to the nations.

D. Craft: Nations Collage

Have the children find many pictures of people from different nations. Cut and glue them onto the poster board to make a collage. Pictures can overlap and be cut out in many different ways – this makes the collage unique. Hang the poster up in your room to remind you of being a blessing to the nations. (Another variation of this craft can be to have the children make their own collages on construction paper to take home).



E. Activity/Game: Taste of the Nations

Have dishes from different countries for the children to taste. Talk about what it would be like to go to a different country and meet new people. This is what missionaries do. Examples of countries and easy items to fix are given below.

Mexico – Tortilla chips & Salsa

Philippines – Rice and Beans (eat with hands)

Ghana (Africa) - Pineapples

Russia – Bread & Cheese

Uzbekistan – Nuts

China – Rice & sweet and Sour Sauce (eat with chopsticks)

F. Application Time and Prayer

Talk about what it means for missionaries to go overseas to new countries. Discuss how the children could go on short-term mission trips to tell others about Jesus. Pray that God would give them an opportunity to take a trip outside of the US to meet new people. Pray that they will be able to take a short-term missions trip.



Unreached People Groups (UPG)

VII. Teacher Preparation

A. Introduction

This lesson is designed to introduce the children to the group of peoples who have never heard the gospel before. This is the group that we need to target in these last days so that they too may have an opportunity to hear about Jesus. Many churches are adopting people groups to pray for and reach out to. Check and see if your church has adopted a people group and find out more about them.

B. Bible Study

Memorize Matthew 24:14. Why is it important to reach out to the people groups that have never heard about Jesus? Review the lesson several times so that you are familiar with teaching about the Unreached People Groups and can comfortably answer questions. A book you may want to use as a reference for the Unreached People Group poster is Window on the World: When we pray God works by Daphne Spraggett with Jill Johnstone.

C. Materials Needed

1. Index cards
2. Paper sack or other bag (not see through)
3. Poster board
4. Markers, crayons, stickers, pictures, etc.
5. 10/40 Window Puzzle (p.11-12)

VIII. Lesson Material

A. Introduction

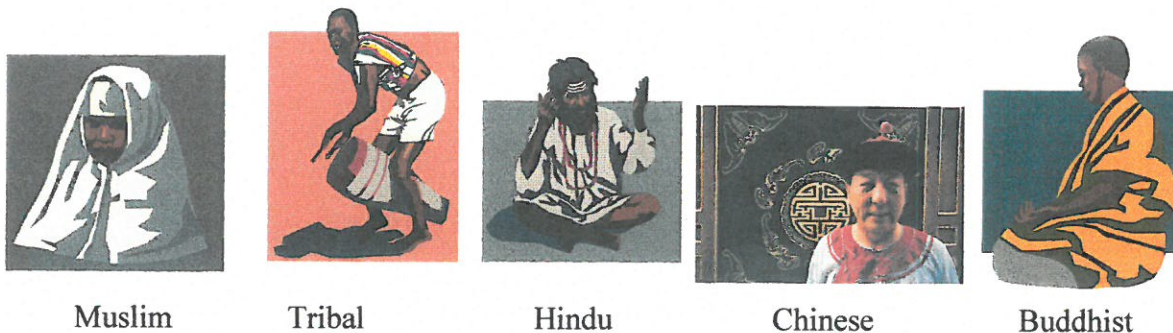
Do you know that there are people who have never heard about Jesus? Today we are going to talk about these people and how it is important to also tell them about Jesus. Think about what it would be like to never have heard about Jesus. Ask the children what it would be like to not know Jesus.

B. Memory Verse Activity

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

Verse Grab Bag: Put each word on an index card and place the cards in a paper bag that you close up. Then shake the cards and let each child put his hand in the bag and pull out one card. Then have the children put their cards in order by holding up their cards so all can see and standing in line according to where their word or card should be to read the verse. Then have each child say their card as you point to them to say the verse. Repeat a few times giving them a chance to have a different word or card.

C. Bible Lesson and Discussion



Muslim

Tribal

Hindu

Chinese

Buddhist

Review Matthew 24:14. Then show the pictures of the four major Unreached People Groups that most fit into as you explain them below (copy them from above and put on a poster or construction paper to show the class). You also may want to use a globe or map to show where they live. (Window on the World: When we pray God works by Daphne Spraggett is a good reference for this as well).

Muslims live in North Africa and throughout Asia. There are 3,800 Unreached People Groups among the Muslims. Muslims believe in Allah and follow the Koran, their Holy Book. They believe that Jesus was a prophet like Mohammed and that there is only one God. They pray facing the Holy City of Mecca whenever they pray daily.

Tribal peoples live in many of the Southeast Asian islands and elsewhere all over the world. There are almost 2,700 Unreached Tribal People Groups remaining. Many tribal groups are animist. Animists believe there are spirits living in everything they see around them and they worship these many things. Some animists worship their ancestors – that is the people who have died are then worshipped.

Most **Hindus** live in India. There are about 1,800 Unreached Hindu People Groups remaining. Hindus believe in many gods and goddesses. They have these statues that they make shrines to and worship them in their homes and offices. They offer their gods food and money and pray for their help in everything they do.

There are about 900 Unreached **Chinese** People Groups. They live in China. Many Chinese are atheists – that is they do not believe in the existence of God. Others are Buddhist, Muslims or worship folk religions (there own version from the place where they live).

Buddhists live in Southeast Asia, part of Central China, Mongolia, Korea, and Japan. Experts figure there are about 900 Unreached Buddhist People Groups remaining.

Buddhists believe that everyone dies many times, having thousands of lives – reincarnation. How a person lives in this life determines how they will live in the next life. The end of the cycle of rebirths is nirvana – nothingness is the end of the cycle.

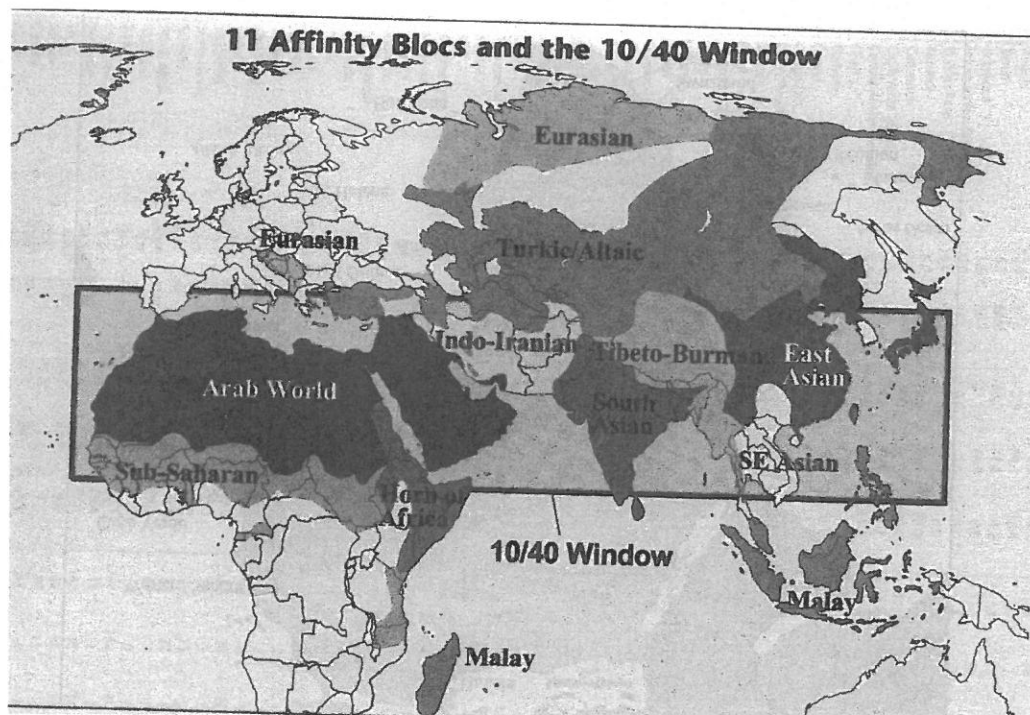
That leaves about 900 other Unreached People Groups scattered all over for a total of 11,000 Unreached People Groups. We have a lot of work to do don't we Church!

D. Craft: Unreached People Group Poster

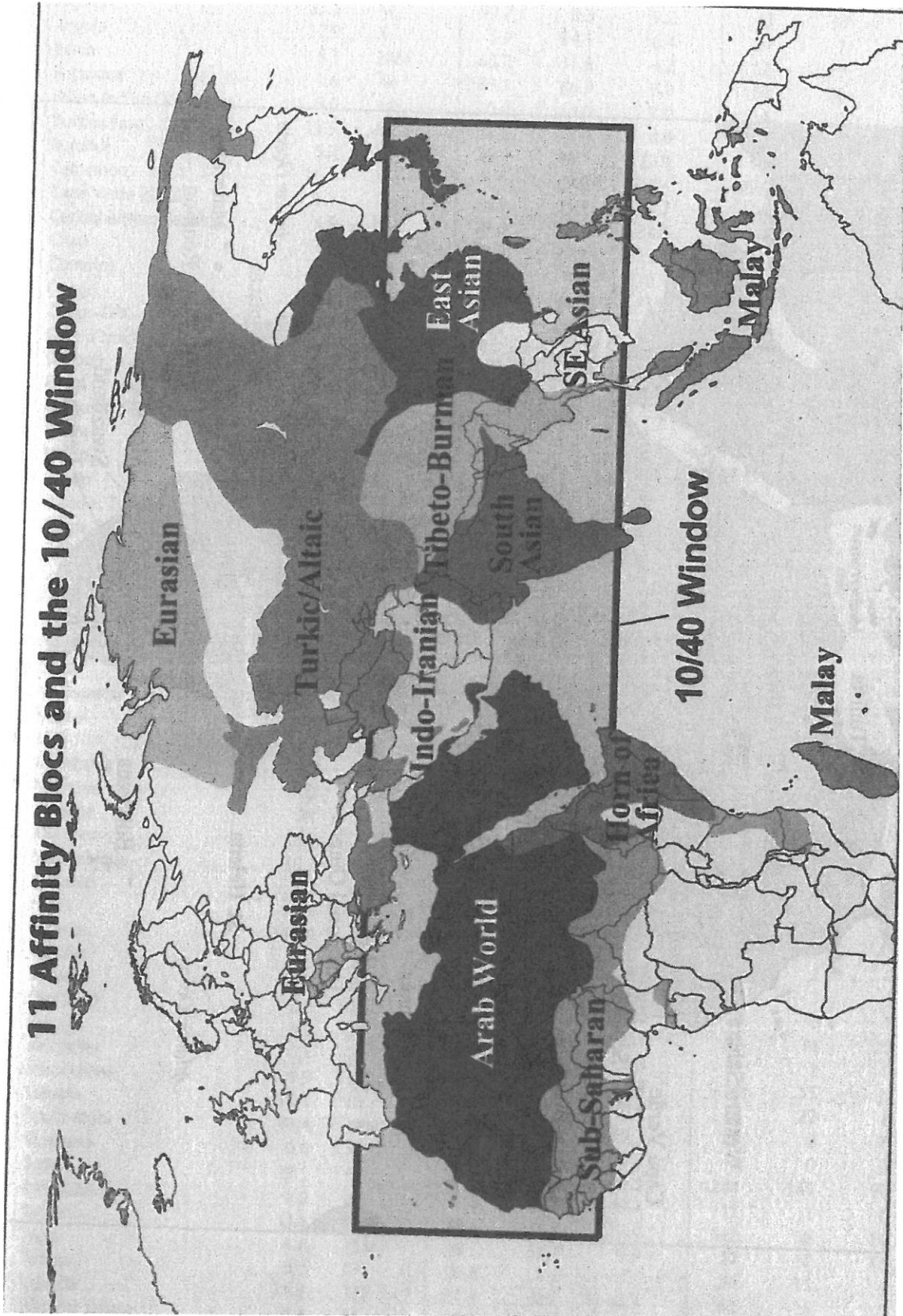
Pick an Unreached People Group and have the children make a poster for this group. You may need to do some research and look for pictures and maybe see where these people live on the map. Be creative and then hang this poster in the room to remind everyone of the people group you picked. You may want to focus on doing a project for this group or tie in with what your church is doing.

E. Activity/Game: 10/40 Window Countries Puzzle

Copy page 12 and glue it onto poster board, then cut it into pieces. You may want to copy it onto a larger piece of paper so that the poster will be bigger. If you so desire, you can color the map with crayons to make it more interesting. After having the children put the puzzle together a few times, talk about how this is the place in the world where most of the Unreached People Groups are. Talk about the importance of sending missionaries to these people groups.



11 Affinity Blocs and the 10/40 Window



F. Application Time and Prayer

Talk about adopting an Unreached People Group. Have the children pray for this group on a daily basis and consider what kind of projects they can do. Find out what your church is doing and see if you can join in. Pray for the children and that they will remember to pray for the people group they chose. Pray that someone in the room may even get to go to this people group.





Pray for the Harvest

IX. Teacher Preparation

A. Introduction

Now that we have discussed missions and reaching out to the nations, especially the Unreached People Groups; we are going to focus on praying for missions. We need to not only pray for our missionaries, but also to pray that God will send missionaries to the places that need help. We have discussed the Unreached People Groups and that they need missionaries. Now it is time to pray that God will send missionaries and to also pray for the people who do not know Jesus. Are you praying for the harvest?

B. Bible Study

Read Matthew 13:24-30. Jesus refers to the people on this earth as a crop and is waiting for the end-times to harvest the wheat. When we talk about the harvest we are talking about the people who come to know and follow Jesus. Memorize Luke 10:2 and consider what it means to pray for the harvest.

C. Materials Needed

1. Orange poster board
2. Construction paper
3. Markers, crayons & other decorations
4. Plastic Globe that is a Ball (Blow-up globe)

X. Lesson Material

A. Introduction

We have talked about the different people and countries who need missionaries. Now we are going to talk about what we can do today. We can pray for the countries and the missionaries. We also need to pray that God will call Christians to some of these places to tell the people about Jesus.

B. Memory Verse Activity

“[Jesus] told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Luke 10:2

Find the Hands: Get an orange poster board and cut it in the shape of praying hands. Then write the verse on the hands and cut the hands into pieces. Hide the pieces around the room and have the children look for them. After the children have found the pieces, have them come together and put the hands together to read the verse. Repeat the verse several times.

C. Bible Lesson and Discussion

Read Matthew 13:24-30 and discuss the parable of the wheat. Talk about the harvest time. Who is harvested? Explain that we must pray for the harvest like the memory verse talks about. Discuss what kinds of ways we can pray for the countries and missionaries.



D. Craft: Praying Hands

Have the children trace their hands or draw a set of praying hands. Then let them decorate it anyway they like and write something on the hands to remind them to pray for missions. Tell them to put it somewhere in their room to remind them to pray for missions.

E. Activity/Game: Prayer Game

Have the children sit in a circle and toss the globe. However each child catches the globe; have them pray for the first country they see or wherever their hands caught the ball. You may need to give them suggestions for how to pray. Keep tossing the ball around until every child has had a turn.

F. Application Time and Prayer

Talk about how we can pray for missions and missionaries. Pray that the children will remember missions when they are praying each day. Ask the children to discuss what they will pray for this week.



Giving to Missions

XI. Teacher Preparation

A. Introduction

This is the last lesson on missions. It is designed to emphasize giving to missions. Find out about your missions program and see if there are any pledge drives or other methods used to give to missions. This lesson will emphasize faith giving, also known as grace giving (use whatever term your church uses). Faith giving is when you pray and make a commitment to God about how much you will give that year to missions. It is something that stays between you and God and that you work towards giving to the missions program or a particular mission project's need.

B. Bible Study

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and consider how the Macedonian church contributed to Paul's needs as a missionary to Corinth and other places. Memorize Luke 6:38. How is your giving? Do you give towards missions (above and beyond your tithe)?

C. Materials Needed

1. Index cards or cut up construction paper
2. Jars , coke cans or other type of bank (p.19)
3. Paint or contact paper, stickers, etc.
4. (optional) door hangers (cut out from poster board)
5. Pledge cards for missions or just index cards

XII. Lesson Material

A. Introduction

Today we are going to talk about another way we can support missions, by giving money. We can even give a little bit to help missionaries in other countries bring the gospel to those who need to hear it. Taking trips and living in other countries costs money. Ask the children to think about other countries and talk about all the items a missionary might need to do his or her job.

B. Memory Verse Activity

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38

Verse Scramble: Put each word (or group words into phrases) on index cards and scramble them up. Go over the verse a few times together and then put the children into two or three groups. Time each group as they unscramble the verse and put it in order and then see which group was the fastest. Have children repeat the verse when the groups place it in order.

C. Bible Lesson and Discussion

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and talk about how the Macedonians helped Paul. Talk about what it means to give an offering to missions (above and beyond the tithe. You may need to explain tithing also). Tell them we will consider how we can collect money for missions.

D. Craft: Banks or Reminder Doorknobs



Banks: Ahead of time collect jars with lids that can be used to make a bank. Coke cans may also be used if jars are unavailable. Wash the jars or cans out well and take off any labels. Cut a slit in the jar lid to make a hole allowing coins to be dropped in (coke cans will already have a hole from where the tab has been pulled). Now it is ready for the children to paint or decorate with contact paper. They can use markers on contact paper if desired or they can use stickers. Have them decorate their banks and discuss putting money in it for missions. Talk about your church’s missions program if you have one.

Door Hangers: Cut out door hangers from poster board and have the children decorate it to remind them to save money to give to missions. You may just want to put the Bible verse on the door hanger.

E. Activity/Game: Faith Promise/Grace Giving

Talk about Faith Giving (Grace Giving or whatever your church calls it). Explain how the children need to pray and consider what God wants them to give to missions. Discuss ways that children may earn money. Give them the pledge cards or index cards and tell them to put their names on it (for index cards make sure it is marked for them to place an amount they will give to missions). Have them bring it home to pray over this week and tell them to bring it back with an amount on it. Next time you meet collect the cards and give them to the church or keep them in your class to review at the end of the year. Tell the children that this is something between them and God.

F. Application Time and Prayer

Tell the children to pray about their pledge amounts and next time you meet to bring the cards back. Then they can collect the missions’ money and bring it to church

(either as they collect it or when they are done collecting the whole amount). [Note: as they bring their money in keep track of it so they can check it with their final goal encouraging them to keep up the good work. Make sure this money goes towards missions in your church and give a report to the children about how their missions money was spent – this will encourage them to continue saving and giving]. Pray that the Lord will speak to each child about what they can give to missions. Perhaps, even one of these children is called to go into missions.

