



ONE BIG WORLD

KIDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of simple line-art paper airplanes, all pointing towards the upper right. They are arranged in a staggered grid.

WELCOME

to one Big World! We are delighted that you want to help your kids learn more about missions! Kids need to know and understand that they can follow the example of Christians around the world, and make a difference right where they are. Our team has enjoyed learning about this year's areas of ministry as we have prepared the lessons. We pray that God will touch your kids' hearts as you use these lessons each month. We hope they will become passionate about serving God in many ways!

The Global Partners Team

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Country	Bottom Line	Story
September Lesson: Japan	I am making a difference by listening to God	Samuel
October Lesson: Nune People	I am making a difference by standing up for what I believe in	Esther
November Lesson: Nicaragua	I am making a difference by being thankful	The Ten Lepers
December Lesson: Fotizo People	I am making a difference by trusting when things seem impossible	Mary & Joseph
January Lesson: Mozambique	I am making a difference by knowing God's strength overcomes my weakness	Gideon
February Lesson: Croatia	I am making a difference by being a good friend	David & Jonathan
March Lesson: Cambodia	I am making a difference by serving God's servants	Shunammite Woman
April Lesson: Karis People	I am making a difference by sharing the salvation message	Nicodemus
May Lesson: Papua New Guinea	I am making a difference by showing courage in times of trial or when things are difficult	Paul & the Shipwreck
June Lesson Czech Republic	I am making a difference by sharing the salvation message	Timothy
July/August Lesson: Community Missions	I am making a difference by serving others	Community Missions Projects



ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

This curriculum is designed to teach kids about missions and help them understand that they can do missions right where they are! Kids will learn a focused lesson each month with a “Bottom Line.”

The Bottom Line is supported by Bible stories and testimonies of what God is doing in countries around the world, and gives kids glimpses into other countries and cultures, and even gives them opportunities to help with various missions projects throughout the year! This curriculum uses four main sections to empower kids to do missions in their neighborhood as they learn how to make a difference.

This is broken into four sections every month:



The “**Take-Off**” section introduces our bottom line and country.



The “**In-Flight**” section includes the memory verse and Bible story.



The “**Landing**” section brings together the Bible story and cultural relevance by encourages kids to live out the bottom line.



The “**On Arrival**” section includes a review activity that will reinforce the bottom line, Bible story and a God story.



HOW TO USE

Read & Prepare: The curriculum will have one lesson to cover each month, touching on different bottom lines, countries, and cultures. It is important to read ahead and prepare the materials and supplies you might be using in the curriculum.

Bottom Line: The Bottom Line is what flows through each lesson. It is the main point we want the kids to take home as a learning lesson.

Handouts: Every 3 months there is a project handout that can go home with the kids to help them remember why they are raising money, and to educate their parents on the project and what you are doing at the church.

Group & Time Adaptability: Lessons are made to be customizable depending on length of time and group size. The lessons are kept short, designed to keep kids interested, and the optional activity stations can be added or removed depending on available time and group size.

Here is an example lesson format for 1 hour:

TAKE-OFF	Welcome/Songs	10 min.
	Fun Facts	3 min.
IN-FLIGHT	Memory Verse	2 min.
	Bible Story	15 min.
LANDING	God Story/Prayer	10 min.
ON ARRIVAL	Review Activities	20 min.

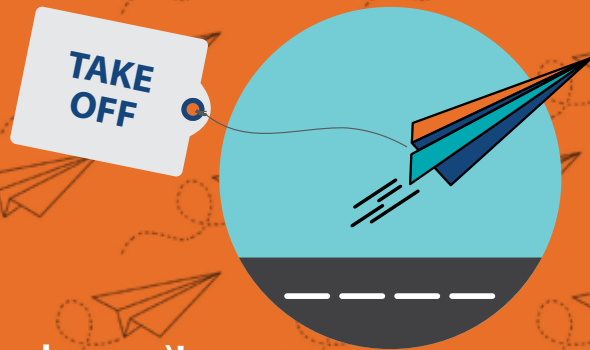
Japan

Country: Japan

Bible Lesson: Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Bottom Line: I can make a difference by listening to God.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit an area that most of you have probably not been to. Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see where we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to Japan). Here is where we are, and the place we are learning about is over here.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about Japan.



Fun Facts:

1. One percent of Japan's population believe in Jesus.
2. The largest religion in Japan is Buddhism.
3. There are 38 people groups and 26 of them have never heard about Jesus..
4. In Japanese culture it is polite to remove your shoes.
5. About 1500 earthquakes strike Japan every year.

Those were fun! We will learn a bit more about Japan in a little bit!

Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship together!

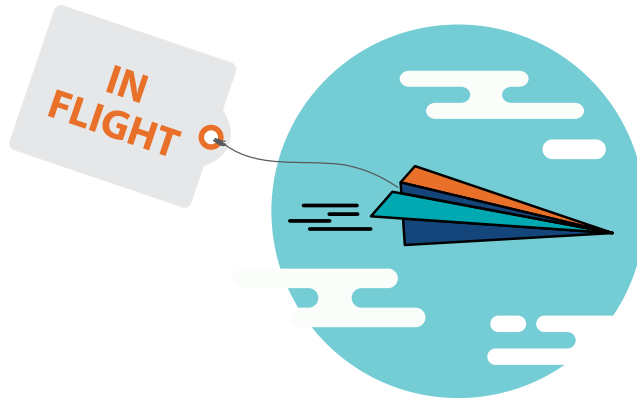


Worship: Pick 2-3 songs



Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how we can make a difference by listening to God. But before we get into that, let’s take a look at our memory verse.



Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NIRV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Samuel Listens to God (1 Samuel 3:1-21)

Supplies:

Pillows and mats or blankets for Eli and Samuel

Lesson:

Raise your hand if you ever have trouble listening.

Ask volunteers who they have trouble listening to (parents, teachers, etc.). Discuss how even adults have trouble listening. Share an experience from your life to illustrate this.

In the Old Testament of our Bibles, there's a story about a young boy named Samuel who found out how important listening really is! To give you a little background, Samuel's mother was Hannah and his father was Elkanah. Before Samuel was born, Hannah saw other parents with their children and desperately wanted a child. While in the temple, Hannah prayed for a son and Eli, the priest, told her that God would give her what she asked for. After Samuel was born, Hannah promised God that her son would be God's, so she took Samuel to the temple to live and help in the service of the temple. There, Samuel was a HUGE help to Eli, the priest. Samuel lived in the temple year after year. Yearly, his mother and father would visit him and bring sacrifices and a coat that his mother had made for him.

This is where our story picks up.

(Choose an older child to play the part of Eli the priest. Have Eli lie down on his blanket and pillow in one part of the room. Choose a younger child to play the part of Samuel and have him lie down on his blanket and pillow in another part of the room. Choose 4 children to spread out around the room to be the voice of God. Dim the lights if you wish since the story takes place at night.)

Samuel was serving God under the direction of Eli, the priest. It's important to remember that in those days, God didn't give many messages or visions to His people. One night, Eli was sleeping in his usual spot (point to Eli). Samuel was asleep, too, (point to Samuel) when God called out to him (have one of the four children spread around the room say "Samuel"). Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, so he ran over to Eli (have Samuel run over to Eli's bed) and said, "Here I am. You called me." Eli told Samuel that he didn't call him, to go lie back down, so he did (have Samuel go back to this bed).

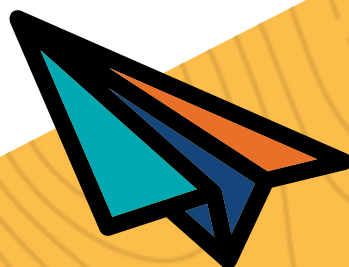
Again, God called out to Samuel (have another of the four children spread around the room say "Samuel"). Samuel again thought it was Eli calling him, so he ran to his bed again (have Samuel do so). Eli said, "My son, I didn't call you. Go back and lie down." (Have Samuel do so.) Now, be aware that Samuel didn't know God yet because God hadn't given him a message.

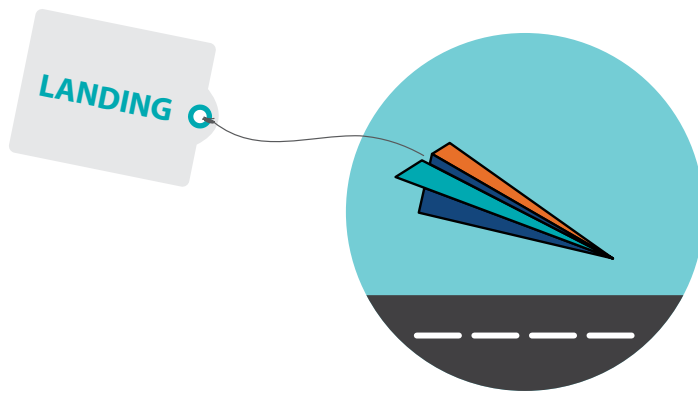
God called out to Samuel a third time (have the third of the four children spread around the room say "Samuel"). Samuel ran to Eli again (have Samuel do so), but this time, Eli told him something different. Eli said "Go back and lie down, but if someone calls out to you again, say, 'Speak, God. I'm listening.'"

Samuel went back to his bed (have Samuel do so). God came and stood there and called out to Samuel a fourth time (have the last of the four children spread around the room say "Samuel"). This time, Samuel didn't get up and run to Eli. Instead, he said "Speak, God. I'm listening."

God told Samuel something very important, but troubling! God told Samuel that He was going to punish Eli's family because his sons had been sinning and Eli did nothing to stop them. Samuel laid there until morning when he opened the doors of God's house (have Samuel get up). Samuel was afraid to tell Eli about the vision he had received (ask the children if they would be afraid to tell Eli). But, when Eli called for Samuel (have Eli get up), Samuel answered, "Here I am."

When Eli asked Samuel what God told him, he told Samuel to tell him everything or that he would be punished by God. So, Samuel told Eli everything. Eli said, "He is God. Let Him do what he thinks is best." Wow! It must have been really hard for Samuel to tell Eli this bad news from God! But, Samuel listened and was obedient in sharing what God had told him. Verse 19 tells us that God was with Samuel as he grew up and that He made everything Samuel said come true. Samuel was truly a prophet of God (If the children don't know what a prophet is, explain it to them).





Listening can be very hard, and sometimes, it's hard to act on what we've heard. Samuel not only listened to what God had to say, but he acted on it by telling Eli about the vision. That had to be hard for a young boy! We need to be willing to listen to God when he speaks to us. He might not speak to us like He did Samuel, but he could speak to us through a lesson, a song, etc. Like our bottom line says, I can make a difference by listening to God. In the next few weeks, listen for God speaking to you and I will do the same!

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3: 9

Samuel did just that and the Lord did call again. Samuel answered and God used him in many mighty ways!

When I was a child, I also heard the Lord calling me to salvation and service, to give my heart completely to the Lord. I answered in the same way that Samuel did, "Yes, Lord. I want to follow You. Show me what you want me to do and I will do it."

Prayer:

Father thank you for calling people to do your work. Thank you for people who are willing to serve others and to love them like you would. Please help us to listen to you and to do what you want us to do in our lives. We love you so much! In Jesus' name, Amen.



Review Activity: The Number Game



We are going to review today's Bible story using our fingers! I will ask you some questions and you will hold up the correct number of fingers to answer the questions. Here we go!

1. How many children did Hannah and Elkanah have before Samuel was born? (0)
2. How often did Samuel's parents visit him at the temple? (1, because they went once a year)
3. How many times did God call to Samuel when he was sleeping? (4)
4. How many times did Samuel get up and go to Eli because he thought he was the one calling him? (3)
5. How many times did Samuel say, "Speak. I'm listening."? (1)
6. How many times did God give Samuel messages (prophecies) as he grew up? (Hold up many fingers!)

Good job listening to our story today! Remember that we want to make a **difference by listening to God.**

Game Activity: *Back-to-Back Building*



Supplies: Building blocks or simple Legos (or something else simple to build with)

Instructions:

This is a listening activity and it isn't easy. Put children in pairs and have them sit back to back. Both in the pair need blocks or Legos. One child will build a tower or house or a simple structure. As he/she builds, he/she will give instructions to the partner to build the same structure. For example, build a bottom layer with 6 blocks, add two layers on top of the bottom layer, make the fourth layer with only 2 blocks, etc. After the original builder is finished, the children will turn around and compare their structures. If time allows, have the partners switch roles.

Even if you listened carefully to your partner's directions, you might not have ended up with matching structures. This activity shows us HOW important listening really is! We especially want to listen to God! Remember that we can make a difference by listening to God!

Prayer Activity:



Supplies: Dry erase board and markers

We've learned that God wants us to listen to Him. But God listens to us, too. What do we call that? (prayer) Let's talk to God because we know that he listens to us. Are there things that you'd like for us to pray about? Let's jot down your prayer requests and watch over the next few weeks as God answers them!

Instructions: Write the children's prayer requests on the dry erase board and then pray for the requests. If possible, leave them on the board and check them off as God answers them.



Memory Verse Activity:

Supplies: Dry erase board and markers

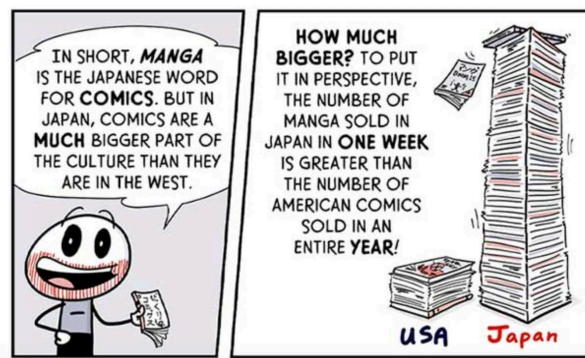
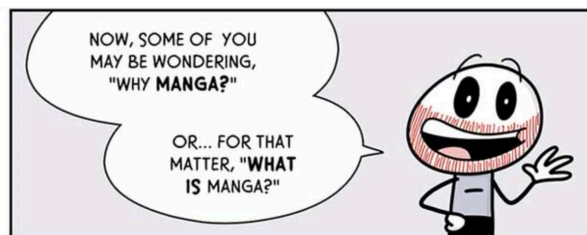
Two sets of the blocks like the ones that were used earlier, and two sets of the printed memory verse

Instructions: Print and cut out two sets of the Bible verse. Tape the sections on the two sets of building blocks. Divide the children into two groups. Have the groups compete to see which group can “stack” the sections of the memory verse together first. This could be done as a relay race, with one child from each group placing the first block, the second child the second block on top of the first block, etc.



How the Gospel Is Reaching Japan

Drawbridge Creations is an online manga outreach. Its purpose is to reach the unchurched, resource the Church, and empower Christian artists, in order to bridge the gap between Church and culture; between Jesus and Japan.



Cultural Activity: Make Your Own Magna

Supplies: Paper, Colored Pencils, Markers, Crayons

Instructions: Have the kids make their own comic strip telling about Jesus or the lesson they learned today.

FEATURED FREQUENT FLYER



NAME

ROBIN WHITE



123654

Robin is from New Brunswick, Canada. He graduated from Kingswood University and has been a Global Partners missionary in Japan since 2008. Yoko is from Kanazawa, Japan, and she is a graduate of Christ Bible Seminary in Nagoya, Japan. They met at their church in Nagoya and were married on April 30, 2019.

Robin and Yoko's current ministry focus is a new initiative called Drawbridge Creations and create comics like you created above.

Robin White Prayer Needs:

- **Robin & Yoko:** Please pray that we can find the right balance between our growing opportunities.
- **Drawbridge Creations:** Pray for us to build good connections with the Church and missionary community in Japan, to promote our ministry.
- **Global Partners:** Pray that God will expand our team in Japan so that we can grow our ministries
- **Japan:** Please pray for Japan to know the hope we have in Jesus. Pray for revival in the Church, and for pastors and missionaries to be called and be more effective in building His kingdom.

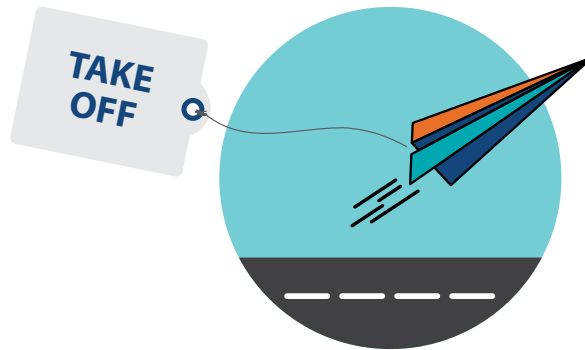
NUNE PEOPLE

Country: Nune Field

Bible Lesson: Esther 1-9

Bottom Line: Standing up for what I believe in.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit a region that most of you have probably not been to. It’s an area called the Nune Field! Look at the map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to where the countries are)

This is where we are, and the Nune Field is here. The area is around Europe.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the country we are in.

Fun Facts

1. My location is a mystery!
2. The Wesleyan Church has missionaries there, but their last name is not known to us!
3. There are over 200 languages spoken in and around these countries.
4. They love to eat something call frites. In America, we call them fries.

Those were fun! We will learn a bit more about our country and our missionaries that serve there in a little bit!

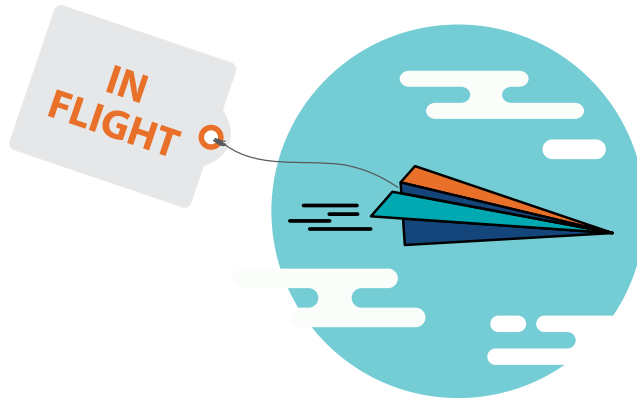
Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship together!

Worship: Pick 2-3 songs

Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how I Can Stand Up For What I Believe In.





Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NirV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Esther 1-9: Stand Strong

Supplies:

Characters like Legos, dolls, or action figures to represent the following:

- Haman
- Esther
- Xerxes
- Mordecai

Back Story:

Esther, also known by her Jewish name Hadassah, lived in Persia. She was orphaned at a young age, but raised by her cousin Mordecai, a man who loved God very much.

In the city of Susa, Persia, was a King named Xerxes. He had a wife named Vashti. She disobeyed the king's request, and in return lost her crown. Once Xerxes calmed down, he was advised to select a new queen. So a search went throughout the town to find all the single ladies in the kingdom. Esther was one of those.

After a year of beauty treatments, she was brought before King Xerxes, and he found favor with her. She became the next Queen of Persia. No one knew that Esther was Jewish. She kept it secret, as Mordecai had asked.

Here is where our story begins:

(You can do this yourself, using different voices, OR you can have 4 different people assist and give them lines. Use puppets, dolls, action figures, or Legos to help you tell your story)

Mordecai: Esther, I was at the front gate, and I heard a plot that the front gate men were going to kill the king!

Esther: I'll tell the king at once!

Narrator: Esther told the king about the plot to kill him, giving Mordecai the credit. Haman was given the task to look into it and found the plot to be true. Haman was given a great title after helping the king. Higher than the Nobles! All the king's men knelt to honor him, except for Mordecai. This made Haman angry!

Haman: Mordecai the Jew, is refusing to bow and honor me. I'll deal with him, and get rid of all the Jews at the same time. I just have to find away to get the king to agree.

Narrator: Haman came up with a plot to get rid of the Jews.

Haman: King Xerxes, there are people in your land who do not agree with your laws and customs. If it pleases the king, it would be in the best interest to the king if you sign an edict to destroy them.

Narrator: And so it was done. It was sent to all the surrounding lands that on a specific day of the year, all Jews were to be killed, and they couldn't defend themselves. Mordecai was so sad that he cried and tore his clothes.

Mordecai: Esther, you must speak with the king.

Esther: If I go to the king without being asked, I could die!

Mordecai: Stand up for your people! Perhaps you were put in this position as Queen for such a time as this!

Esther: Go and gather our people, have them fast and pray for three days, I will do the same. Then I will go to the king. If I die, I die.

Narrator: Esther prayed and fasted (didn't eat) for three days. The she put on her most beautiful outfit and best crown and jewels, and she went to the king. The King saw her and lowered his staff and granted her to come forward, offering her anything she desired.

Esther: Your majesty the King, if it pleases you, I ask that you and Haman come to a banquet in your honor.

Narrator: The King and Haman accepted the offer.

Haman to his wife: I have been asked to dine with the king and queen, my dear wife! But Mordecai will not bow down to me. He refuses.

Narrator: Haman's wife suggested that he go to the king and ask for Mordecai to die. He couldn't wait. As he was on his way to the palace, the king was having a hard time sleeping. The king was reading old notes from previous days and remembered that Mordecai had saved his life. About that time, Haman came in.

King Xerxes: Haman, what would you do for a man who pleased the king?

Haman: Put them on one of your royal horses, put on a royal robe and crest on his head. Have a noble parade him around the city saying, "This is what the King does to those who please him!"

King Xerxes: Excellent, go and do this for the Jew Mordecai!

Narrator: Haman was shocked and angry, but he paraded Mordecai around the city doing as the king had said. The next day Esther had a beautiful banquet! The King asked her again, what she desired, up to half the kingdom.

Esther: If it pleases the king, I would like to invite you to another banquet tomorrow.

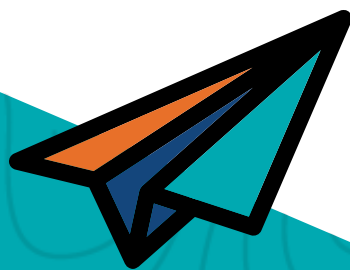
Narrator: The king and Haman joined Esther the next day for another banquet. The King asked her again, curious about what she would like.

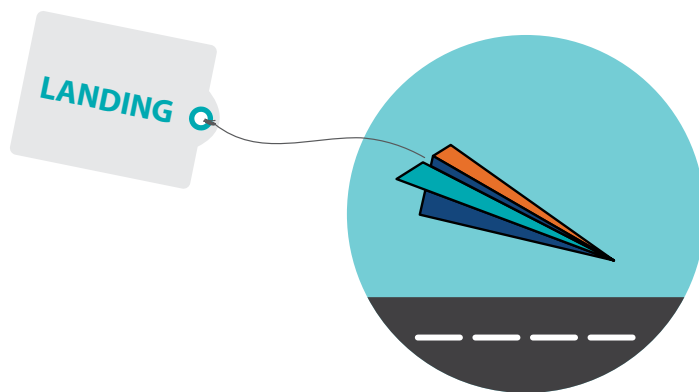
Esther: Here is my request, grant me my life. For I and my people have been sentenced to die.

King Xerxes: Who would dare do such a thing? Name the man!

Esther: Haman!

Narrator: Haman knew he had lost. King Xerxes gave Esther the ability to override the edict. Her people were allowed to fight for themselves, and their people were saved. Mordecai was given the highest title in the kingdom. All was well!





Esther had a big decision to make. She was risking her life so she could save an entire nation of people. Now we may never have to risk our lives for something such as an entire nation, but we can certainly Stand Up For What We Believe In. What are some things that you can stand up for? (Let kids answer; examples could be friends being bullied at school, being a friend to someone who is new, helping people who don't have clothes or food, etc.) Those are great answers! You're right! There are so many things we can stand up for! People in other countries have to stand up for their faith. They get bullied or ignored because they decided to follow Jesus. We are very fortunate to live where we can talk about God openly. Let's Stand Up For What We Believe In this week!

Cultural God Story

For the past few years, the missionaries on the Nune Field have provided physical therapy, special needs education and consulting to families. Their ministry addresses the cultural and practical challenges that leave many families isolated from the rest of the community.

Children and adults with disabilities are very much looked down upon in this country. They live by what is called a honor-shame culture. This means that people are motivated to gain honor and avoid shame, which is seen as a public loss of status that reflects on the entire family or group. Families who have children with special needs are often seen as shaming their culture and family. They often conceal children with disabilities from larger society, believing the disability is a result of some sin or parental fault.

The cultural context proves especially difficult for mothers, who often feel shamed for their children's disabilities. Despite these obstacles, our missionaries continue to work and break down cultural and ethnic barriers, teaching families and children that even those with disabilities "are treasured in His eyes".

When we stand up for God, for what we believe in and what is right, God will always be praised!

Prayer:

Thank you God for people who are willing to stand up for what they believe in and for what is right. Please help our team in Austria keep reaching out to refugees. Help them to show your love in everything they do. Thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Review Activity:

Supplies: review questions

Instructions: Ask kids the following questions to review the Bible lesson.

1. Who was Mordecai? Esther's cousin who loved God very much.
2. Who became the king's new queen? Esther
3. Who hated the Jews and wanted them destroyed? Haman
4. What did Mordecai ask Esther to do? Talk to the king to save the Jews.
5. Was Esther willing to stand up for what she believed in? Yes, even though it put her life in danger.
6. How were the people saved? They were able to defend themselves.
7. How can God use you to stand up for what you believe in? Have kids brainstorm ways they can stand up for what they believe in.



Cultural Activity: Statue Tag

Supplies: None needed

Instructions: Statue tag is a lot like freeze tag. Choose one player to be "it". The other players must run and spread out (in a designated area). If the "it" person tags another player, that player stands "frozen" where they are with their legs wide apart. The player can become "unfrozen" when another player crawls under his legs. The person tagging wins when all the players are frozen.



Game Activity: Staff up, Staff down

Supplies: Crown, Royal staff

Instructions: Have the one kid at the front of the room hold the staff and wear the crown. They will represent King Xerxes. The rest of the kids will be Esther and will stand on the other side of the room and will move towards the king. If the staff is up, they must stop moving. If the staff is pointed towards the kids they can go. Continue until a child reaches King Xerxes. Change roles and play again as desired.

Remember how hard it was for Esther to have the courage to approach the king? Let's practice together as we play a game to help us Stand Up For What We Believe In!



Prayer Activity: *Shoes that travel*

Supplies: a sheet of paper for each child to trace their shoe on, pencils to trace shoe, scissors to cut out outline

Instructions: Give each child a paper and pencil and have them trace their shoe on the paper. Then have kids cut the outline of the shoe out of the paper. After they have cut out their shoe outline, have them write a word or words on the paper to remind them to pray for the refugees who are leaving their countries and the missionaries who are helping them. (Example words could be: leaving, travel, missionary, Austria, no home, etc.) Encourage kids to put their "shoe" in a place where they can pray for refugees and missionaries every time they see it.



Craft Activity: *Crown*

Supplies:

Crown (purchased from a store, or cut out of construction paper)

Buttons

Sticky jewels

Glue

Instructions: Pending the crown you use, have kids cut out the crown and decorate it with the craft supplies. Have them place the crown on their heads. (Option: wear them as they play Staff up, Staff down)

FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS



NAME

TEAM NUNE



123654

The missionary team on the Nune Field serves in the following ways:

- **Evangelism:** spreading the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus
- **Relief and Development:** assisting people who are in need and help those who have experienced a disaster or hardship.
- **Partnership:** coming together with the community to provide help and encouragement

Here is how you can pray:

- Pray for immigrants and refugees to follow Jesus.
- Pray for the missionary team to have wisdom as they share the Good News of Jesus with immigrants and refugees.
- Pray that the missionary team will partner well with others who are doing similar work to theirs

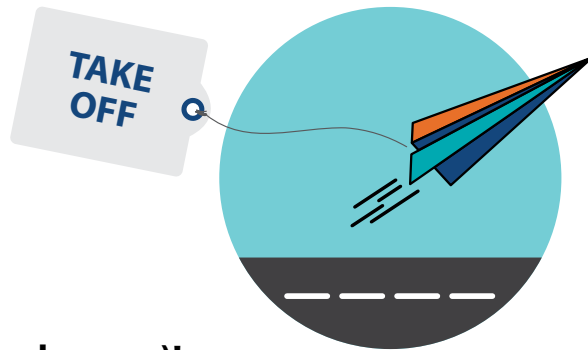
NICARAGUA

Country: Nicaragua

Bible Lesson: The Ten Leper- Luke 17:11-19

Bottom Line: I Can Make a Difference By Being Thankful.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off.” Today we are going to be traveling to a country that you may have never even heard of before. Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to where the country is) This is where we are, and Nicaragua is all the way over there.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the country we are in.



Fun Facts:

1. Nicaragua has many lakes and volcanoes.
2. The official language is Spanish
3. It is the largest country in Central America.
4. The local people call themselves Nicas, but most outsiders refer the people as Nicaraguans
5. Many exotic animals are found in Nicaragua, such as toucans, boa constrictors, monkeys, wild boars, jaguars, and sloths.

How cool were those! Hold on because we will learn way more about our country and missionaries that serve there in little while!

Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship the Lord together!

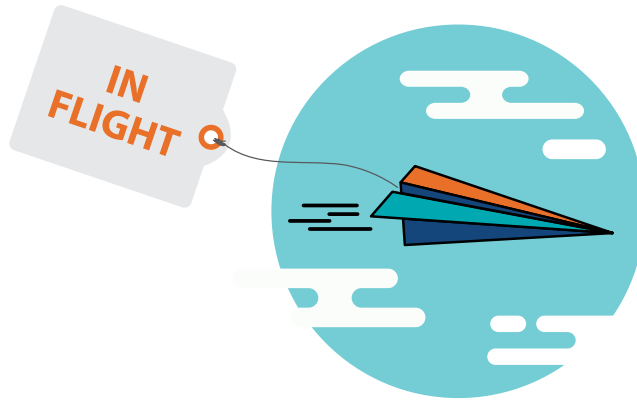


Worship: Pick 2-3 songs



Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how I Can Make a Difference by Being Thankful.



Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NIRV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Luke 17:11-19: The Thankful Leper

Supplies:

- Twenty paper plates
- Ten wooden craft sticks
- Tape/Glue

Before the lesson, draw happy faces on 10 of the plates, and sad faces on 10 of the plates. Take one happy face and one sad face, and put them back to back and attach them to the wooden craft stick with either the tape or glue. Repeat 10 times. (These will represent the 10 Lepers in the story.)

Today, we are going to be looking into a story where we will see some people who were thankful and some people who were not.

In this particular part of the story of Jesus, Jesus (select a child to pretend to be Jesus and have them act out the story as you read it.) was traveling with his disciples to a town called Jerusalem. On the way, he was going by a village and all of a sudden, he saw ten men.

(Select 10 children to be these "men." Give each of them one of the wooden craft sticks with the faces on it.)

Now, we need to pause and understand something about these men. They were very sick and had a disease called leprosy. Can you say leprosy? (Allow the children to respond.)

Leprosy was a really nasty disease that would cause the person to get big sores all over them and the sores were very painful. The people with leprosy had to live away from everyone else so that the healthy people would not catch the disease.

How do you think these men felt, happy or sad? (Children respond sad.)

(Have the children turn their wooden craft sticks to the sad face.)

You are right! These men were very sad. They not only hurt and had this really bad disease, but they could not be with their families or friends either.

So let's go back to the story. Remember, Jesus is walking by this village. When the men saw Jesus, they called out to Him and said loudly "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" (Have the 10 children say this to "Jesus".)

They knew who Jesus was and knew that Jesus could heal them and could perform a miracle. That is why they called out to Him.

When Jesus saw them, he told them to go show themselves to the priest at the Temple. This would show the villagers that they were clean.

(Have the 10 children "travel" toward the priest.)

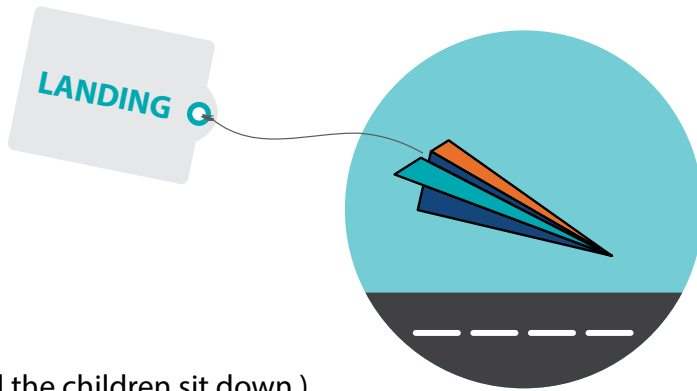
Now, remember they are not healed yet. Jesus just told them to go so they obeyed and started off toward the priest. While they were on the way to the priest, the sores just started disappearing and their pain started getting less and less and they were healed.

Jesus had done a miracle and healed them! How do you think they felt now, happy or sad? (Children should respond, happy.) Of course, they were very happy. They were able to now go back to their lives and be back with their family and friends, leprosy-free.

But here is the part that I don't want you to miss. Does anybody remember what our bottom line was today? (Allow responses.) I can make a difference by being thankful!

When one of the men realized that he was healed, he turned around and went back to Jesus. (Choose one of the 10 children to act this part out.) He fell down at Jesus' feet and thanked him for healing his body. He was so thankful to Jesus!

Then Jesus asked the man, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Jesus wanted to know where the other nine men were. Only ONE of the 10 men came back to Jesus to say thank you.



(Have all the children sit down.)

This week, I want to challenge you to be like that ONE man in the story that came back and was thankful for what Jesus had done for him. We can pray and talk to God and thank Him for everything He has done for us, we can show that we are thankful through our words and actions. We should not be people who complain all the time.

Especially in this month of November, we focus on being thankful, but we can also make a difference around us every month of the year by always being thankful for everything God has given us, whether it is big things or little things. Let's say together, I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY BEING THANKFUL.

Cultural God Story

A missionary in Nicaragua, told the following story:

My husband and I went to a school in Costa Rica in order to learn Spanish. We had two classes each day; one was a grammar class (learning the rules of Spanish) and the other was a language class (practicing how to speak Spanish). My language teacher gave our class a project where I had to go out in public and find people who would be willing to help me by answering questions.

This became frustrating for me because every time I approached someone to ask them to help me, they would walk away before I got there. I had tried to complete the homework assignment for almost a week; the project was due on a Friday and it was now Thursday. I decided that I would go to our local park to find someone to talk to. That's when I met "Maria." She was a young mom, probably in her twenties. She was sitting by herself, watching her two young sons as they played together. Without giving it a second thought, I walked right up to her (I did not want her to end up walking away too) and asked her if she would be willing to help me with my assignment. Much to my surprise, "Maria" agreed to help.

Before I realized it, we had completed the questions in my homework, and we were just talking together as if we had known each other longer than we really had. "Maria" was no longer just answering questions, she was now sharing part of her life story with me. Through our conversation, I learned that her children had just started attending the same school that my boys go to. She shared with me that she doesn't have any friends here and that her family lives more than an hour away. After our time together in the park, she invited me to her home.

She shared some apple juice with me (that is the first time I had apple juice since we moved

from the USA as it is very, very expensive here) and we talked. “Maria” and I have been able to get together and talk a few more times since that day. She is always so very excited to see me (as I am too) and I am so thankful the Jesus has given me the opportunity to be a friend to someone that was needing one. I have not yet had the opportunity to ask her if she knows Jesus. Please pray that as our friendship grows I will be able to share more about Jesus.”



Prayer:

Thank you God for giving us so much. Thank you for opportunities to reach out to others. Help us to always remember to be thankful for what you provide. May our thankfulness touch someone so they can come to know you. We love you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Review Activity:

Supplies: Happy & Sad Face wooden craft Sticks

Instructions: Ask the following questions. If the answer is yes, the children show the happy face. If the answer is no, the children show the sad face.

(Alternative: Have the children simply smile or frown for yes or no.)

1. Jesus was traveling to the town of Jerusalem. YES
2. There were 12 sick men. NO, there were 10 men.
3. The men had chicken pox. NO, they had leprosy.
4. The men with leprosy lived with their family and were able to live a normal life. NO, they had to live in leprosy villages.
5. Jesus listened to their cry for help. YES
6. Jesus told the men to go to the president to be healed. NO, He told them to go to the priest at the Temple.
7. All 10 men were healed of leprosy. YES
8. All 10 men came back and thanked Jesus for what He had done. NO, only one.
9. We can all make a difference by being thankful, like the one man with leprosy. YES!



Cultural Activity: Cincos

Supplies Needed: Marbles, chalk to draw a line

Instructions: To determine who will shoot first in Cincos, the players draw a line on the ground, also called "mica," and then throw their marble from a distance of about six steps from the mica.

The player with the marble closest to the "mica: shoots first.

The players then draw a triangle on the ground and each player places a marble inside the triangle. The objective of the game is to knock all of the marbles out of the triangle.

The players will try to knock out the marbles shooting from the "mica" line on their first turn. Following turns are made from the spot where the shooter marble stopped on the last shot.

If a player knocks out a marble from the triangle and his/her shooter marble stays inside the triangle, the player is allowed to take another turn.

If a player knocks another marble outside the triangle and the shooter marble rolls outside the triangle, he/she cannot take another turn until the rest of the players have shot.

If a player misses, and the shooter marble is still inside the triangle, the player is not allowed to remove the shooter marble until his/her next turn. The shooter marble then becomes a target for the other players. On his/her next turn, the player can then pick up the shooter marble if it has not been hit outside the triangle.

Players get to keep the marbles that are knocked out of the triangle.

Cincos is played until all of the marbles are knocked out of the triangle.



Game Activity: Heal the Sick

Supplies: None

Choose one child to be Jesus. Half of the remaining children are "clean" (meaning without leprosy) and the other half have leprosy.

When the leader says go, the children with leprosy will try to "infect" the children without leprosy by tagging them. The children with leprosy have to walk really slow and yell, "Unclean" to identify themselves as those with leprosy.

"Jesus" goes around and tags anyone with leprosy to "heal" them.

Play until all the children are "clean" and without leprosy.



Prayer Activity: *Thankful Chain*

Supplies: Construction paper, stapler, markers

Instructions: Cut 1-inch strips of paper and give one to each child.

Have the children write something they are thankful for on the strip of paper.

After the children are done, sit together and say, "Thank you God for (each thing that was written.)" After the child says what is on their strip of paper, make it into a loop and form a thankful chain with all the strips of paper.

"It is important that we pray and ask God to help us with certain things, but it is also equally important to praise him and thank him for answers to prayer and thank him for all that He has done for us. God wants to hear our concerns AND our love for Him. Being thankful is part of showing Him that love."



Craft Activity: *Thankful Hands*

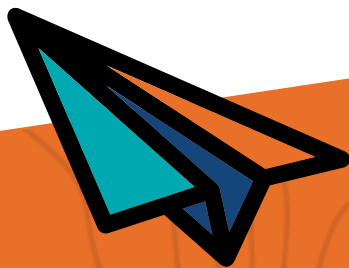
Supplies: Construction paper, scissors, markers

Instructions: Either have the children trace their own hands or have pre-traced hands for them to cut out.

On the palm of the hand, write "I can make a difference by being thankful," or they could simply write, "I am thankful."

On each of the five fingers have the children write something or somebody that they are thankful for.

"Take this home and put it somewhere that you will see it every day. This will help you remember to be thankful for these things. Always remember you can make a difference by being thankful."



FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS

NAME

Ryan & Sarah and Jeff & Diane

123654

RYAN AND SARAH

Ryan and Sarah have been long-term missionaries with Global Partners in Nicaragua since 2011. Ryan and Sarah have four kids that they have enjoyed raising in Nicaragua, each with their own gifts and talents that the Lord has used in incredible ways in both Nicaragua and beyond.

They serve the Nicaraguan church by working with church plants and schools, and by hosting short-term mission teams in order for individuals, families, and communities to learn more about Christ and experience His redemptive power. They build relationships with Nicaraguans through mentoring, community development, ministries of compassion, creating opportunities for Nicaraguan missions teams, as well as reaching out to elementary and high school students and their families with the hope of Jesus.

JEFF AND DIANE

Jeff and Diane moved into missions after long careers in their respective fields. Jeff has been a bi-vocational pastor, serving in childrens' ministries and coaching for many years, including 20 years in camp ministry. Diane has been a nurse in various areas for almost 30 years. They raised eight children, and now are called to serve the world. Their life experiences have developed a deep appreciation of the Hispanic culture, and their love of Jesus has led them to Nicaragua, a country with deep physical and spiritual needs. They are working to serve the underdeveloped areas by leading medical teams, and also working with local churches to grow vibrant local ministries to children and families across the country.

FOTIZO PEOPLE

Country: Fotizo People Group

Bible Lesson: Mary and Joseph - Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:20-25

Bottom Line: I am making a difference by trusting when things seem impossible.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit a people group that most of you have probably not heard of. We can’t say the name of the actual country we’re exploring today, because it can be dangerous for Christians to be there. Can anyone guess where our “destination” might be? Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to the Middle East) This is where we are, and the Fotizo people group is all the way over there.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the area we are in.



Fun Facts:

1. My location is a mystery!
2. The Wesleyan Church has missionaries there, but their last name is not known to us!
3. People in this area are called the Fotizo people.
4. 99.8% of the people in the area are Muslims.
5. The missionaries there are in need of a car!

Those were fun! We will learn a bit more about our people group in a little bit!

Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship the Lord together!

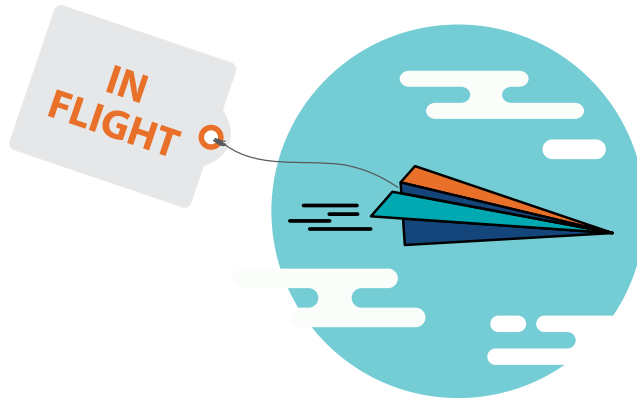


Worship: Pick 2-3 songs



Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how I Can TRUST God even when things seem impossible. But before we get into that, let’s take a look at our memory verse.



Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NirV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: TRUST IN HIM - Mary and Joseph - Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:20-25

Supplies: Several pieces of 8 ½" x 11" paper and several pair of scissors (Try this illustration before using it with the children. It has to be cut just right to work.)

Lesson:

It is amazing to think that our AWESOME God has chosen to use us to spread His love and His peace to people throughout the world. He wants us to be His messengers everywhere. You can be a messenger for God around the world. You can also be a messenger for God on the ball field, or in your school, or at the skating rink. We can make a difference in this world wherever we go.

Following God and being His messenger can be challenging sometimes. Sometimes God will ask us to do things that don't seem to make sense. At times He will ask us to do things that seem IMPOSSIBLE.

Have you ever tried to do something that seemed IMPOSSIBLE? (Allow a couple of children to explain) Well sometimes God gives us tasks to do for Him that seem IMPOSSIBLE too.

I need a couple of volunteers to come and help me with this lesson. I'm going to need someone who thinks they can handle just about anything I can throw at them. I want a couple of people who are smart and creative. I'm going to ask you to do something hard, something that seems IMPOSSIBLE, and I don't want you to give up. I want you to try and figured out a way to do it.

(Give each volunteer a sheet of paper and a pair of scissors) Now what I want you to do is to cut a hole in this paper large enough to fit your body through. Your entire body has to fit through the paper. (Give the children a few minutes to try and figure it out.)

OK. So that task seems crazy doesn't it? It seems IMPOSSIBLE. But it's not. Let me help you and you'll be able to do it. (You could give them another piece of paper to try along with you, or you just demonstrate for them.) First, fold your paper in half, length ways (or "Hot dog" style as opposed to "hamburger" style).

Then cut slits in the paper from one side but not completely across (leaving about 1"). Start the first cut on the folded edge and going towards the open edge. The second cut should go from open edge towards folded edge - alternate cuts across the page. Make sure the last cut goes from folded edge towards open edge.



The paper folded in half, and cuts are where there are dotted lines.
For visual aid, search the Internet, "cut a piece of paper to fit your body".

Open the paper up and slip it over a child's head and down over their shoulders.

(Thank your volunteers and allow them to return to their seats.)

When I first asked my helpers to do this, it seemed IMPOSSIBLE, didn't it? You guys probably thought there was no way they could do that. But when I showed them how, they were able to do it. I knew the answer. I knew it was not impossible all along. But you had to hear it from me and TRUST that I knew what I was talking about.

When God tells us what He needs us to do, we can't see the whole picture like He does. We only see what is in front of us. And what we see looks IMPOSSIBLE. But God knows things we don't know. And God has answers we don't have. And God's Word teaches us in Matthew 19:26, "With man this is IMPOSSIBLE, but with God ALL things are possible." And in Luke 1:37 God says, "For nothing is impossible with God."

Many years ago, two young people experienced a time just like this in their lives. God asked them to do something that seemed completely IMPOSSIBLE. But they found out that with God, ALL things are possible. And as long as they trusted in Him and followed His path, He would make the IMPOSSIBLE, possible. Their names were Joseph and Mary.

Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married. They had promised to marry each other, but they weren't married yet. I'm sure they were excited about getting married and were making their plans for all they would do. But then God interrupted their plans with a mission that seemed crazy.

God sent his angel, Gabriel, to visit with Mary. The angel greeted Mary and called her "you who are highly 'favored.'" God had chosen Mary. He was pleased with her and had picked her for a very special task. The angel told Mary the Lord was with her.

Mary couldn't imagine what this greeting from the angel meant, so she listened carefully to all he told her. Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby boy. This boy was a special boy and she was to call him Jesus. He would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High. This boy would also be a King and would reign forever.

Mary was shocked. This was IMPOSSIBLE. How could this be true? She was not even married yet. She and Joseph were engaged, but not married. There was no way she could be pregnant. This was just IMPOSSIBLE.

Then the angel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her. God would make the baby be inside of her. After all, He is God. And God can do anything. The angel assured Mary that "nothing is impossible with God."

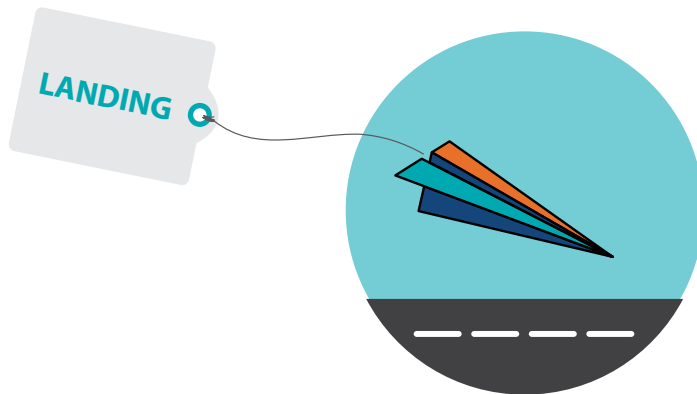
Then Mary did something that is amazing. She didn't respond with more questions. She didn't say, "I don't believe you." She didn't laugh or refuse to do it. Mary just said, if this is what God wants, then this is what I will do. "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

I'm sure there were questions. I'm sure there was fear in Mary. After all, the entire town would be upset with her. What would her parents say? What would Joseph say? He would be humiliated. This would look very bad on the two of them. During this time women could be taken out and stoned for being pregnant before they were married. How was this going to work? But Mary TRUSTED God.

Joseph TRUSTED God too. When he first heard the news he was upset. He didn't understand and he was thinking about breaking off their engagement. But God sent an angel to him also. The angel told Joseph that the child Mary was carrying was from the Holy Spirit. Joseph should not be afraid to marry Mary because this was God's plan. When the baby was born they were to give him the name, Jesus. This baby would save his people from their sins. Even though it was hard, even though it seemed IMPOSSIBLE, even though people probably got quite upset with them, Mary and Joseph TRUSTED in God and did what God asked them to do.

There are a few other people in this story who TRUSTED in God's plan and followed it. There were shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. Angels came and told them about the baby being born. This was the baby God had promised for hundreds of years to send. This was the Messiah. To the shepherds, this news sounded fabulous, but also IMPOSSIBLE. Why would this baby be born now? Why would it be lying in a manger? A manger was a feeding trough for the animals. He was supposed to be a King, born in a palace. A King shouldn't be lying in a manger. This didn't make sense. But they TRUSTED God, went and saw the baby, and then went all over town telling everyone what they had seen. They were rejoicing that the Messiah had come.

Joseph and Mary were young people who God asked to do something IMPOSSIBLE. They TRUSTED in God, and because of their trust, God used them to bring Jesus into this world. The shepherds were told something that didn't make much sense. But they TRUSTED in God and ended up telling everyone what they had seen. If Joseph hadn't TRUSTED in God, if Mary hadn't TRUSTED in God, if the shepherds hadn't TRUSTED in God, I wonder what would have happened? Would you and I know about Jesus today? Would we have the opportunity to go to church and learn more about God?



Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds made a difference in the world when they TRUSTED in God even though things seemed IMPOSSIBLE. You and I can do the same thing. When we TRUST in God even when things seem IMPOSSIBLE, we show others how great our God is. Our TRUST in Him gives Him the chance to show others exactly what He can do. And we get a chance to spread His love and His peace and His mighty power.

Even when things seem IMPOSSIBLE, just remember, "With God, ALL things are possible!" TRUST in Him and let Him use you to make a difference in this world.

Cultural God Story

Five Wesleyans from the South American area (3 people from South America and 2 missionaries) recently traveled to visit Global Partners' Fotizo ministry in the Turkic/Arabic Muslim area. It was an trip to look into the possibility of sending people to South America to be missionaries in the Middle East. The three people from South America on the trip said their heart had been broken for people who don't know Jesus, and they sensed that God is opening the doors for South Americans to reach Muslim people in the Middle East.

When we trust God, He can use us for his glory. When we trust God, he can give us peace. When we trust God, we can see His plans for our lives and His kingdom can be furthered – even when things seem impossible.

Prayer:

Thank you Father for helping us when things seem impossible. Thank you for people who are willing to do your work and who are willing to trust you to guide them. Please help us to remember that you are always bigger than our plans and that you are in control even when we cannot see how things are going to work out. We love you and praise you for all you do. Amen.





Review Activity: Word Review

Supplies needed: A blindfold, large sheet of paper, marker, and tape

On a large sheet of paper, write 10-15 words that were mentioned in the Bible story. Add some words that have nothing at all to do with the story. Attach paper to the wall at children's eye level.

Blindfold a volunteer. At a distance of about 5 feet spin the volunteer around three times and direct him or her toward the paper. Volunteer touches paper with index finger. Remove blindfold. If volunteer "hits" a word by touching it, he or she tells if the word belongs in the Bible story. If the word belongs, volunteer tells information about why or how the word was used in the story.

Repeat the process until everyone has had a chance.

If you have visitors, they can still do the blindfold and point to a word if they'd like, but then someone can help them with whether or not it belongs in the story.

Words:

Mary	engaged	Lord's servant
Joseph	Jesus	manger
Gabriel	Holy Spirit	star
Shepherds	cow	pig
Lion's den	Inn keeper	Bethlehem
Daniel	favored	
trust	Messiah	



Cultural Activity: Stop Game

Supplies Needed: A ball

Instructions: Have players get in a circle. Choose someone to be "it". As "it" throws the ball in the air, they call out the name of someone else. That person must try to catch the ball. If the ball is caught in the air, then "it" gets to do it again, calling out a new name. If the person

whose name is called cannot catch the ball in the air then “it” will get the ball and yell STOP. All players must stop where they are. The person who is “it” must throw the ball at someone. If they hit them, the new person becomes “it”. If they do not hit anyone then they lose a point. The one who loses the most points will do something that the other players want (Like singing a song or jumping like a rabbit).



Game Activity: *Trust Walk*

Supplies Needed: plastic or foam cups, balls of masking tape, plastic cones, etc., masking tape and blind folds.

Instructions: Tape off a large square area for the game. Within the square, randomly place the cups (or balls of tape, or cones, whatever you choose to use). Have the children choose partners to work with for this game. One partner stands on one side of the game area while the other partner is on the other side. One partner puts the blindfold on making sure they cannot see where they are going. The blindfolded partner is trying to get through the playing area without stepping on or kicking or touching a cup (or ball of tape, or cone, etc.). The non-blindfolded child helps their partner by calling out directions for them to walk. The blindfolded child must TRUST their partner to get them through the area.

If you want to make it a little more difficult you could have more than one set of partners walking through the area at a time. Then they have to listen carefully for their partner’s voice.

Afterwards, remind them how we need to TRUST God to get us through things that seem impossible. If we will TRUST Him, ALL things are Possible.

Prayer Activity: *Thankful Chain*

Supplies: Notecards (1 per child) and pencils/pens

Instructions: When the shepherds saw the baby and heard the news they were overjoyed! The people had been waiting for this moment, for this baby, for the Messiah for over 400 years. Now he was here and they had seen him with their very own eyes. When they left the baby, they went out telling everyone what they had seen. They were so excited they just couldn’t keep it in.

God wants us to share the news about Jesus also. He wants us to tell others about how much they are loved and what Jesus did for them when He died on a cross. But sometimes, that seems IMPOSSIBLE or just too hard. It’s not easy talking with people about God.

You and I know many people who are not followers of Jesus. They need to know about Jesus and need to know they can have them as their Savior too.



Close your eyes now and I want you to think of just one person you know who does not know Jesus. Does it seem like it would be hard to tell them about Christ? Maybe you're afraid they will get mad. Or maybe they will make fun of you. God can give you the strength you need to tell those people. Nothing is impossible with Him.

On your notecard, I want you to write the name of at least one person you feel like God would want you to share the good news about Jesus with. You can write more if you'd like.

Have the children take all of the cards and put them on the floor, face down in a pile. Then have the children gather around them. Together spend time praying for each of these people. Ask God to give us all strength to share about Him with everyone. Then gather the cards and redistribute them to the kids explaining you want them to take this card and put it on their dresser or bathroom mirror, or wherever and remember to pray for them every day. And pray God will help you share with them about Him.



Memory Verse Activity:

Supplies: Words of the Bible verse written on separate paper plates (one word or phrase on each plate), a beanbag, and masking tape

Instructions:

Line each plate up in some sort of grid or pattern; face down on the floor like bowling pins, or like a four-by-four square (just depends on how many plates you have).

Put a line of masking tape on the floor in front of the grid a few feet away. One at a time, allow the children to go up to the line and toss the beanbag onto one of the plates. If the bag lands on a plate and stays there, they retrieve the plate, turn it face up and see what word is on it.

After collecting all the plates, the children can work together to put the plates in order to spell out the memory verse. Then they can repeat it together several times. Afterwards see if any child would like to quote the verse by himself from memory.



Craft Activity: Angel Ornaments

Supplies: Blue construction paper, flesh colored construction paper, pipe cleaner (yellow, gold, or silver), small paper plates (or doilies), glue, tape, markers, scissors, and glitter

Instructions & Preparation:

- Cut the blue construction paper into triangles. These will make the bodies of the angel.
- Cut the flesh colored paper into circles. These will make the heads of the angels. Make sure the size is appropriate with the triangle bodies.
- Cut the yellow pipe cleaners in half. Then cut one of the halves into half again.
- Cut the paper plates (or doilies) in half.

In our story today, angels brought Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds the good news about Jesus. They also told them what God wanted each of them to do. Angels had a very important part to play in this story. So today we're going to make some angels to remind us of what we've heard.

Making the Angels:

- Give each child a triangle, a circle, both halves of the pipe cleaner, and half of the paper plate (or doily).
- Have the children glue the flesh colored circle to the top of the triangle.
- Help the children shape half of the pipe cleaner into a circle. Then attach one of the pieces of pipe cleaner to the halo. Then glue or tape that part of the pipe cleaner to the back of the circle (head).
- Glue or tape the half of the paper plate (or doily) to the back of the triangle.
- Now use glitter, glue, crayons and markers to decorate.

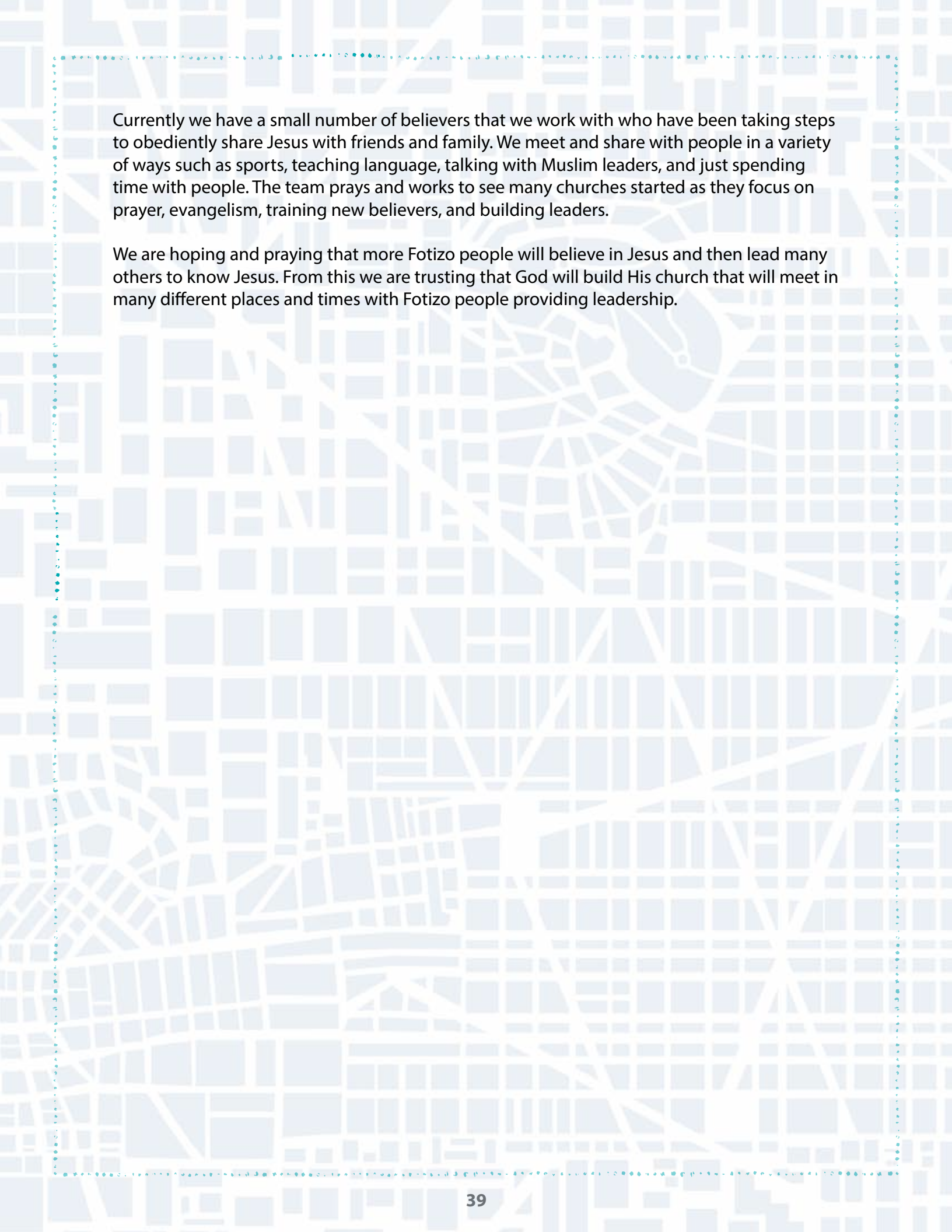
FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS




NAME
THE FOTIZO TEAM

123654

The Wesleyan Church's ministry among the Fotizo people began in 2006 when the first family arrived. Since that time they have developed a team that partners with others in sharing the message of Jesus in a country where very few people have heard the truth. Almost all (99.6 %) of the Fotizo people follow the teachings of Islam. Oftentimes the Fotizo people who follow Jesus are treated badly by their families and also have a difficult time finding jobs. The need for millions of people to hear about Jesus as Savior was a key reason for the Wesleyan ministry to begin among the Fotizo people.



Currently we have a small number of believers that we work with who have been taking steps to obediently share Jesus with friends and family. We meet and share with people in a variety of ways such as sports, teaching language, talking with Muslim leaders, and just spending time with people. The team prays and works to see many churches started as they focus on prayer, evangelism, training new believers, and building leaders.

We are hoping and praying that more Fotizo people will believe in Jesus and then lead many others to know Jesus. From this we are trusting that God will build His church that will meet in many different places and times with Fotizo people providing leadership.

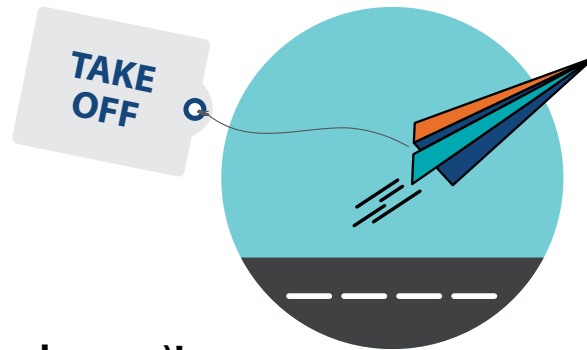
MOZAMBIQUE

Country: Mozambique

Bible Lesson: Gideon: Judges 6-7

Bottom Line: God's strength overcomes my weakness.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit a country that most of you have probably not been to. Let me give you hint. Take a look at our flag (on pg. 86). Can anyone guess where our “destination” might be? Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. This is where we are, and the country we are visiting today, called Mozambique, is all the way over here.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the country we are in.

Fun Facts:

1. Mozambique’s coast runs for 1500 miles and features islands and coral reefs where over 1200 species of fish can be found.
2. The Republic of Mozambique is in southeast Africa, across from the island of Madagascar.
3. Portuguese is spoken in Mozambique.
4. The capital city is Maputo. It is the largest city in Mozambique.
5. The Mozambican metical is the currency used in Mozambique.

Aren’t those interesting? We will learn a bit more about our country and our missionaries that serve there in a little bit!

Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship the Lord together!

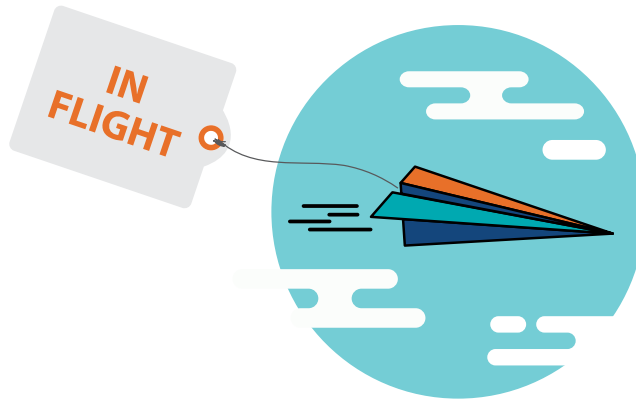
Worship: Pick 2-3 songs





Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how God’s strength overcomes my weakness. We have a special Bible Character from the book of Judges who is going to help us learn about what it means to overcome our weaknesses with God’s strength. First, let’s take a look at our memory verse for the year!



Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NIRV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, “Your God rules!”

Let’s say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Gideon Learns to lean on God: Judges 6-7

Supplies:

- Box or large clean trash can to be used as a barrel
- 2 Cloths
- Bowl
- Pitcher of Water
- Pan
- Gideon in Costume
- Angel in Costume
- All Kids to assist throughout

Here is some backstory before we jump into our story today. Gideon was a regular guy. His people were bullied by the Midianites and Amalekites and some of the other eastern countries. They took their lunch money and chocolate milk. OK, maybe not their lunch money, but they did steal their cattle and crops so the people were starving. They swarmed like a cloud of grasshoppers... they took everything

So here is where our story begins...

Gideon was hiding in a barrel (hide in box or clean trash can) while he was working with wheat. An Angel of the Lord came to him and said, "Mighty warrior, the LORD is with you." "Pardon me, sir," Gideon replied, "you say the LORD is with us. Then why has all this happened to us? (6:12-13) Gideon was confused because they had been bullied for so long. "The LORD turned to Gideon. He said to him, "You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you. I will be with you. So you will strike down the Midianites. You will leave no one alive." (6:14-16)

Even after the Lord had called Gideon a mighty warrior and told him that he was strong, Gideon questioned God by asking how he could be the one to do it. "Gideon was the least important person of his family. He was probably the youngest of many brothers and sisters." Gideon wanted proof that what the angel was saying was true. So he presented an offering to the Angel and it went up in flames. (Have the child "give" the Angel the "offering") Gideon knew then, it was the Lord.

Gideon began gathering his army from all over the country side. Many men were gathering from all over the territory. Gideon was still afraid, so he challenged God with more proof. Gideon said to God, "You promised you would use me to save Israel. Please do something for me. I'll put a piece of wool on the threshing floor. Suppose dew is only on the wool tomorrow morning. And suppose the ground all around it is dry. Then I will know that you will use me to save Israel. I'll know that your promise will come true." (Have "Gideon" place the fleece down on the "ground" which is represented by the pan. Have the kids close their eyes like it's nighttime and wet the cloth, enough to make it to where you wring it out and water can go into a bowl.)

And that's what happened. Gideon got up early the next day. He squeezed the dew out of the wool. The water filled a bowl. (6:36-38)

Then Gideon wanted God to prove himself again. So he asked God to do the same, but in reverse, so the fleece would be dry and the ground would be wet.

(Have "Gideon" place the fleece down on the "ground" which is represented by the pan. Have the kids close their eyes like it is nighttime. While their eyes are closed, switch the cloths to a dry one and put water in the pan.)

God came through again to show that Gideon was going to win the battle.

So many people came to help Gideon win the battle, there were 32,000 people! But the Angel of the Lord looked at Gideon and said, "Gideon, you have too many people in your army. Go and ask those who are still afraid and send them home." So 22,000 people went home that day. Gideon was left with 10,000. The angel of the Lord came to Gideon again and said, "You still have too many people."

I think Gideon looked at him like he was crazy.

They had traveled many days. "So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink." (7:5-6)

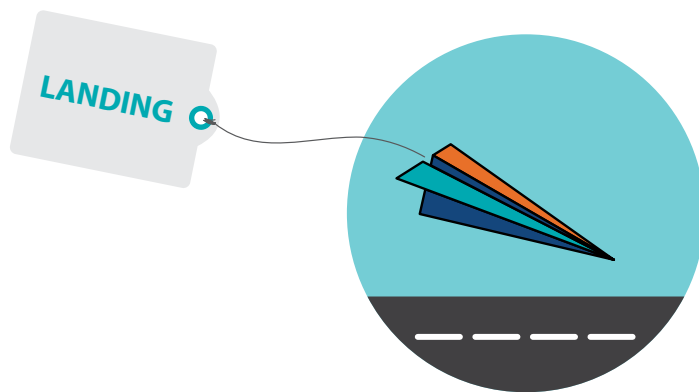
(Have some kids lap up like dogs from their hands, and others drink on their hands and knees.)

Gideon was left with 300 people. 300 PEOPLE... WHAT? How was he going to take on the whole Midianite army with just 300 people? The Angel of the Lord had given Gideon one more piece of proof that He was going to hand over the Midianites.

Gideon was still scared, but he knew that God's Strength overcomes his weakness! He knew what God wanted him to do. He divided the army into three groups (divide the kids into 3 groups to be your army). With a covered torch (flash light or glow stick) in one hand and a horn (party horn) in the other, they surrounded the Midianites army in the dark (turn the lights off) while they were sound asleep.

"The three fighting groups blew their trumpets. They smashed their jars. They held their torches in their left hands. They held in their right hands the trumpets they were going to blow. Then they shouted the battle cry, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" Each man stayed in his position around the camp. But all the Midianites ran away in fear. They were crying out as they ran."

That day, Gideon and his army were victorious.



Gideon was just another guy in the neighborhood... nothing special. He was hiding at the bottom of a barrel when the Angel of the Lord found him. Gideon wanted proof that God was going to do as He said. Gideon didn't have the confidence in himself that God could do what He said He would do. That's called weakness. God proved himself many times to Gideon that His strength overcomes our weakness. God helps us when we are weak, he helps us when we are strong, but God is so much stronger than any of us. He wants us to depend on Him

and ask Him questions when we feel lost, frustrated, and sad. Like our bottom line says God's strength overcomes my weakness. It reminds me of a wonderful song... I think you know it, let's sing it together!

Sing "Jesus Loves me"

Cultural God Story

Recently in the province of Nampula in Mozambique, a group of missionaries and national leaders showed the JESUS film in a neighborhood located in the village of Anchilo. This neighborhood is home to mostly drug addicts and alcoholics. The local government tried to stop the workers from going there because they thought the neighborhood was too dangerous. By the grace of God and after praying, the missionaries showed the film. In the end, 20 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. A home group was started and it is growing every day.

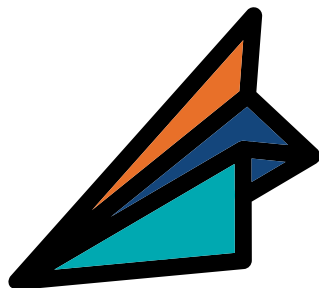
God gives us courage and promises us his protection when he calls us to step out in faith. Many times our fear and weaknesses will stop us from doing what we believe is right, but in Christ we can do all things.

Please pray for these souls that have been enslaved for many years. Pray that they would become true followers and witnesses of Christ.



Prayer:

Thank you for missionaries who go to places all over the world to share your love with others. Please continue to show them your strength and help them to trust you when they feel weak. Thank you for the people who have been reached in Mozambique through the Jesus film. Thank you for your protection over the workers. Thank you God that you are always strong – especially when we are fearful and weak. Help us to always trust in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Review Activity: *Throw the Fleece*

Supplies:

- Socks rolled into balls or soft balls to represent a fleece
- Two large bowls
- True and False Signs

Instructions:

- Attach one true and false sign to each bowl.
- Have the kids break up into two lines (pending the number of kids you have, you can have more than one station).
- Ask the true and false statements. To answer, the kids at the front of the line throw their sock into the bowl labelled with the correct answer. The first one to make it in wins the point. Switch to the next kids in line!

Review Questions, True or False

1. Midianites were nice, friendly neighbors (F)
2. The Midianites stole all their animals and land (T)
3. Gideon was found at the bottom of a barrel (T)
4. An Angel of the Lord told Gideon he was going to take over the world (F)
5. Gideon was brave (F)
6. Gideon asked God to prove himself with fleece getting wet one day and staying dry the next (T)
7. Gideon gathered an army of 10000 people (F)
8. God told Gideon if people in his army were afraid, they should go home (T)
9. God told Gideon to keep all the people who lapped up the water from their hands like a dog (T)
10. Gideon's army consisted of 300 people (T)
11. Gideon's army had A LOT of weapons (F)
12. Gideon and his army won without lifting a sword (T)
13. The Midianites were afraid and ran away (T)
14. God was faithful to Gideon (T)



Cultural Activity: Mancala

Supplies Needed: Self-drying clay or Egg Carton, 48 marbles, seeds, beads, or any other small pieces (24 for each player playing the game). You may also use an actual Mancala board game.

Instructions: You may want to do this activity as kids are coming into the room.

- Have the kids roll out their clay at least 1/2"-1" thick in a rectangle or long oval (the rectangle or oval should be 10-12" long).
- Using their thumbs, tell the kids to make a deep groove on each short end of the rectangle. This groove should be two-thumbs wide. Evenly place six thumb-sized grooves on one long side of the rectangle, and place matching grooves on the other.
- Start by putting four play pieces in each of the 12 middle grooves.
- You can find the rules to Mancala online at <http://www.mancalarules.com/> or by purchasing an actual game at a local store.



Prayer Activity: Hand Prayers

Supplies: Each student needs a piece of paper, a pen or pencil, and scissors.

Instructions: Ask students to trace their hand. They then need to cut their paper hand out. (You may need to help smaller students.)

On the four fingers they should write:

1. Something that they want to thank God for.
2. Something that scares them that they need God's strength to face.
3. Something for which they would like to ask God's help for.
4. Something they are sorry about.

Have students fold down the fingers on their paper hand if they want to keep their prayers secret. The hand will then be in the thumbs up position. This can remind them that God hears our prayers and is our strength.



Memory Verse Activity: Our Sword

Supplies: Memory verse sections printed and cut out and taped on 2" sections of pool noodles. You will need one set for each group of 4-5 kids.

Instructions:

- Pool noodles cut into 1-2" pieces with a slice through to the middle on one side so it will fit on the dowel rod, or hula hoop.
- Explain that we will be doing a race between teams to see which team can put the sections of the verses in the correct order the quickest.
- Each team has a set of pool noodle verses.
- When you say "Go!" each team will try to put the sections in the correct order.



Craft Activity: *Message in a Bottle*

Supplies: Plastic containers (water bottles, peanut butter jars, etc.), rolls of masking tape, tins of shoe polish (brown or black), rags, plastic gloves, Bible verse printed for each child.

Instructions:

- Give each child a plastic bottle and have several share a roll of masking tape.
- They will take small pieces of masking tape and cover the entire bottle.
- Using a rag (and gloves, if desired), rub shoe polish over entire masking tape surface. More coats of shoe polish will make the "bottle" darker.
- Use a clean rag to buff the entire surface.
- Roll and insert the Bible verse into the "bottle" (so it can be removed and reviewed)



"Take this home and put it somewhere that you will see it every day. This will help you remember to be thankful for these things. Always remember you can make a difference by being thankful."

FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS



NAME

JIM & KAREN PICKETT

123654

Resourcing and mentoring pastors and pastors-in-training across Mozambique has been Jim's passion since 1999. Jim is a professor at Xai-Xai Bible College and conducts seminars at churches. He has also produced water filters in Northern Mozambique. Previously, Jim pastored in New York for 10 years.

Karen is a professor at the Bible College and assists the Mozambican church in developing Sunday school, teaching, and organizational ideas that they can reproduce to equip and energize their local congregations. She has also taught at two missionary children's schools.

Jim has a master's in missions and education. Karen has a master's in ESL (English as a second language).

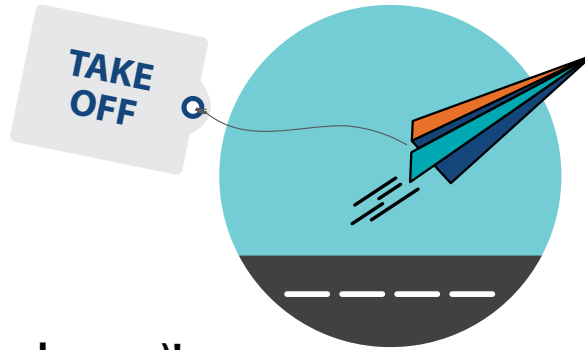
CROATIA

Country: Croatia

Bible Lesson: David and Jonathan- 1 Samuel 20

Bottom Line: I Can Make a Difference By Being a Good Friend.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off.” Today we are going to be traveling to a country that you may have never even heard of before. Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to where the country is) This is where we are, and Croatia is all the way over there.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the country we are in.



Fun Facts:

1. Croatian people have their own alphabet, called Glagolitsa. It was used until the 19th century.
2. Croatia is known as a country of 1,000 islands. It has 1244 islands, islets and reefs, but less than 50 are inhabited.
3. The necktie was invented by the Croats in the 17th century. In Croatia it is known as kravata.
4. The Dalmatian breed of dog originates from the southern Croatian region of Dalmatia.
5. Croatians can vote by the age of 16 if they have a job. If not, they must wait until the age of 18.

How cool were those! Hold on because we will learn way more about our country and missionaries that serve there in little while!

Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship the Lord together!

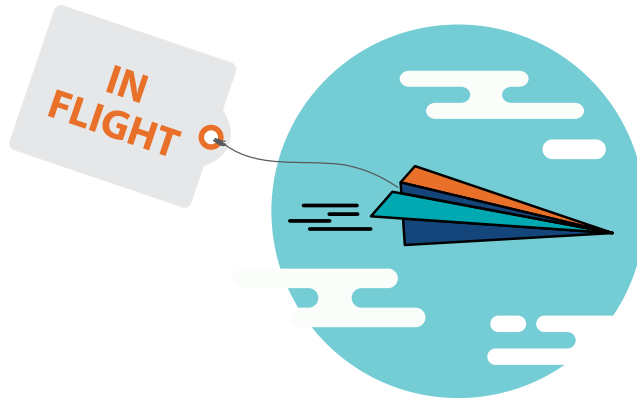


Worship: Pick 2-3 songs



Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how I Can Make a Difference by being a good friend.



Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NirV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)

Bible Lesson: 1 Samuel 20- David & Jonathan

Optional: Have three children act out the story as you tell it. You would need a Saul, David and Jonathan.

Today, we are going to talk about two men in the Bible who were the best of friends. Their names are David and Jonathan. Their story is found in the Old Testament in the book of 1 Samuel.

Here is some background to the story. Jonathan's dad was named Saul. Saul was the king at this time, and David was anointed to be the next king. Saul did not like this at all and he was very jealous of David.

Saul had a lot of bitterness in his heart towards David and wanted to come up with a plot to kill David. Now remember, who was David's best friend? (Allow responses.) Jonathan. And who was Jonathan? (Allow responses) Saul's son.

Saul came to Jonathan one day and told him and some of the attendants that they were to kill David. This was Jonathan's best friend, so how was he going to be able to do this? He was not! Jonathan went up to Saul and said, "Hey dad, don't you remember what David did for us? Don't you remember when he killed Goliath and saved all of us? I know you are mad at him, but don't you think he deserves to live?"

Saul listened to Jonathan and he thought about what he said. Saul said, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death." (1 Samuel 19:6)

Sounds great, right? (Allow responses.) Saul just made a great promise to Jonathan. It sounds like Jonathan has saved David's life, but this is when the story takes a turn.

Saul just could not get the anger that he had for David out of his head. He was so angry that one day he could not handle it anymore. Saul and David were together and David was playing the lyre, which is a musical instrument, and Saul leaped at David and tried to kill him.

Saul broke his promise to Jonathan and was now trying to kill David. The only thing David knew to do was to run away. David went home and Saul sent men after him. David's wife knew the men were coming and warned David. She even tricked the men and told them that David was sick in bed. She had made it look like David was laying in the bed, but David was running to another place.

Soon enough, Saul found out where David was and sent groups of men after him. It just so happened that David was meeting with Samuel, who was the priest. When the groups of men came after David, the Spirit of the Lord came upon them and they were not able to kill him.

Saul sent three different groups of men and the same thing happened to each group. Saul was finally ready to take matters into his own hands, but just like the groups of men, as soon as he got close to David and Samuel, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

Not only was Jonathan taking care of David, but God was too!

The crazy part was that Jonathan had no idea what was happening. He thought that his father was still keeping his promise. He had no idea that Saul was trying to kill David.

While the Spirit of the Lord was upon Saul, David was able to escape and he met back up with Jonathan. David asked Jonathan, "Why is your father trying to kill me?" Jonathan said, "My dad would not do anything without telling me first, so you are okay."

David was not convinced, so the two guys came up with a plan. They had a plan to test Saul and see how angry he would get. If Saul did not get angry, then David was safe, but if Saul did get angry, then David's life was in danger.

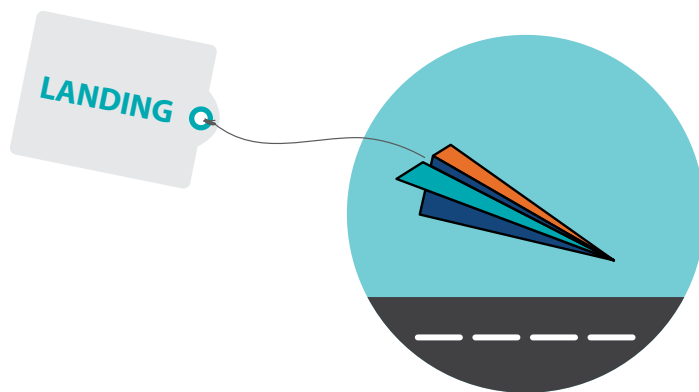
They made a promise to each other and God's Word tells us they did, "because he loved him as he loved himself." (20:17) David and Jonathan loved each other so much that they were willing to do anything for each other.

So, David hid out in the field and Jonathan went to go meet his father, Saul. It was during the New Moon Feast and David was supposed to join the king at a meal. Saul realized that David was not there. Saul asked Jonathan where David was and when Jonathan explained that David was not there, Saul got very, very angry. Jonathan knew that his father was not going to keep his promise not to kill David.

Jonathan left the meal and went to the field that David was hiding in. He told David exactly what had happened. They knew that the only way to keep David alive, was to let him leave.

It was almost like a friend having to move away. David and Jonathan were so close and loved each other so much that God's Word tells us that they wept together. They knew this was the only way to protect David, so David left and Jonathan went back to town.

Jonathan was willing to do anything to help David. That shows us that he was a great friend. We can make a difference by being a good friend, too. Maybe one of our friends falls down on the playground and gets hurt. Instead of running off and playing another game, we can stop and help them up. Or maybe we have a friend on our sports team that isn't as good as everyone else. You could take the time to help them understand how to play. There are so many ways that we can be good friends to others. God wants us to be like David and Jonathan. Just like they made a difference in each other's lives, we can make a difference in our friend's lives too.



Cultural God Story

Our missionaries in Croatia told us this:

We try to make friends with new people all the time. For adults in Croatia, one of the ways we show we are becoming friends is by inviting someone into our house or inviting them to coffee. Being friends is a very important part of helping people know who Jesus is and what He did for us. We were trying to make friends with the Jones* family. It is hard sometimes because people are busy or spending time with their current friends. Dino*, the father in the Jones* family, came to install some mosquito screens on our windows. We wanted to say "thank you," so we made a batch of muffins. We took the muffins to their house and were immediately invited to join them for coffee (a sign of friendship). We sat and talked for a long time. God made it possible for us to become friends. Now because we said thank you, we have a chance to tell them about Jesus. Please pray for the Jones* family and for us!

*name changed due to security reasons.



Prayer:

Thank you, God, for missionaries who are telling others about you. Help them to continue to build friendships to give opportunities to show them who you are. Help us to build friendships as well, right where we are, so that more people come to know you. We love you and thank you for all you do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Review Activity: *True or False*

Supplies: None Needed

Instructions: Using the following questions, review today's lesson. Have the kids get in pairs. If they think the answer to the question is true, tell them to face their partner. If they think it is false, then stand back to back.

1. Jonathan's Dad was the King. True
2. Jonathan and David were best friends. True
3. Saul really liked David. False – he was jealous of David and wanted to kill him
4. Saul promised he would not hurt David. True
5. David tried to hurt Saul. False – Saul tried to hurt David
6. Saul kept his promise to not hurt David. False – he tried to kill him
7. Jonathan protected David. True
8. It is important for me to be a good friend. True



Cultural Activity: *Brusim, brusim skarice*

Translated, it means "I'm sharpening, sharpening my scissors." Don't worry; kids don't use sharp objects in the game. It's supposed to be played in an orchard or another place with lots of trees.

Supplies Needed: (Suggested adaptation to game) Large area to play, cones as designated bases (fewer than the number of kids playing), and 2 pool noodles

Instructions: One player takes two separate branches (or pool noodles) and crosses them over one another as though they were scissors. His task is to catch the other players – basically, the one with the scissors is "it." However, as long as the other players are physically touching one of the surrounding trees (or designated bases), they are considered "safe."

There is a rule, however, that each one tree (or base) provides safety only to one single player, the one who touched it last. This means that players can run towards other player's trees (bases) and by touching them, they are ridding their opponents of their safety, providing a

chance for “it” to find his victim. If all the players manage to change trees at least once, the scissor-yielding catcher loses. If he manages to touch a tree-less person with his branches, the player caught becomes “it,” and the game starts again.



Game Activity: *Who is it?*

Supplies: One piece of paper per child, and pens/pencils

Instructions: Have kids write their name and three things about themselves on the piece of paper. Tell them to keep it a secret and don't let anyone see what they are writing. (Younger kids may need help from an adult.) After the kids are done, collect all the papers and mix them up. Have the kids sit in a circle. Have a leader randomly choose papers and see if kids can guess who wrote it. Read one description at a time to see how quickly they can guess.

Say to the kids, “Part of being a good friend is getting to know each other. This week, let's see if you can learn something new about each of your friends!”



Prayer Activity: *Prayer for Friends*

Supplies: None Needed

Instructions: Have kids think of someone that they need to be a better friend to. Have kids silently pray that they will become a better friend and that they can follow the example of the friendship of Jonathan and David. After a minute or so, close in prayer.



Craft Activity: *Friendship Card*

Supplies: Paper, pens & pencils, stickers or other items to decorate cards

Instructions: Give each child a piece of paper and something to write with. Have them make a card for one of their friends – just to thank them for being a good friend. They can decorate the card as well. Encourage them to give their card to their friend and to remember to be a good friend as well.

FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS



NAME _____

THE PICKSLAY & THE ENGLAND FAMILY

123654

THE PICKSLAYS

Kent and Cheri have been serving in the Dalmatian region of Croatia since 1993.

Vision: A movement of reproducing, disciple-making churches that transform lives and communities throughout the unreached regions of Croatia.

They currently reside in the historic town of Trogir, where they serve the community through English clubs and camps, marriage and family seminars, sports ministries, and Christian education.

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known..." (Romans 15:20)

THE ENGLANDS

Chris and Wendy have been ministering as long-term missionaries in Croatia since 2005. Both of them experienced short-term mission opportunities as young people and then together after they were married.

Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV) speaks to the Englands about their call to ministry and missions: “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

Their desire is to model Christ to the people of Croatia, share with them His transforming power, connect them with other Christian believers, equip them to grow in their walk with Christ, and challenge them to discover Christ's call to ministry.

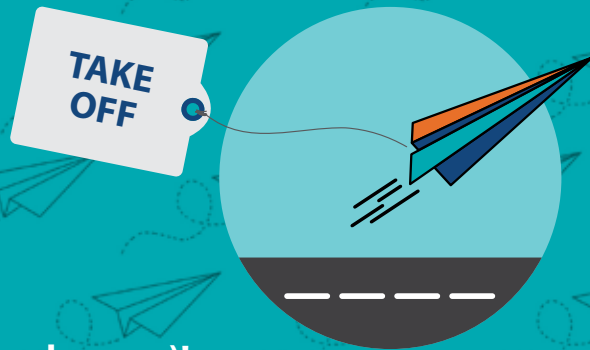
CAMBODIA

Country: Cambodia

Bible Lesson: The Shunammite woman: 2 Kings 4:8-37; Romans 12:13

Bottom Line: I am making a difference by serving God's servants.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit a people group located in Southeast Asia. Does anyone want to take a guess where our “destination” might be? Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to Cambodia) This is where we are, and Cambodia is all the way over there.

Fun Facts:

- 
1. The largest religion in Cambodia is Buddhism
 2. Cambodia is largely a land of plains and great rivers.
 3. The average temperature in Cambodia is 83 degrees all year.
 4. There is no McDonalds in Cambodia.

How cool were those! Hold on because we will learn way more about our country and missionaries that serve there in little while!

Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship the Lord together!

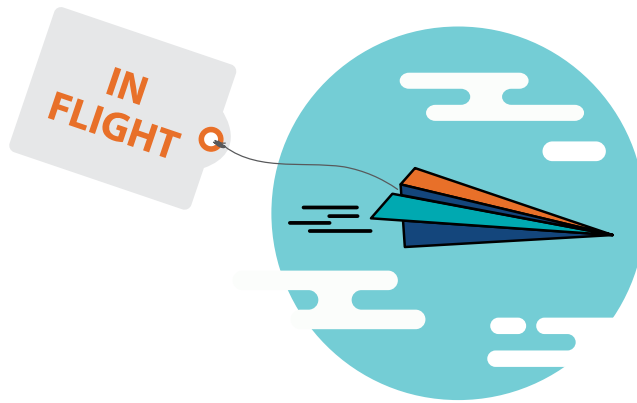


Worship: Pick 2-3 songs



Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how we can make a difference by serving God’s servants. Our memory verse helps show us that it is wonderful to make a difference for God! Let’s take a look at it.



Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NirV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



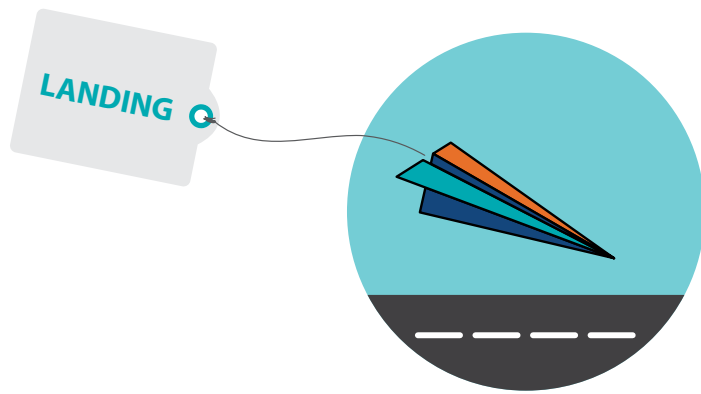
Bible Lesson: The Shunammite woman: 2 Kings 4:8-37; Romans 12:13

Lesson:

Let's take a look in the Bible at someone who does something very important and helps someone in need!

Today we will look at 2 Kings chapter 4, verses 8-10. Let's read them. **Read verses.**

The prophet Elisha travels around from town to town. At some point he goes to the town of Shunem. While he is there he meets a woman. We don't know much about her and her husband, the Bible just describes her as well-to-do. Usually when you say someone is well-to-do, it means they are rich. She asked Elisha to come over for a meal and he did. Anytime he was in Shunem after that, he stopped there to eat with them. The woman knew that Elisha served God and she knew he traveled a lot. She asked her husband if they could make a room for Elisha to stay in during the times he was in Shunem. So they did. It was a place he could rest, relax, study, and sleep. The Shunammite woman was serving Elisha as he served God.



The Bible tells us in Romans 12:13 to “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” This is exactly what the Shunammite woman was doing. She realized that Elisha had a need and was willing to take care of it.

Our bottom line today is, “I am making a difference by serving God’s servants.”

**Prayer:**

Thank you Jesus for people who are called to take care of your servants. Thank you for the difference that they make in the lives of others. May we always be willing to look for opportunities to do the same. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Review Activity: *Can You Remember?***

Instructions: Ask kids the following questions to see how much they can remember from the lesson.

1. Where did the woman who helped the prophet live? Shunem
2. What did she and her husband do for the prophet? They made a room for him to stay in during the times he was in Shunem.
3. What was the name of the prophet? Elisha



Game Activity: *I Can Serve Others*

Supplies Needed: Two bowls for each team, 10 ping pong balls (or other objects that can be moved with a spoon) for each team, a spoon for each kid.

Instructions: This is a relay game between teams. Give one person from each team a bowl and have them sit across the room holding the bowl. Line up the rest of the team members on the other side of the room behind another bowl that is filled with ping-pong ball. Tell them that they are going to serve their team member by filling their bowl. The first person from each team is to use the spoon (no hands) to get one of the balls out of the bowl, take it across the room and put it in their teammate's bowl, race back and tag the next person who will do the same. Keep doing this until all of the balls at the start line have been put in the teammate's bowl across the room. The first team finished and sitting down wins the relay.

Prayer Activity: *Praying for God's Servants prayer wall*

Supplies: Sticky notes or index cards, a wall or board designated for prayer, pencils, crayons, markers.

Instructions: Tell kids that it is important to pray for others, especially those who are serving God. On the wall or board, have the kids list people who serve God every day (missionaries, Pastors, even the people running the Shunem House, etc.). Then have kids write prayers for these people. Encourage kids to keep adding to the list and to continue to remember to pray for each person on the list.

Memory Verse Activity:

Supplies: A white board with the verse on it

(Isaiah 52:7 (NIRV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!") Leave out key words so the kids can fill them in.

Instructions: Write the memory verse on the board leaving out key words. Let the kids supply the missing words until the entire verse is filled in.

Craft Activity: *Thank You for Serving*

Supplies: Various items to make thank you cards (paper, markers, colored pencils, crayons, stickers, glitter, etc.)

Instructions: Have kids make a thank you card showing appreciation for someone who is serving in their church. In this way they will be serving some of God's servants.



Andrew and Lexi

After a short trip to Cambodia, Andrew and Lexi fell in love with the beautiful country. They felt like they had found their new home. After time of discerning and praying, they followed the Lord’s leading and surrendered to his will. A song that they live by says, “I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation.”

Their desire is to build their lives upon God and express his love with those around them. Andrew and Lexi long to share the good news with the people in Cambodia and to see “no dark places” remaining there.

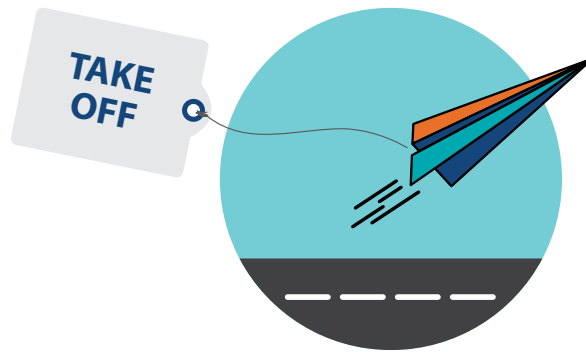
KARIS PEOPLE

Country: Karis People Group

Bible Lesson: Nicodemus, John 3

Bottom Line: I am making a difference by sharing the salvation message.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit a place that most of you have probably not been to. Our “destination” is not actually a country, but it is a people group. It has to be a secret because it can be dangerous for our missionaries if people know they are sharing the good news of Jesus with others. *It is in the Turkish/Arabic area, which is here. Show kids general area on map.*

Fun Facts:

1. The Karis people rank 10th in coffee consumption.
2. They are located in an area that has more waterfalls than Italy, France and Germany combined.
3. One of the national animals in the Turkish/Arabic area is fennec fox.
4. There are over 35 different languages that make up this population of people.

How cool were those! Hold on because we will learn way more about our country and missionaries that serve there in little while!

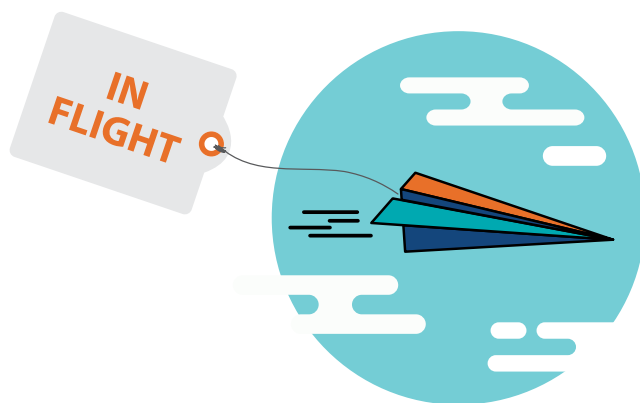
Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship the Lord together!

Worship: Pick 2-3 songs

Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how to make a difference by sharing the salvation message.





Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NIRV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Nicodemus, John 3

Supplies needed: Picture of Nicodemus or a stick figure labeled "Nicodemus", picture of Jesus or a stick figure labeled "Jesus", one set of word bubbles (at end of lesson), poster board or large piece of butcher paper, scotch tape, Bible

Prepare before: Cut out and glue the pictures of Nicodemus and Jesus to the poster board, leaving enough room above and around each picture to stick on the word bubbles. Hang the poster board on a wall, or put it on an easel or white board. Cut out the word bubbles.

Lesson:

We see often in the Bible that the Jewish religious leaders, called the Pharisees, didn't like Jesus. In fact, you may remember that they were the ones that convinced the Romans to crucify Jesus. They were all against Jesus, though, and today we're going to learn about one of them. His name is Nicodemus, and he wanted to understand Jesus' message. Let's take a look at a conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus. It's in John 3, and it's one of the most important parts of the whole Bible.

First, let's set the scene. It says, "There was a man named Nicodemus," (reveal the picture of Nicodemus). It says he was "a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee." He was a very important man then. (Pretend like you are bowing to the picture of Nicodemus) "After dark one evening, Nicodemus came to speak to Jesus." Let's turn the lights off. (Turn off lights in the room, or enough to make it much darker. Reveal the picture of Jesus.)

Now, what in the world do you think Nicodemus came to talk to Jesus about? (Allow several kids to share answers. Add some silly suggestions such as, “Maybe he wanted to see if Jesus was any good at basketball.” “Or maybe he wanted to arm wrestle Jesus. No?”)

Let’s work as a team to see if we can piece together this very important conversation. I have some word bubbles with the things Jesus and Nicodemus said. Do you think we can figure it out? I’ll give you a hint; none of them say anything about basketball or arm wrestling. The first word bubble says, “Rabbi, we all know that God has sent you to teach us. The miracles you do show that God is with you.” Who do you think said that, Nicodemus or Jesus? (Allow kids to answer as a group.) It was Nicodemus. (Stick the word bubble above the picture of Nicodemus.)

What do you think Jesus said to Nicodemus? (Allow a few kids to suggest ideas.) Let’s see, I’ve got three choices. (Read the three word bubbles that belong to Jesus, and let kids suggest the correct response.) Jesus said, “No one can see God’s kingdom without being born again.” (Stick the correct word bubble above Jesus’ picture.)

That sounds crazy, doesn’t it? Which of these sounds like something Nicodemus would have said in response? (Read the remaining word bubbles for Nicodemus, and let kids choose. Note that the last remaining word bubble is a fictitious quote and can be discarded once the correct quote is identified.) He said what I was thinking, “I can’t go back inside my mother! I can’t be born a second time!”

That’s probably what you were thinking too. Jesus explained that he wasn’t talking about our bodies being born again. He meant that the Holy Spirit can give us a new spiritual life, and new lives start by being born. So this was a different kind of birth. We can be born again by the Holy Spirit when we choose to trust in Jesus. Pretty cool, huh? Jesus actually gives us a new kind of life—a better life.

Jesus said two important things in his response to Jesus. “God loves the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” (Stick the word bubble above the picture of Jesus.) Does that sound familiar? You’ve probably heard that verse before. It is John 3:16, and it is part of Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus.

Jesus also said, “Anyone who believes in him is not judged.” (Stick that word bubble above the picture of Jesus.) Do you know what that means? (Allow kids to suggest explanations.)

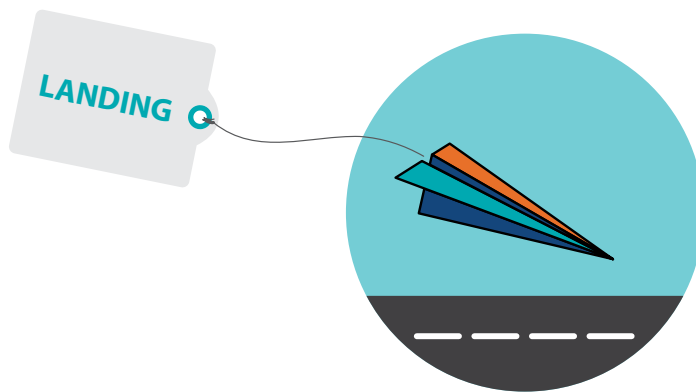
It’s the most amazing news ever! Because we have disobeyed God, we deserve a punishment and we cannot be with God because God is holy. However, God loves us even though we disobey him. It makes him sad that we can’t be with him, so he sent Jesus to bring us back to him. When we believe in Jesus, we have a new life—we are born again—and we don’t have to be judged, or take the punishment for our sin. Jesus did it for us. Wow! Hallelujah! Amazing good news!

Jesus Word Bubbles

1. "No one can see God's kingdom without being born again."
2. "God loves the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."
3. "Anyone who believes in him is not judged."

Nicodemus Word Bubbles

1. "Rabbi, we all know that God has sent you to teach us. The miracles you do show that God is with you."
2. "I can't go back inside my mother! I can't be born a second time!"
3. "Jesus, I don't believe anything you're saying!" (Not an actual quote. Will not be used.)



So Nicodemus got to hear the message of salvation. He came to Jesus with some questions, but I don't think he was expecting an answer like the one he got. It made a gigantic difference in his life. He chose to trust in Jesus, and at the end of Jesus' life, after he had died on the cross, Nicodemus was one of the men who helped to take care of and bury Jesus' body. Nicodemus had definitely been born again. You know, we have conversations with friends, family, and people we meet all the time. It's our job to listen for opportunities to make a difference by sharing the message of salvation. It might be our turn to have a very important conversation like the one Jesus had with Nicodemus.

Cultural God Story

On a recent Sunday, more than 20 believers gathered in a small local home among the Karis People to worship, pray, and celebrate the baptism of four sisters in Christ. Over a year ago, one of our missionary teammates* and her friend, Faith,* went out to a small town in the northern part of the country to invite Faith's stepsister into a relationship with Christ. This sister, Gabriela,* accepted Jesus, along with her three daughters and eventually her mother. Over the last year, the church has seen the Lord working in their lives as they grow in their faith. Gabriela's mother was a fortune-teller before accepting Jesus into her life. After her conversion she said she was no longer able to practice fortune-telling because she couldn't hear the voices anymore.

As we share the hope and love of Jesus, people receive power over their sins and a new identity! Salvation is more than a prayer that is prayed. It is the belief that Jesus came and died that we might have forgiveness, power, and community in His kingdom! Praise God for the GOOD NEWS!

*names changed due to security reasons



Prayer:

Thank you Father for giving us the opportunity to share your good news. Thank you for missionaries who tell others about you even when it might be dangerous. Help us to always be willing to tell others about you wherever we are. We love you! Amen.



Review Activity: Trashketball

Supplies Needed: Trash cans (2), balls (2), masking tape, and questions

Prepare before: Write questions about the story and place a masking tape line on the floor or each team.

Instructions: Divide the group into two teams. Line up each team behind the masking tape line you create. Place a trash can a few feet in front of each line.

Are you ready for a game of trashketball? It is basketball with a trash can. Here's how it works. One person from each team steps up to their line. They shoot a trashket. Whoever makes a basket gets 2 points and gets to answer a question about our Bible lesson. If they answer the question correctly, they get an additional point for the 3-pointer. If both people make it, then whoever answers correctly first gets the 3-pointer.

You can play until everyone has had a turn, or play until a team reaches a certain point total, or you may add a timed element, which encourages the kids to shoot and answer as quickly as possible. If you have to repeat questions, that's fine. In fact, it's probably helpful review if kids know they should listen because the questions might come up again.

1. Who came to talk to Jesus? (Nicodemus)
2. What time of day did the conversation take place? (night, evening, dark)

3. Who was Nicodemus? (religious leader, Pharisee)
4. In what book of the Bible is the story found? (John)
5. How did Nicodemus say he could tell God was with Jesus? (miracles)
6. What did Jesus say Nicodemus had to do two times? (be born)
7. Who did God send to bring us back to God? (Jesus)
8. How can we be saved and come back to God? (believe in Jesus, trust in Jesus)



Cultural Activity: *Stepping on Shadows*

Supplies: none

Instructions: This game is played outside on sunny days. One of the children is chosen to be "it." Whoever is "it" stands in the middle of the area and the other children scatter around him. When the game starts, the one who is "it" tries to step with his foot on the other children's shadows, as they try to evade him. Whoever has had his shadow stepped on then tells the other children that he's now "it."



Game Activity: *Bottom Line Hunt*

Supplies: Index cards (4 per child plus 4), marker

Prepare before: Write the bottom line on index cards—one section per card as follows: I can \ make a difference \ by sharing \ the salvation message. Make enough of these sets to have one per child plus one extra set. Hide the cards around the room.

Instructions: We're going on a Bottom Line hunt. Your challenge is to find the four cards that make our Bottom Line. (Hold up the extra set of cards and show the kids what they're looking for.) When you've found all four cards, you have to run back here to me and show me your cards in order.

There is one important rule, though. If you find a card that you already have, you have to put it back where you found it and keep looking. You should never have two of the same cards in your hand. Ready? On your marks, get set, go!



Prayer Activity: *Names on the Cross*

Supplies: Sticky notes (1 per child), marker or pens (1 per child), cross (standing wooden one if available, but a large cutout or drawing will work)

Instructions: Who do you know who doesn't believe in Jesus? We're going to spend a few minutes praying that God will show us the right time to share the message of salvation with them.

Give each child a sticky note. Have them write down the names of one or two people who don't believe in Jesus. If kids say they're not sure if someone believes or not, have them write down the name.

We're going to say a chain prayer for the people on our sticky notes. I'm going to start. When I'm done praying out loud, I'm going to stick my note on the cross, then I'm going to tap someone on the shoulder. Then that person will pray out loud for the people on their note and tap someone else on the shoulder. We'll keep going until everyone has prayed.



Memory Verse Activity: Verse Box Scramble

Supplies: Moving boxes (9, Verse pieces (1 set, masking tape, poster board, marker, stopwatch or any clock that marks seconds

Prepare before: Print the verse in pieces as indicated below—each piece on a separate sheet of paper in large enough print as to be legible from across the room. Glue each piece to the side of one of the assembled boxes. Stack the boxes in a pyramid with the verse pieces facing the kids. The verse pieces should be scrambled. At the opposite end of the room, lay down a masking tape line. Write the entire memory verse on a piece of poster board.

Part 1: What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers

Part 2: coming with good news!

Part 3: How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains

Part 4: with a message about peace!

Part 5: How wonderful it is when they bring

Part 6: the good news that we are saved!

Part 7: How wonderful when they say to Zion,

Part 8: "Your God rules!"

Part 9: Isaiah 52:7

Instructions:

We're going to race to see how fast we can re-order these boxes to form our memory verse. I'll tell you how in just a second, but first let's say the verse together a few times to get it back in our minds. (Using the poster board, recite the verse 2-3 times. See if the kids can say the verse without looking at the poster board.)

Have the kids line up behind the masking tape line, facing the stacked boxes.

When I say go, the first person in line is going to run down to the boxes, choose one of the verse pieces, bring it back to this side of the room and set it down. Then they will go to the end of the lines. As soon as that person puts their box down, the next person will run down and get a box and bring it back. That person needs to put their box in the right order to form the verse, either before or after the first box. We'll keep doing that until we've put the verse in order. (Demonstrate this by having three kids run this as a practice round.

Now, there's one more thing you need to know. When it's your turn, you may notice that one of the boxes that has already been brought back is in the wrong order. Instead of running down and getting a new box, you may choose to change the order of one of the boxes. You can't do both. Any questions? I'm going to time you to see if you can do this in under 5 minutes. Are you ready?

Run this as many times as you wish. You may challenge the kids to get progressively faster times.

Variation for non-readers: If you have children who cannot read, position them on the other side of the room, next to the verse boxes. When a reading child runs down to the boxes, he/she may choose one of the non-readers to run the box back. In this way, everyone can participate.

FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS





NAME

THE KARIS PROJECT

123654

The Karis Project in Central Asia serves a primarily Muslim population that focuses on two areas of ministry: church planting and ministries of compassion (including education and anti-human trafficking programs). The Karis people come from a rich, yet complicated history that has left many in their practice of Islam.

Though it is quite difficult for Karis people who have come to Christ, there is a growing group of believers. These believers are spread out among the large capital city, in the prisons, and in villages deep in the countryside. God is moving in this country and He is using us as we encourage new believers, share the gospel with open people, and daily live out what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

We are praying that God would bring more Karis people into His church and that families would be transformed by the truth of Jesus. We are praying that God would raise up more men to influence their families and communities and that the light of Christ would cast out the shadows that history and religion have placed on this beautiful land and its people.

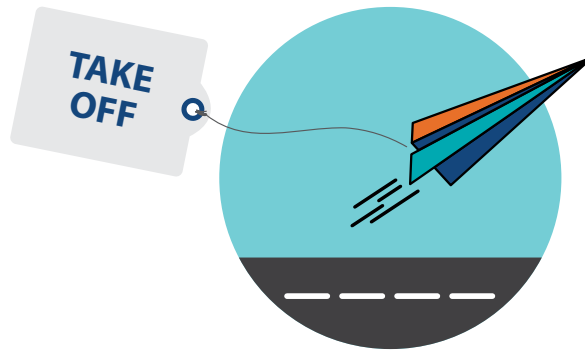
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Country: Papua New Guinea

Bible Lesson: Courage in Difficult Times (Paul & the shipwreck: Acts 27)

Bottom Line: Making a difference by showing courage when things are difficult.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to go on a trip to visit a country that most of you have probably not been to. Take a look at our flag (on p. 93). Can anyone guess where we are headed? Let's take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be discovering today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to where the country is, pg. 94) This is where we are, and the country we are learning about today, called Papua New Guinea, is all the way over there.

Let's start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the country we are in.

Fun Facts:

1. There are over 800 languages spoken in this country.
2. The world's only known poisonous bird, the Hooded Pitohui, is native to this country.
3. The national sport is rugby.
4. They like to eat roast pork, sweet potatoes, rice and greens.
5. This country gained full independence from Australia in September of 1975.

Wow, those are pretty interesting! In just a little bit we will learn some more about this country and the missionaries that serve there.

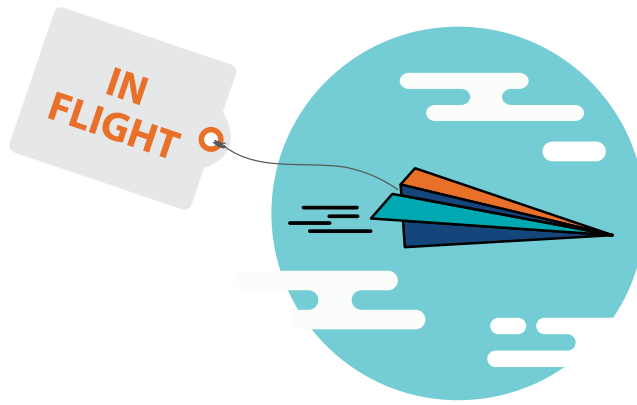
Before we do that, let's stand up and worship the Lord together!

Worship: Pick 2-3 songs

Bottom Line:

Today we are "exploring" how we can make a difference by showing courage when things are difficult. Let's say that together. I can make a difference by showing courage when things are difficult.





Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NIRV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Paul & the shipwreck: Acts 27 (Courage in Difficult Times)

Supplies needed: Tape to mark off area for boat, or large box or blanket for boat.

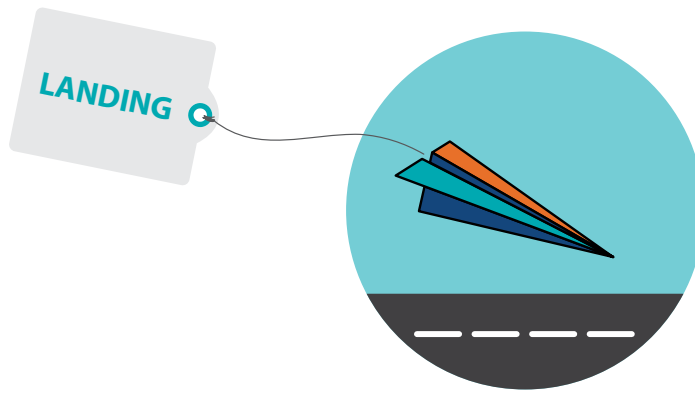
Lesson:

Our lesson today comes from the book of Acts in chapter 27. At the beginning of the chapter we discover a man named Paul. Paul traveled to many places telling people about Jesus. When we find him in chapter 27, he is a prisoner in Caesarea. He is with some other prisoners and they are all being sent to Rome. This might seem a little scary, but God had already told Paul (Acts 23:11) that he would be going to Rome to share with the people there about Jesus. So Paul and the other prisoners get on a boat to start their journey.

Raise your hand if you have ever been on a boat. Ok, we are going to pretend we are on this journey with Paul and the other prisoners, so we need to get in the boat with them. (At this point choose someone to be Paul, and someone to be Julius the centurion. Have some (or all) of the rest of the kids "get in the boat" with them.)

Now Paul had traveled a lot and knew that it was a dangerous time to be sailing. He said, (have Paul repeat after you) "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." (Vs 10)
But the centurion did not listen to Paul and decided they should sail on. (Have the centurion say, "Let's go anyways!")

I am going to read the verses right from the Bible while you act it out. Read verses 13-26 emphasizing points and pausing for kids to react like the Bible characters. For verses 21 through 26 you can have Paul stand up and repeat or act out the words. Resume reading verses 27-32. Have Paul stand up again and repeat or act out verses 33 and 34. Finish reading 35-44 while kids act it out.) EVERYONE reached the land in safety, just as Paul said they would.



Paul was going through a difficult time in life. He showed courage and trusted God to keep him safe. By showing courage, not only he but everyone else was safe and no one was injured or died. Paul made a difference by showing courage in the difficult time.

Do you think he might have been scared? (Allow kids to answer.) Was that ok?

Sure it was! Because even though he might have been scared, he showed courage and people listened to him and were saved.

We can also show courage in difficult time. We have missionaries who show courage every day in the countries they live in. Sometimes they even need to encourage people they are around to have courage.

Cultural God Story

Our Missionaries Don and Cheri Floyd have enjoyed connecting with the congregation of the new church plant at Kukuipa in Papua New Guinea. The church was started as a result of the JESUS film ministry. A former tribal flight leader named Mark Haluma, donated land to start a church. He wants other men with a lawless background like his to come to know Jesus. He believes that if God can change his heart and use him for God's glory, surely God can do that for other men. It is easy sometimes to avoid difficult situations. Though we have to be wise, many times God wants us to have courage and stand up in difficult situations to show that we trust Him and want to share His love with others!

Prayer:

Thank you God for missionaries who are telling others about you. Thank you for this former flight leader named Mark. We thank you that he was able to be reached to come to know you. Help him to continue to have courage to stand up for you and to share your love with others who are like he once was. Help us to show courage in difficult times as well. We love you and praise you for all you do. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Review Activity: True or False

Supplies: None Needed

Instructions: Using the list below, ask the kids true or false questions to review the Bible lesson. If the answer is true then have the kids go to the right side of the room. If it is false then have them go to the left. You can give points for each correct answer and can even give prizes if desired.

1. In our lesson, Paul was being honored for doing wonderful things. False – he was a prisoner
2. Paul was being sent to Rome. True
3. Paul told the centurion it would be a dangerous trip. True
4. Everyone but Paul died on the trip. False – everyone lived
5. We can show courage in difficult time. True
6. The name of our country today is Papua New Guinea. True
7. There are only 2 languages spoken in Papua New Guinea. False – over 800
8. The tribal leader named Mark is scared to tell people about Jesus. False – he has courage
9. Sometimes we want to avoid difficult situations. True – but we should have courage and face them with God.
10. I am going to have courage this week and trust God to lead me, even if things are hard! (Hopefully everyone will say true! If not, you can challenge them to find one way and one area this week that they can have courage.)



Cultural Activity: Kurukuru

Supplies: Tall grass or bamboo stems (you can use foam pool-noodles or foam darts)

Instructions: Kurukuru is a traditional game played among the children of Papua New Guinea. It is named after the stem of a tall spiny grass. You can replace the grass with a stick or pool noodle. To play the game, children choose a target such as a rock or a tree outside, or something in the classroom. They set themselves at a distance of about 6 feet from the target and take turns aiming and then throwing the stick or noodle at the target. Any player who hits the target scores one point. When each player has thrown at the target once, they retrieve their object and all move further back from the target to a new line (three feet at a

time) before trying to hit the target again. Play continues at each distance until no player hits the target at that distance. The winner is the player with the most points.



Prayer Activity: *Prayer for Friends*

Supplies: Blocks or another object that can be piled on top of itself.

Instructions: Give each child several blocks. Instruct them to think of something they can pray for – either the missionaries from the lesson or a way that they can be more courageous in difficult situations. Then go around the group and have the kids take turns saying their prayer request(s) and building the blocks tower.



Memory Verse Activity: *Picture Verse*

Supplies: Paper for each child with verse written on it or white board or butcher paper to write verse on.

Instructions: Have the children look at the verse, and draw as many pictures for the words as possible. After they have all of the pictures coordinated with the words in the verse, erase or cross out some of the words and see if the kids can still recite the verse.



Craft Activity: *Courage Bookmarks*

Supplies: Card stock paper cut into bookmark sized pieces (about 2 inches by 6 inches), paper hole punch to put a hole in the top of each bookmark, yarn or string to tie in the hole, markers & crayons & pencils to decorate bookmarks.

Instructions: Give each student a blank bookmark with a hole punched in the top, and a piece of yarn or string to tie in the hole. Have the students write “I can have courage when things are difficult” on their bookmark. As they use it in books, or see it in their room, it will remind them to have courage.



THE FLOYD FAMILY

123654

In 1989 they met as mission volunteers in Papua New Guinea. In 1991 Don and Cheri married and began to serve the Wesleyan Church of Papua New Guinea (PNG) full time. Don is a trained builder. He supports PNG church through building and maintenance and training men in these skills.

The Floyds also work in administration and community development projects. They are passionate about equipping the Wesleyan church of PNG to minister in word and deed.

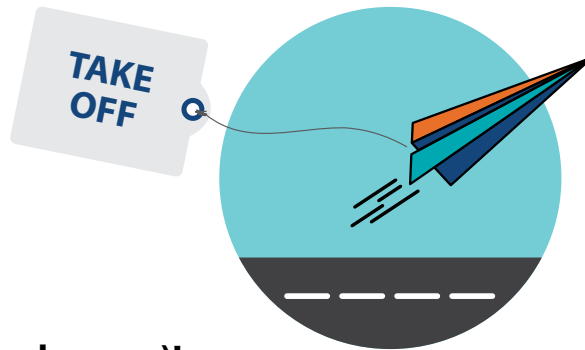
CZECH REPUBLIC

Country: Czech Republic

Bible Lesson: Timothy: 1 Timothy 4

Bottom Line: I can make a difference by never giving up.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:7



Welcome to (Church name)!

We are getting ready to “take-off” and visit a country that most of you have probably not been to. Let me give you hint. Take a look at our flag (on pg. 86). Can anyone guess where our “destination” might be? Let’s take a look at a globe/map and see what part of the world we will be “exploring” today. (Show kids the distance from where you are to where the country is, pg. 94) This is where we are, and the country we are learning about today, called the Czech Republic, is all the way over there.

Let’s start with a few fun facts that will help us learn about the country we are in.

Fun Facts:

1. There are around 2,000 castles in this country.
2. This country is almost entirely surrounded by mountains!
3. The majority of the people are not believers in Christ.
4. People in this country eat a lot of dumplings.
5. The ice hockey team from this country won Olympic gold in 1998.

Those were interesting! In a little bit we will learn a bit more about our country and our missionaries that serve there!

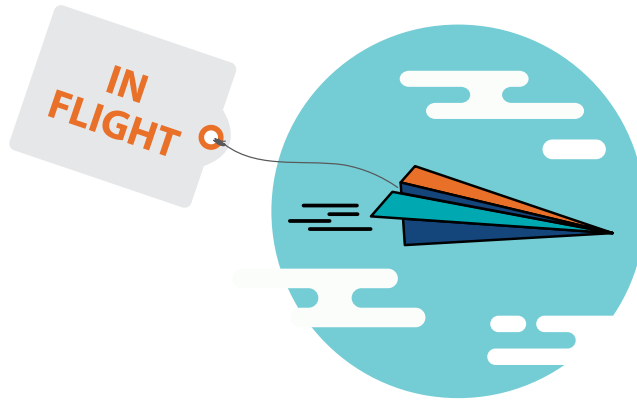
Before we do that, let’s stand up and worship together!

Worship: Pick 2-3 songs

Bottom Line:

Today we are “exploring” how we can make a difference by never giving up.





Memory Verse:

Isaiah 52:7 (NirV): What a beautiful sight it is to see messengers coming with good news! How beautiful to see them coming down from the mountains with a message about peace! How wonderful it is when they bring the good news that we are saved! How wonderful when they say to Zion, "Your God rules!"

Let's say it again! (Repeat)



Bible Lesson: Timothy "Sticks With" God and we can, too! (1 Timothy 4 CEB translation)

Supplies needed: strips of paper with the following situations listed on them & container to put them in. Here are examples of situations, but feel free to add additional ones:

1. Studying for a test in a subject that you're struggling with.
2. Finishing out the season on a baseball, football or basketball team even though you've not scored at all.
3. Cleaning your room after not cleaning it for a long time.
4. Continuing to be a friend to someone who has hurt you.
5. Finishing a Bible study that you began even though you're really busy.
6. Following through on a promise that you made.
7. Completing a homework assignment for school at a time when you have sports or music practice.
8. Finishing a new book that you began even though it's not as interesting to you as others.
9. Staying at a camp even though you're homesick.
10. Attending a new classmate's birthday party even though you got an invitation to do something else with a closer friend.

Lesson:

Raise your hand if you've ever given up on something or someone (don't ask volunteers to share an example at this time. Sticking with an assignment or an activity or hobby can be difficult. Sometimes, it's even hard to stick with people that are in your life! We're going to look at some situations that might be difficult to stick with. I'm going to have volunteers pick a situation out of the container and read it. If this is a situation that you would have trouble sticking with, raise your hand. Here we go! (Have volunteers come up one at a time and choose a situation to read. Have kids raise their hands for situations that they would have a difficult time sitting with.

Don't worry if you've ever given up on something. We all have because we're human. But the Bible encourages us to never give up when it comes to our Christian walk with Jesus. In the New Testament, we meet a young man named Timothy. He grew up in church like some of you may have. He experienced blessings along with struggles. Yet, there were characteristics that set him apart from the average young person. He had a successful Christian walk and never gave up and we can do the same thing.

Let's look at the book of 1 Timothy to find some advice to help us never give up! We need to remember that it wasn't any easier to be a Christian in Timothy's day than it is today. There were false religions then and temptations to lead people astray.

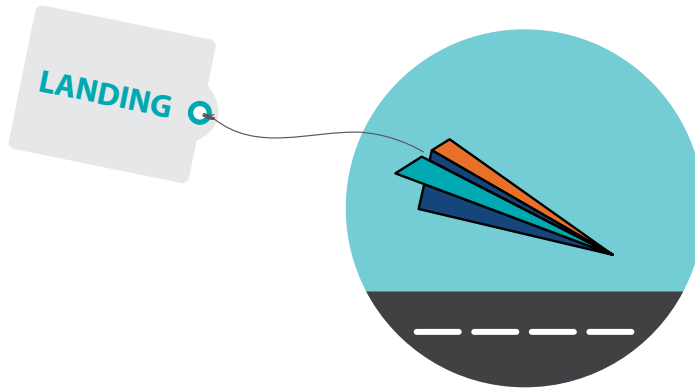
In 1 Timothy 4:1, the Bible tells us that in later days, people will turn away from their faith. That could be today! How can we stick with our faith and never give up? One thing that will help is to study God's Word (the Bible and believe it! Some people believe parts of the Bible, but not other parts. We should believe the entire Bible because in it we see that God has been faithful to many people over the years.

In 1 Timothy 4:6, we are told that we need to tell believers (other Christians what the Bible says. Then, we'll be a "good servant" of Christ Jesus, having been "trained" by words of faith. How many of you have ever told a friend about Jesus or invited them to church to learn about Him? If so, this is an example of being a "good servant"!

1 Timothy 4:7-8 compares training for a "holy life" to physical training. How many of you play a sport or take gymnastics or dance? To do these physical activities, it takes physical training. You can't go out and play a football game if you've never trained for it! You can't participate in a dance recital if you've never trained by learning the steps of the dance. God wants us to train for a "holy life" like Timothy did. How can we do this? We already talked about studying God's Word, but we can also pray, participate in church activities, and obey the 10 Commandments. Our goal is to be like Jesus, so don't give up, and do everything possible to be like Him!

1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers..." I don't want you to ever think that because you're young, you can't tell people about Jesus or lead others to Him. You can! Timothy was a good example to the older people around him and they thought highly of him. You, too, can influence adults around you! Just strive to live a "holy life" and others will notice!

1 Timothy 4:13 tells us to “pay attention to public reading, preaching, and teaching.” This will help our faith grow. This will help us to never give up in living the Christian life. Verse 10 says that we have to “work and struggle” in living the Christian life, but that if we do, we have “hope.” Our reward will be Heaven one day. So, you can make a difference by never giving up!



Think about Timothy and the characteristics that helped him try to walk the Christian walk. What can you do to walk closer to God? Perhaps it's reading your Bible more or sharing with others about God. I challenge you to never give up in continuing to walk the Christian walk. Like our bottom line says, I can make a difference by never giving up.

Cultural God Story

One of our missionary kids in Czech Republic asked, “Do you ever feel like giving up?” He says, “I know I have. Usually it's when we're doing something that is hard. We start feeling like we can't go any farther, when actually we could do another 10%. I find this more and more when I run around my town. I like running long distances like 5-10 kilometers (3-6 miles), because then I have to work harder to achieve my goal. I live on top of a tall hill, which is pretty steep, so after those 5 kilometers I feel like stopping and just taking a bus the rest of the way, but if I did that I would have nothing to feel accomplished for after my run.

God made our bodies with the ability to push further than we could ever imagine. Giving up, or taking a break, is just a mental decision. God lets you decide whether you want to give up and take the easy way and not accomplish the goal, or you can keep pushing to your max and get the wonderful reward of accomplishment.

If you keep giving up you will never accomplish anything, so start working harder and never give up!!!

So like Timothy and like our Missionary Kid, we need to never give up! And we can make a difference when we don't give up!

Prayer:

God, help us to be like the Missionary Kid in the Czech Republic and never give up! We especially want to be persistent in our Christian walk with you. Give us the strength to do this. Amen.



Review Activity: Be Active!

We are going to review today's Bible story using our bodies to be active! Think of it as being in training for a marathon or other physical activity. I will give you some statements that are either true or false. Decide if the statements are true or false and show me by moving your body according to my directions. Here we go!

1. Timothy was an old man in the Bible passage that we read today. If that's true, hop on one foot. If it's false, crouch down and leap like a frog. (F)
2. We should believe ALL parts of the Bible. If that's true, do 3 jumping jacks. If it's false, turn around 2 times slowly. (T)
3. Telling people about Jesus makes us a "good servant." If that's true, jog in place for 10 seconds. If it's false, do 4 jumping jacks. (T)
4. Training for a "holy life" isn't important. If that's true, do 2 burpees. If it's false, fly around like an airplane. (F)
5. Even if you're young, you can influence people for God. If that's true, clap 3 times. If it's false, walk around like a duck. (T)
6. If we never give up living a Christian life, our reward will be Heaven one day. If that's true, jump up and down 5 times. If it's false, bend over backwards. (T)

Good job never giving up on answering my questions! Remember that we want to make a difference by never giving up.



Cultural Activity: Pesek

Supplies: None Needed

Instructions: This is like "Duck, Duck, Goose." Have everyone sit down in a circle (or several circles if the group is large). Choose one child to be Pesek. Everyone (except Pesek) closes their eyes while Pesek walks around the children, and the group sings, "Pesek walks around us. Don't look at him. If you look at him, you will get tapped by Pesek." Meanwhile, Pesek taps someone. He must run after Pesek and catch him. If he doesn't catch Pesek before Pesek sits down in his place, he becomes the new Pesek.



Game Activity: *Stick With It Minute-to-Win-It game*

Supplies: Cotton balls, tubes of Vaseline, 3 small bowls per player, timer

Instructions: Choose 2 kids at a time to play the game. The group could also play as team, relay-race style. Each player needs 3 bowls: two at the starting line and one on the opposite end of the room (or about 10 to 15 away). Place cotton balls in one of the bowls at the starting line. Squirt Vaseline in the other bowl. When the clock begins, the players dip their noses into the Vaseline and then pick up a cotton ball with their noses. They must then go down to the empty bowls and deposit the cotton balls. The players continue going back and forth, getting Vaseline on the noses as needed and depositing cotton balls in the empty bowls. If a cotton ball falls off midway, they must get it back on their nose without using hands. The player to deposit the most cotton balls in a minute is the winner.



Remember that we can make a difference by never giving up in our Christian walk!

Prayer Activity: *Prayer Walk*

Supplies: None Needed

Instructions: Walk around the church building(s) and stop and pray for the different ministries (nursery, choir or worship team, pastor's office, gym, kitchen, senior citizens, etc.). You can lead the prayer or let the kids pray over the different areas.



Memory Verse Activity: *Bible Verse Shuffle*

Supplies: Words or phrases of the memory verse written or typed on pieces of paper (individual words if you have a large group or phrases if you have a smaller group), tape

Instructions: Tape a piece of paper on each kid. Shuffle them up so that they're not in order. They then have to put themselves back in order as quickly as possible. You can do it several times to see if they can beat their time!



Craft Activity: *Never Give Up!*

Supplies: Flat-bottomed glass gems (the kind for filling vases with), paper, Mod Podge, paintbrush, strong small magnets and glue or sticky back magnets

Instructions: Trace your gem on the paper and then cut your paper to fit the bottom of the glass gem. Write "Never give up!" on the paper. (An option would be to print these to fit the gems ahead of time.) Apply a thin layer of Mod Podge to the flat side of the glass gem and attach your paper. Let it dry. Attach a magnet with glue or sticky back. Have kids take magnets home and put somewhere that will remind them to never give up (a refrigerator is a great location!).

FEATURED FREQUENT FLYERS



NAME

JASON & KERENSA MCFREDERICK

123654

Jason, Kerensa, and their two children, Mollyn ('03) and Nehemiah ('05) have been serving in the Czech Republic since 2005 and give leadership there to Global Partners' missionaries and national workers across the country.

Sadly, the message of communism, "There is no God" still rings true for this post-communist, atheistic nation. The McFredericks are committed to long-haul relationships, having the opportunity to live out the truth of Christ with people who have long considered the story of Jesus a mere fairy tale. One by one, people are being transformed by the message of the gospel! Jason, Kerensa and their teams work to ignite a movement of discipling relationships and bible-studies so that churches are planted across the Czech Republic.

Pray for them and all Czech workers to be actively growing in their obedience to Christ and their development as followers! Pray for Czech people to know the Truth, and be set free!
John 8:32

COMMUNITY MISSIONS PROJECTS

This curriculum is designed not just to teach kids about missions, but to teach them to get actively involved in missions too. Most of the obstacles kids have in sharing the word of God can be removed by family involvement and encouragement.

The summer months are busy with families traveling, vacations and hanging out with friends, but there is much of the summer that kids are at home with their parents, and the parents are looking for some way for their kids to be involved in things. By offering several outreach activities during the summer, you will help your kids not only get experience in making a difference for Christ, but you will also help them grow and get excited about God as well.

Many of the churches using this curriculum already have outreach activities they are running for the summer. If this is the case, talk with your pastor to see how it can be a family outreach event and how kids can be a part of it. If your church isn't currently doing any family outreach events, below are some ideas that can get your families involved and hopefully help to bring in more families and kids into your church. If your church is just starting this, it may take some time to get kids and parents on board, but once they see the impact it has on their kids, more will come.

Remember: The best way to get kids to understand missions is to have them do it hands-on. And the great thing is, kids want to!

Things to keep in mind:

- Encourage kids to bring friends. The more friends that can come, the more kids that will be impacted. Offer rewards or discounts to bring friends with you.
- Families want to be part of a church that is active and involved in the community.
- Parents need to be involved. These events are not a VBS. Though you may get volunteers to help set up, it should be a family event. Kids may come with other families, but encourage families to come together or at least have one parent involved.
- The pastor of your church should be part of or at least aware of the planning for all these events. He/She may even go to the town council or school board on your behalf.
- Do everything with quality! If it is an event, make things big and nice. If painting, paint well. Train the group going out by using adults who know what they are doing to help teach other adults and kids how to paint, plant flowers, pick up trash etc, so everyone is on the same page. Because of your ministry, the school or town will view you as a church that serves the community well. In turn, the love of Christ will shine through. If there are a lot of kids helping, it may mean simply having some adults monitor the kids and help them do it right, yet allowing the kids to do most of the work.
- Plan in advance. Before going to a school board or town council, have in mind what you want to do. There is nothing to be nervous about when talking to the school board or town council, you simply want to help. The best answers to have ready are always who, what, when, where, why and how.

- If you are looking for inflatables, most companies will give you a deal because you are a religious organization. Look for churches or small businesses to rent from as they give the best deals.
- If creating or joining an event, represent your church. Have t-shirts available with the name of your church on it to give to volunteers. People in the community will recognize your church more through this.
- Have a way for people to know who you are and where your church is. Bring handouts like business cards or postcards with the church's information, time of worship, and activities throughout the week. Note: if you are joining a community group, check with the organizers if you can have handouts or if you need approval to do this.

Smaller Projects

School Supplies: Ask kids to bring in school supplies, such as backpacks, binders, pens, pencils, loose-leaf paper, erasers, scissors, rulers, etc. Fill backpacks with supplies and give them out to an organization who is distributing them, or start a mission every year where your kids and church families can gather together to hand these out to those in need.

Food Bank: There is nothing more fun than to have a food drive. You can make this as simple or complicated as you want. You can have kids go door to door with their families and gather some food. Put out notices to families in the area that you will be around to pick up donations on a certain day and time. You can also ask kids to bring food in from their own homes. Have a "boys vs girls" challenge to see who can bring in the most food for the local food bank. Be sure to call the food bank and get a list of supplies that are usually in high demand. This will give you a better idea of what to tell the kids and families to bring in each week.

Planting Flowers: Find a public area that is in need of some TLC. Be sure to check with whoever owns the property first, whether it's the city, or town hall. Ask them if it's ok to plant flowers and to do a beautification activity. Purchase flowers or have the kids bring some in, and take a day for the kids to go to the park or public area and plant them. Allowing the kids to interact and help out with the planting will help them feel like they are making a difference. You can add to this event by having a cookout. Bring some hotdogs and burgers to give to those who come help and provide enough for passersby who might be interested in what you are doing. The service project and cookout together creates a great outreach opportunity.

Cards and Flowers: Many special days each year focus on our loved ones. Grandparent's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc. Have the kids make as many cards as they can. Go to the nursing homes and distribute them to all the women on Mother's Day and to the men on Father's Day. Kids can also raise money to help buy flowers. So when you are handing out a card, you can give them a flower as well.

Coat Drive: Have your congregation and children's ministry work together to gather coats for your community, or local schools. Offer a day where people can come and get a warm jacket to keep them warm through the winter months. First come, first served. You can always take a

waiting list if you happen to receive more jackets after the events and distribute them as you can.

Hats and Mittens: Ask the kids to gather hats and mittens and then distribute them to your local schools on a certain day.

Soup Kitchen: Create a sign-up sheet with times to serve at a local soup kitchen, and ask families to take turns serving. Or announce a day where you will serve a free meal to anyone who would like to come, and ask for families to volunteer. Choose a nice outside spot to serve soup, hot dogs, chips, veggies, etc.

Trash Day: Some areas have local trash days. Volunteer to help pick up the extra trash. This could include going to local parks or communities and picking up the trash you see on the sides of the road.

You can also assist at a local event: 4th of July, 4-H groups, etc. Go in after the event and help clean and pick everything up!

Parade: Join in a local parade. While you are out and about walking with the parade, hand out bottles of water with a cozy on it (or something with the church name). This will help you get your name out and people always appreciate a free bottle of water!

Larger Projects

Event in the Park: Be sure to plan in advance. Keep an eye out for deals and volunteers who would be willing to give their time. Have a party in the park. Sometimes people are not willing to go to a church for an event, but start off in a public park and let people know who you are and gradually bring it to the church. Make sure to focus a theme for the event and find out what works. Tell kids that sometimes the best way to share God's love is showing people we care about them and like to have fun too.

- Inflatables
- Free haircuts (find volunteers from local salons)
- Hay rides
- Games
- Free food and drinks
- Face paint
- Balloon animals
- Petting zoo

Fixer Upper: Find a local Park that seems run down. Have your ministry save up money and perhaps find a carpenter or contractor who would help with this project. Have kids and families fix up the park by painting, laying fresh mulch, pebbles, or grass seed. Beautify it with plants or bushes. Be sure to get permission from the city or town first.

Schools: Get involved with your schools. Similar to the local park, find out what they need, and provide the service. Painting, landscaping, and cleaning are all great examples. Sometimes it is a playground that needs some TLC, and other times a garden or field. Ask what you can do that they just don't have time for. Kids love giving back to their schools. You may need to talk with the principle or school board for permissions to do this.

Meals: Cook meals for people in need, and let the kids and their families distribute them. Allow them to take a couple of meals home so they can distribute them throughout the week. Find the areas in your community that you know are lower income areas, and hand them out there.

- Lasagna
- Chili (gallon sized bags)
- Enchiladas
- Anything you can easily freeze and reheat

Back to School Bash: Have a full event and hand school supplies out to the local community.

- Inflatables
- School supplies already in backpacks
- Free food

Trunk or Treat: This is a great Halloween event, or alternative to the Halloween event. It provides a safe place for kids to go trick-or-treating or to enjoy a harvest festival and get some candy, whichever way you would like to view it. You don't have to have it on Halloween; you can have it a few days before, in the middle of summer, Fourth of July, etc... Announce it on the radio or local news paper, or put signs on the side of the road.

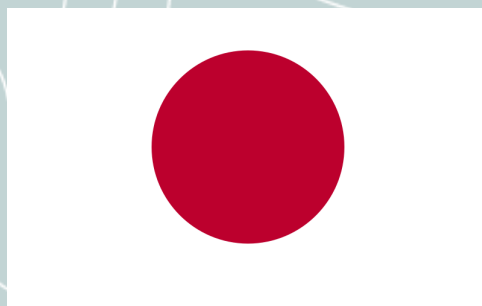
Ask for volunteers within your church to bring cars. Surround a parking lot with the cars; decorate the trunks in the theme of the festival (Halloween, the Fourth of July, harvest festival, etc), and have them bring candy to hand out. Be sure to have extra in case you run out or people don't bring enough.

Or

Send out notices to local churches and businesses and see if you can have many different groups represented and make it a full community event.



Mozambique



Japan



Papua New Guinea



Croatia



Nicaragua



United States of America



Czech Republic



Austria