

mission & me?



*Inspire our youngest
disciples to get involved
in World Mission*

For use with children and young people aged 7-13

6 lesson plans, craft and activity ideas, and resources for Sunday Schools, mid-week/holiday clubs, family services, and schools

Introducing...

mission & me?

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Welcome to **mission & me?** - a series of lessons to inspire, excite and challenge children and young people and their families to be involved in World Mission. God's design is that His church should be engaged in His mission, going into all the world to preach the Gospel, and even the youngest disciples in the church can be a part of that.

If you are the teacher, we recommend that you **read through all six lessons** before starting, so that you understand the scope of the lessons and can plan how best to deliver them. The course could be run on six consecutive weeks, or just doing one lesson a month. You might wish to spread each lesson over a couple of weeks, particularly with a young group or if your session is very short. We encourage you to adapt it to suit the needs of your young people. Think about whether it would be helpful for two or three teachers to share each lesson, rather than just one person.

You will need to **set aside time for preparation**. Look carefully through the additional resources for each lesson, and see what needs to be printed out in advance and what additional items you will need to gather together in good time. **Lesson Two** will require more preparation on the teacher's part, because this lesson is devoted to the mission contacts your church already has, so you will need to gather information, facts, photos, prayer points, etc from the missionaries you support.

Each lesson has a **Let's Discover** section where the young people are encouraged to find answers to important questions from the Bible. We suggest you ask open questions that will encourage the young people to think and talk about the topics. For older children, additional study material and discussion questions for **Digging Deeper** are provided toward the end of each lesson. These can be used at any point in the lesson to stimulate discussion.

There are take-home **challenges** at the end of every lesson for those who wish to accept them – a simple task for each child to do on their own, a bigger task to involve their family and even a challenge for you, the teacher. These can be given in a sealed envelope, just like in TV team challenges. These activities are important because they help the parents know what is going on and gets them involved too. Likewise, the **printable take-home sheets** provide a link with the families of the children.

If possible, **create a display board** with items from "mission & me?" each week. This will help you to recap previous lessons, and shows the rest of the church what "mission & me?" is all about.

Although the lessons are geared towards the age range of 7-13 years, this material may be useful with **other groups in your church**. The ideas and structure provide a useful series for youth work, house groups, or family service, so do show the material to others in your church.

While this material is not designed to promote any individual mission agency (we have used examples from a number of different sources) we would like to acknowledge UFM Worldwide and Pioneers for their help and encouragement as we've worked together on this.

Any questions, comments or feedback can be directed to hello@pioneers.org.uk.

If you would like to buy this resource in a book-form, please email hello@pioneers.org.uk.

The **mission & me?** team

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mission & me?



1. What is Mission?

Introduction:

Think about characters from films/TV programmes relevant to your group who were sent on a mission. (Superman, The Flash, Dangermouse, Black Panther, Wonder Woman, Spidey or Captain Marvel.)

Use the examples to help the children recognise the ideas of being sent to a different place, and of having a special task to do, or a special message to tell.

In today's lesson we are going to learn that Jesus Himself was sent to earth on a mission, and that when He left earth, He sent His disciples on a mission – and that includes everyone who is His disciple today.



Let's Discover...

Who sent Jesus? John 8:42

What was Jesus' mission? John 10:10; John 12:46

Where did Jesus' mission come to completion? John 19:30

What is the mission for disciples? Mark 16:15

Who sends us on the mission? John 20:21

When will the mission be complete? Revelation 7:9

Jesus was sent to earth by His Father to become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world through His death on the cross. That was His mission. Then He went back to be with His Father in heaven, but before He went, He gave His disciples a mission.

And who is being sent? Be clear about who is being sent on this mission – disciples – those who have trusted Christ for salvation, believing that He died in their place on the cross, have forgiveness of sins and are following His way.

GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY!! Take this opportunity to ask the children if they have taken this step. If they are disciples – the mission is for them!



Let's look at our world

(display a map of the world)

There are over **8 billion** people in our world. More than **3 billion** people are unreached. This means they live somewhere where fewer than 2 in every 100 people know Jesus as Saviour.

- Many of them have never heard of Jesus, don't know a Christian or how to be saved and don't have the Bible in their own language.
- Some worship other gods, or trust in their own good deeds to get them to heaven.
- All of them need to hear the Good News that Jesus is the only way to have their sins forgiven and be ready for heaven.

Look again at the first five words of Mark 16:15

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

Some of Jesus' followers will need to go and reach these people. This will probably mean:

- Leaving their own homes
- Travelling to other countries and cultures
- Learning a new language
- Living among a different people and getting to understand them
- Sharing the Good News with them

This task can take many years. Even after people have heard the Good News, and trusted Jesus as their Saviour, they will need help to read and understand the Bible so that they grow as disciples and in turn tell other people the Good News.

Bible example: (Read Genesis 12:1-5 together)

This passage tells us about Abram and Sarai being told by God to leave the place they had lived all their lives, and go to a land they did not know. Many Bible maps will show the journey Abram and Sarai were called to make. *Get the young people to provide words to describe Abram and Sarai, e.g. **old, listening, obedient, trusting, blessed**. Emphasise their obedience to God's command. In telling the story you may want to use some pictures (depending on the age of your group) See: freebibleimages.org (See the Digging Deeper section at the end of this lesson for older children and youth groups).*

Today's example:

Carrie felt God call her to leave her home in England, and to work for Him in a strange new country. She went to an island in SE Asia in 1988 with Wycliffe Bible Translators. It was a place where no visitors knew the language, and the language had never been written down, so no one was able to tell the people about Jesus, and there was no Bible.

Carrie Writes:

"My first few years there were spent getting to know the people and their culture/ways of doing things. But the biggest challenge was trying to learn their language. In the early days it involved a lot of pointing & hand signs! I'd sit & chat with the women as they washed clothes or cooked or checked their children's hair for lice, writing new words or phrases in my little notebook. I'd go with them out to their jungle gardens, or to the river or tidal pools looking for shrimp or crabs, always with my notebook at the ready. In the evenings some of the men would tell me about their latest hunting adventure or one of their many folktales and I'd record it all so that I could play it back and try to learn and understand more of the language.



"Then I needed to create an alphabet for the language and make an alphabet book, picture dictionary and lots of simple story books, all with lots of pictures, to help the people learn to read and write. At the same time as learning their language, I was sharing God's love by helping the people in many practical ways – caring for them when someone got injured or sick, introducing projects to try to make their health and daily lives a bit better and easier, such as making compost and vegetable gardens close to their houses, boring wells so that they have water in the hottest months of the year when the springs dry up, teaching them to sew school uniforms so that their children could go to school."

(There is also a PowerPoint of Carrie available in the additional resources.)

Eventually Carrie and the team of translators from Wycliffe knew enough of the language to start translating the Bible into their language, beginning with the New Testament. There are still several years of work ahead till the whole Bible is complete, but now the native people on the island are hearing the Good News about Jesus in their very own language, and are able to read much of God's Word. Lives are being changed as people ask Jesus to be their Saviour. And this is happening because Carrie and her fellow workers were obedient to God calling them to go on a mission.

What is a missionary?

Sometimes we use the word "missionary" for someone like Carrie who has gone a long way to carry out God's mission of telling others the Good News. But really the word "missionary" just means someone who has been dispatched, sent – so it is a word that applies to everyone who knows and loves Jesus, and who is being obedient to His command to tell others. Even while you are young, you can be telling others about Jesus, right where you are.

- Are you willing to be a witness for Jesus?
- As you grow older, will you fulfil the task that God has for you, whatever that is?
- Will you ask Him to guide you as you take each step of the journey through life, so that you can be His missionary - at home or abroad?

Activity

Choose either: 'It's not fair' or 'Pass the Parcel.'

'It's Not Fair!' (Ideal for larger or older groups)

- Give everyone on the front row a sweet.
- Give everyone on the front row another sweet.
- Repeat until someone complains, "It's not fair!"

Point out to the children that those who know and love Jesus often get lots of resources while those that haven't heard (the "Unreached" or "Forgotten People") get nothing

'Pass the Parcel'

- Inside each layer is a single sweet and a verse promising God's presence to those who obey, e.g.:
 - *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Matt 28:20*
 - *"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you" Heb 13:5*
 - *"I will fear no evil for you are with me" Psalm 23:4;*
 - *"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5*
- But the final layer reveals a big bag of sweets and the verse 1 Timothy 6:18 "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share".
- Will the winner share the bag of sweets?

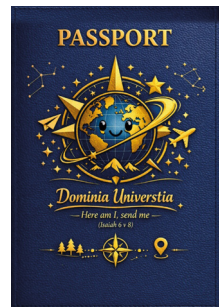
Ask the question: Will each believing child be willing to share the Gospel?

Craft Time:

- Print out the passport from the additional resources
- Children draw a picture of themselves and fill in details
- Cut out the stamp "**wherever you ask me to go**" and stick inside the passport.



You may want to do an alternative activity for older children and young people (See end of Digging Deeper section).



Challenge:

Each week there is a challenge for the young people, the leaders, and their families.



HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE... SHOULD YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT

Young People: Find out about a country that starts with the same letter as your name. You could look at the Operation World and Joshua Project websites (www.operationworld.org / www.joshuaproject.net) Pray for the Christians in this country every day this week.

Leaders: Find out about a country that starts with the same letter as your name. Pray for the Christians in this country every day this week.

Families: Find out about a country that starts with the same letter as every family member's first name Pray for the Christians in these countries every day this week.



Digging Deeper (For older children and young people)

Think of reasons why people travel the world or emigrate.

- How would it be different from going on holiday or a short visit?
- Contrast this to being sent by God on mission.

Think more about Abram (Abraham)

- Abram was only human – he took a huge step of faith, but along the way he made errors and seemed to lack faith (explore these in Genesis 12:10-20; 16:1-16; 20:1-18).
- But in the end he arrived where God wanted him to be.
- What is Abraham commended for in Hebrews 11:8-12?
- What encouragement can we take from Abraham's walk of faith?

Think more about Unreached People

- How would you define an **unreached people group** in your own words?

An unreached people group is a group of people anywhere in the world who do not have any believers nearby to teach them the good news about Jesus or help them grow in their faith. In many cases, they do not have God's Word in their own language

- How does this differ to a people group that is **reached**?
- Why is it so important for these groups to hear about Jesus?

Alternative activity:

The 10-40 window is an area home to the majority of the world's unreached people groups, representing over 3 billion people who have yet to hear about Jesus.

On a world map draw a line 10 degrees north of the equator and another line 40 degrees north of the equator, stretching from North Africa to Japan. Here are 69 countries that contain the majority of least reached people in the world.

Lesson 1

What is Mission?

mission & me?



Can **YOU** crack this code?

7	15		9	14	20	15		1	12	12		20	8	5		23	15	18	12	4
1	14	4		16	18	5	1	3	8		20	8	5		7	15	15	4		
14	5	23	19		20	15		1	12	12		3	18	5	1	20	9	15	14	
13	1	18	11		P		22		O											

(Use the code below to reveal the disciples' mission!)

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Mission is all about being sent by someone in authority to do a special task or take a special message.

Why Mission? (Fill in the blanks)

There are over **8 billion** people in the _____ today.

More than **3 billion** of them, in many different _____, have never heard of _____.

They don't know how to be saved and don't have the _____ in their language.

God loves them, but they need to _____ the **Good News** that **Jesus** is the only way.

Some people worship other gods, or trust in their own _____ to get to heaven.

Insert the missing words:

world Jesus good deeds Bible countries hear

What is a missionary?

Sometimes we use the word "missionary" for someone who goes a long way to tell others about the Good News about Jesus. But, really a missionary is anyone who has been sent by God. That means anyone who knows and loves Jesus can be a missionary — even while you are young, right where you are.

• Are you willing to be a witness for Jesus?

• As you grow older, will you fulfil the task that God has for you?

• Will you ask Him to guide you as you take each step of your life, wherever He may send you?



(Read John 3:16)

2. Doing Mission Together - Teamwork

Introduction:

Give someone a task to perform that will require help from the rest of the group (e.g. to move a heavy piece of furniture or move across the room without touching the floor). Teamwork – sometimes it's the best way to get a job done.

Can you recall the mission Jesus sent His disciples on before He went back to Heaven? God meant for His mission to be teamwork – not just for one person to do everything by themselves.



Let's Discover...

Look at Romans 10:14-15a to remind us WHY God gave His disciples a mission. Summarise using two pictures – an Ear and a Foot – people need to hear (Ear) the Good News about Jesus, so someone needs to go (Foot) and tell them.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10:14-15a

Look at Acts 13:2-5. and see how they did this in the early church. The group of people who love God are known as the Church (use an image of a group of people, NOT a building). It is God's plan that churches send out members to the people who need to hear. Arrange the images in order: (1) Church (2) Foot (3) Ear, emphasizing that it is the church that sends people to take the Good News so others can hear about Jesus.

How can the church send well?

We have seen from the example of the early church that those who go out on mission are sent by their local church. The church has a responsibility of care, prayer, and financial support. Sometimes people have given up a job to go and serve God in another country – they will not be earning money anymore but will need money to live and to travel and to do their ministry. Sometimes they will be lonely because they are away from family, and they need people to pray for them. Sometimes they will be discouraged and fearful, and tempted to give up, so they will need people to write to them and encourage them.

- Can you think of other ways we can help?
- We can all have a role to play - how can you use your gifts and abilities to "send well"?



How our church helped us - Joshua & Daniel's story

My family moved to Ethiopia when I was 4 years old, and my brother, Daniel, was only 3 years old. My parents were missionaries teaching in a school in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Before we left England, our church had a special service to send us off and to pray for us. They also committed to giving my parents some money each month. It was really good to know that our church was supporting us.

Everything was different and new in Ethiopia at first, and it was difficult being away from our church family, but they were good at staying in touch with us. Sometimes they sent us parcels, with magazines, colouring books, or chocolate in. It was always very exciting when those parcels arrived! One Christmas our Sunday school friends made a video for us! They each wrote a prayer for us and read it out in the video. It was so fun to see them all and it made us feel like we were still part of the church, even though we were far away. We also often had Zoom calls with friends from church to catch up. It was always special to see their familiar faces!

Mission organisations - what are they?

Many churches work with a mission organisation to help them send people to another place to share the Good News. A mission organisation is a support team who are based back in the home country, especially able to help mobilise, transfer news and money, and give training and advice.

Think of your school – it isn't just made up of pupils and teachers, is it? There is a whole support team – head-teachers, secretaries, classroom assistants, dinner ladies, maintenance staff, cleaners, trustees – and without these people, your school just could not operate. So, we need to recognise that in mission organisations, even though the staff are based in the home country, they can be a necessary part in fulfilling God's mission world-wide.

What can YOU do?

You might not have lots of money to give, and are too young to “go”, but we can all get involved in praying for mission workers overseas.

Some missionaries will send messages with lists of specific things that help us know exactly what to pray for. But more generally we can pray:

- **that they will have opportunities and courage to share the Gospel, so that people will be saved.**
- **that God will help them learn the language and how to live with the cultural differences, so that they understand the people they have gone to tell about Jesus.**
- **for peace in the country where they are working, and that the government in the country will allow mission to continue.**



Let's Discover...

What did Paul ask people to pray about?

Ephesians 6:18-19; Colossians 4:3

- **The right words to say**
- **Courage to share the Good News**
- **Opportunity to share about Jesus**

Bible example: Luke 18:1-7 - The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Ask one of the young people to read this story out to everyone OR get two people to act it out.

An the end of the day, why did the judge give in to the widow's request? (v5)

Why did Jesus tell this story? (v1)

So, what can we learn about our prayers for missionaries? (That we should always pray and not give up)

Today's example:

OPPORTUNITY!! Use this lesson as an opportunity to tell your young people about some or all of the missionaries that your church currently supports. This will require some preparation on the teacher's part. Maybe the church's mission secretary can help and get involved in this lesson.

Give the children a little insight into the country their missionary is in, the kind of work they do, latest prayer requests, family matters. Photographs will be helpful. If your church supports many missionaries, maybe choose just one for this lesson, but make a point of making this a “once a month” activity in future, so that you cover them all. If your church doesn't currently support missionaries then follow the links below, or contact a mission agency you know, for some information.

pioneers.org.uk/discover/mission-stories
ufm.org.uk/news
zambesimission.org

Activity

Prayer Activity

Having learnt something about your church's missionaries, discuss what the young people could pray about for these people.

- Encourage each young person to take one idea and say a small prayer.
- Or write a prayer on a post-it note, take it home and stick it somewhere as a reminder to pray.
- If any of your church's missionaries have children, try to find out about them (names, ages, pictures) and encourage your Sunday School children to pray for them too, and think of other ways they could help.
- Perhaps you could use one of the ideas from Joshua & Daniel's story to encourage your missionaries (eg, make a short video you could send to them on WhatsApp).

Craft Time:

Using blank A5 (or similar) notebooks, create a prayer scrapbook for each child that can be continued at home.

Decorate using printed flags or stickers, a world map and any other scrapbooking materials as desired.

Give the children a selection of prayer subjects to stick in.



For example, you could include some:

- Pictures of mission partners that your church supports
- Information on mission partners from a mission agency linked to your church
- Information on unreached people groups*
- Information on the persecuted church (Open Doors provides children's resources)



Allow the children to choose what they want to put in their book and personalise it so that they want to use it and keep on praying.

*Free download for children of Unreached People Groups
<https://indigitous.org/projects/frontier-people-groups/>

*Free prayer cards for Unreached People Groups from Joshua Project
<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards/unreached/1>

Remind your young people about teamwork (from the introduction to the lesson) – at this stage in their lives they cannot leave home and move somewhere on their own to carry out God's mission – but by praying in this way, they are part of the team helping to fulfil God's mission.

Challenge:

Each week there is a challenge for the young people, the leaders, and their families.



HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE... SHOULD YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT

Young People: Write or email one of the church's missionaries.

Leaders: Contact all the church's missionaries, get up to date information.

Families: Create a poster about one of the church's missionaries..



Digging Deeper (For older children and young people)

The early church sent out the first missionaries - find out more about the missionaries.

Philip in Acts 8:26-40

- How would you describe Philip's answer to God's call (v26-27)? *Ready and willing!*
- What did the Ethiopian treasurer need help with (v31-32)? *Understanding the Scriptures.*
- What was the result of Philip's obedience to God's call (v35, 38, 39)? *The Ethiopian hears and accepts the Good News about Jesus, is baptised, and rejoices.*

Peter in Acts 10:19-48

- Explain the old Jewish law prohibiting Jews like Peter from associating with non-Jews like Cornelius (v28).
- What do we learn from this story about who the Good News about Jesus is for (v34-36)? *Everyone, from every nation.*
- What characteristics of Peter do we read about in v19-20 (*listening and ready for the Holy Spirit to lead him*), v26 (*humility*), and v39 (*a faithful witness*)?

Barbabas and Saul in Acts 13:1-3

- Who sent Barnabas and Saul on their mission journey? *The whole church, prompted by the Holy Spirit.*
- How does the church show its commitment to the missionaries they are sending? *Prayer, fasting, laying on of hands.*
- How was the early church involved in 'sending well'?

Acts 12:5 - *earnestly praying*

Acts 16:15 - *hospitality*

Acts 21:16 - *accompanying*

Acts 28:15 - *a welcome party to greet the missionaries*

Philippians 1:5 - *"partnership in the Gospel" - sharing the mission*

Philippians 4:14-18 - *financial support*

Romans 15:24 - *assisting*

Romans 15:30 - *"joining my struggle by praying to God"*

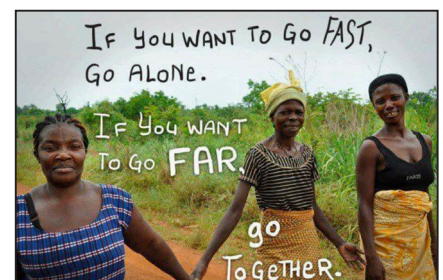
Romans 15:31 - *praying for safety*

Romans 15:32 - *being a source of joy and refreshment*

- How might you help your church send its missionaries well?

There is an African proverb:

"If you want to go fast go alone, but if you want to go far go together."
Discuss.



Doing Mission Together - Teamwork

mission & me?



How does mission work? God's plan is that His mission is to be teamwork, and not about one person doing all the work by themselves!

What is a church???

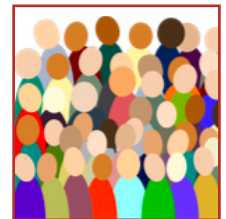
A **group of people** who love God are known as the church and it is the church who sends out members to the people who need to hear the Gospel.

Over hundreds of years God has called and sent many people on His mission.

Find out some of them by checking these Bible references.

1. 2 Peter 2:5 _ _ _ _ _
2. Genesis 17 _ _ _ _ _
3. Genesis 45:5 _ _ _ _ _
4. Exodus 3:10 _ _ _ _ _
5. 2 Chronicles 30:6 _ _ _ _ _
6. Esther 4:14 _ _ _ _ _
7. Jonah 3:2 _ _ _ _ _
8. Luke 19:10 _ _ _ _ _
9. Matthew 28:19 _ _ _ _ _
10. Acts 8:5 _ _ _ _ _
11. Acts 13:2 _ _ _ _ _ & _ _ _ _ _
12. Acts 15:7 _ _ _ _ _
13. Acts 18:24 _ _ _ _ _

Is **your** church doing that?
Can you remember the names of the missionaries your church supports?



(Did you think the church was a building? Think again!)

How can the church send well?

It is not easy work for the people who have left home to go on mission. A mission organisation can provide a lot of help but it is the church's responsibility to send, care, pray and financially support those going. Sometimes people have given up a job to go and serve God in another country – they will not be earning money any more, but will need money to live and to travel and to do their ministry. Sometimes they will be lonely because they are away from family, and they need people to pray for them. Sometimes they will be discouraged and fearful, and tempted to give up, so they will need people to write to them and encourage them. Can you think of other ways you and your church "team" can send well?

How to pray for missionaries

Some missionaries will send prayer letters with lists of specific things that help us know exactly what to pray for. But more generally we can pray that they will have **opportunities and courage to share the Gospel**, so that **people will be saved**. We can pray that God will help them

learn the language and how to **live with the cultural differences**, so that they understand the people they have gone to tell about Jesus. Pray for their **safety** as they travel. Pray for peace in the country where they are working, and that the **government there will allow mission** to continue.



3. Doing Mission when it's Difficult and Dangerous

Introduction:

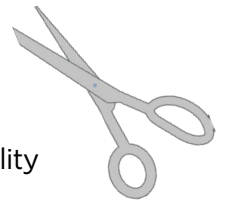
When we know we are going somewhere, there are often things we have to remember to take with us. What would you have to take if you were going (1) to school, (2) to someone's birthday party, (3) on a shopping trip, (4) to a football match, (5) on a beach holiday?



When someone is following God's command to go somewhere to take the Good News about Jesus, there are lots of things they can do to prepare themselves, and there are also lots of things that God promises to supply them with so that they can complete the mission.

Craft Time:

Each young person will need a sheet of paper cut in the shape of a suitcase. [Template available] On one side of the page, they should list or draw items that they think a missionary would have to take with them if they were going to, say, a country in Africa. Explain that there will be a weight limit on the luggage they can carry, but also the possibility of sending big items by shipment if they are really necessary.



When they have finished writing/drawing, explain to them that not everything we need to take with us are physical items...we will look a little later at some of those other things as we see what the Bible has to say. Lots of things can crop up and make it difficult when we try and do God's work.



Bible example THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah lived in a foreign country working for the king there. He heard that his home city, Jerusalem, was ruined. His mission was to bring God's people back together and rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. Despite making lots of preparations, he met many challenges!

Read **Nehemiah 1:4-6, 11** - What were the first things Nehemiah did when he heard that Jerusalem was in ruins? *He cried, he fasted and then he prayed.*

Read **Nehemiah 2:4-5, 7-8** - What other preparations did he make? *He asked the King for permission and for letters to the people who would be able to help him and supply his needs.*

Nehemiah is threatened and teased for trying to rebuild the walls. Read **Nehemiah 4:1-3**.

But he did not give up! What does Nehemiah manage to do? Read **Nehemiah 6:15-16**. *Not only did he get the walls rebuilt, but he also showed that God Himself was their helper.*

SO.....
WHAT ELSE
MIGHT
WE NEED
TO TAKE
WITH US?

Let's Discover...

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - knowing and following **God's Word**, the Bible
- **John 14:26** - having the **Holy Spirit**, God's invisible Helper, to empower
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17** - **Prayer** is a wonderful gift from God – He promises to hear and help us
- **1 Corinthians 15:57** - We are promised **the power of Jesus to overcome whatever difficulties arise.**

Missionaries may face a difficult life when they live in a foreign land – strange diseases can make them ill, their bodies may have difficulty in extreme heat, and there is always the risk of accidents or attacks. They may face opposition, disappointment and discouragement. At times they may be extremely lonely and afraid.

This is why they need to know the promises in the Bible, the help of the Holy Spirit, the assurance that God hears their prayers and that victory is theirs in Jesus.

Craft Time:

On the reverse side of the paper suitcase, the children can now write or draw pictures to represent the things God has given us to take with us on mission:- His Word the Bible, His Holy Spirit, Prayer, and the assurance of His victory!



Activity

Choose one of the following activities:

CHARADES WITH A TWIST

This game is designed to make the children understand an aspect of persecution—feeling alone, different from everyone, picked on.

One person leaves the room and is told they have to mime being a cat for the group to guess. When they re-enter the room, the group should quickly guess the animal.

A second person leaves the room and is told to mime being a polar bear. At the same time, the people inside the room are being told to guess anything EXCEPT a polar bear. So, when the person re-enters the room and mimes a polar bear, no-one gets it—very frustrating for the actor!

Finally explain to him what has gone on. Can he describe how he feels about being laughed at, about being the only one in the room who did not know what was going on?

SPY IN THE CAMP

(wink murder with a twist)

This game will make children aware of the dangers of having a spy amongst them, a present danger for many Christians around the world who have to meet in secret.

One child is appointed to be the “Angel” and they leave the room. Meanwhile the rest of the children sit in circle and one of them is appointed to be the “Spy”.

Then the “Angel” returns and stands in the middle of the circle. The “Spy” has to try and wink at the others in the circle causing them to fall down. The “Angel” has to try and work out who the “Spy” is, and protect the group from danger.

SINGING IN SECRET

What must it be like to try and have church or Sunday school without the neighbours knowing? Get the children to try singing one of their favourite choruses, but doing it in whispers, so that no one outside the room can hear.

Today's example:

Hi, my name is...well maybe I shouldn't tell you, as my family and I live in a place where we have to be careful about what we say to people. I'm 12 years old.

When my family moved overseas, everything felt strange. On the drive from the airport I cried because it was hot, smelly, noisy and surrounded by tropical jungle. Moving is always hard, but for me it wasn't just a new house and school — it was a new language, new food, new culture and a completely different way of life.

Culture can be confusing. When I visited a new friend's house, I didn't even know the proper way to sit. When her mum offered me food, I didn't know whether it was polite to say “yes” or “no”. And instead of bangers and mash, it was rice and fish with the eyeballs still in!

There are dangers too. We have nice beaches...but there are crocodiles in the sea! In the jungles around us there are wild pigs, big snakes and lots & lots of insects. Most days it's too hot to play outside.

The hardest part has been moving around so much. We moved our whole life across the sea. Then at Christmas my dad had a motorbike accident, so we travelled to a different city on another island. When



he recovered, we returned to what was supposed to be our new home. But it didn't last. That summer we had to leave the country to get new visas. When we came back, we had to move again to a completely new place on a different island. It felt like every time we settled, we had to pack up and start over.

One of the worst times was when both my parents were bitten by a cat that might have had rabies (a very serious illness). They needed lots of injections, but my dad's arm started swelling badly. He had to travel to another city for treatment. While he was away, we stayed with our teammates. But when my mum went back to our house, she found that my friends had stolen some food and pocket money from our house. Then it got even worse as the next day we found our favourite cat dead in the garden. All this happened over one weekend while Daddy was away...it was horrid!

Even though it's been really tough, it has brought me closer to Jesus, and I'm learning to let His light shine through me.

Bible example: (Tell the story of Daniel chapter 6)

Daniel lived in a foreign land, it was dangerous to be seen to be different, and especially to disobey the commands of the king by continuing to openly pray to God. Most young people will be very familiar with this Bible story, in fact you might get them to tell the story instead of you. But make sure they learn about:

- the example of Daniel who dared to be different and be faithful to God,
- the power of prayer,
- the protection of God.



Persecution:



It is still very dangerous to openly be a Christian in some parts of the world. Some Christians lose their jobs, are not allowed to go to school or college, their houses are destroyed, they get beaten up, thrown into prison or a labour camp – even lose their lives – because of their faith. Churches are attacked and destroyed, women and girls are forced to marry into another religion. We call this persecution – suffering for what you believe in. Over 200 million Christians around the world are suffering persecution because of their faith in God.

A Christian organisation called Open Doors particularly seeks to help the persecuted church, and every year publishes a list of the 50 most dangerous countries to live in if you are a Christian. If there is time, and internet access, it would be good to let the young people explore the website during the lesson (www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries/) and find the countries on a map.

Challenge:

Each week there is a challenge for the young people, the leaders, and their families.



HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE... SHOULD YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT

Young People: Look online at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries/> to find out the top 10 most dangerous countries in which to be a Christian. Pray for Christians in these countries every day.

Leaders and Families: Look online at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries/> to find out the top 10 most dangerous countries in which to be a Christian. Buy a newspaper each day this week and cut out information about those 10 countries. OR read a daily world news update on the internet and cut and paste any information you find about these 10 countries



Digging Deeper (For older children and young people)

What challenges and difficulties did these Bible characters face, and how did they respond to them?
(The teacher may need to explain something of the context, depending on the young people's Bible knowledge.)

Joshua: Joshua 7:6-9 - *Israel facing defeat in battle because of disobedience, God's name has been dishonoured, Joshua cries out to the Lord.*

Nehemiah: Nehemiah 1:3-6 - *Nehemiah hears about the ruined walls of Jerusalem protecting God's holy city, he weeps, mourns, fasts and prays.*

David: Psalm 70 - *David's life was in danger as he was being pursued by King Saul, he calls out to God to rescue him.*

Daniel: Daniel 6:10-11, 21-22 - *Daniel facing opposition because of his faithfulness to God, thrown into lions' den, a man of prayer, God shuts the lions' mouths.*

Jonah: Jonah 2:1 - *Jonah tried running away from God, ended up inside a big fish – he calls out to God in his distress.*

Jesus: Matthew 4:1-11 - *Jesus faces temptation by the devil, but His knowledge of Scripture helps him defeat the devil.*

Paul: 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Philippians 4:12; Acts 20:22-24 - *Paul lists many ways in which he has suffered (remind the young people of some of the incidents he refers to) and yet he knows obedience to God's call on his life is what is important and he is given the strength to endure.*

What does Paul mean in Philippians 1:21?

The believer knows that no matter what the hardships are in this life, they have something far better to look forward to after death.

How did Paul's persecution actually help the church in Philippians 1:12-14?

Paul's suffering was a witness to non-believers. His endurance gave the other believers confidence and boldness.

Lesson 3

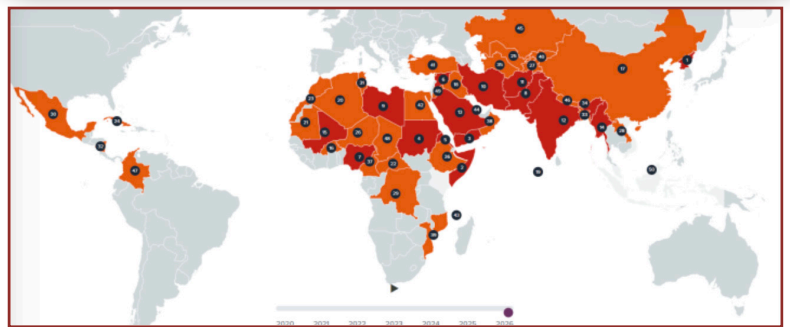
Doing Mission when it's Difficult & Dangerous

mission & me?



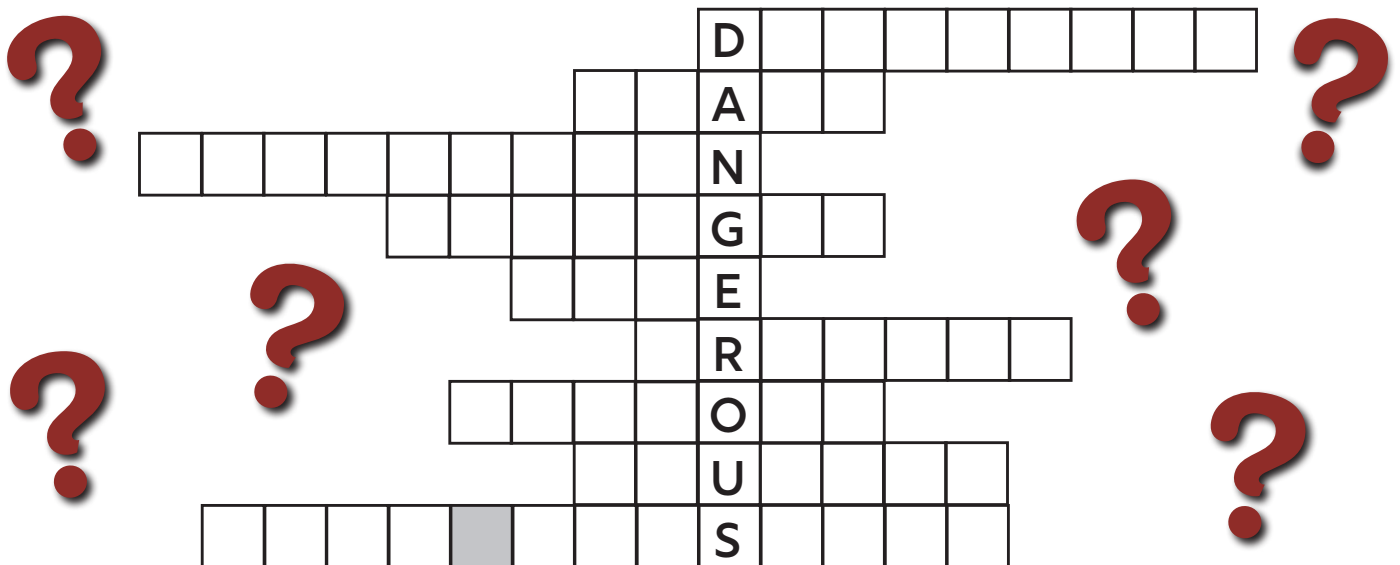
It is still very dangerous to openly be a Christian in some parts of the world. Over 200 million Christians around the world are suffering persecution because of their faith in God. This map shows the countries where Christians are persecuted. So for the Christians in these places, and for the missionaries who go to these places, there is ever-present danger.

Missionaries may face a difficult life when they live in a foreign land, e.g. from diseases, extreme heat or accidents. At times they may be extremely lonely and afraid. But often the real danger comes from other people.



What is life like for these believers and for those who have gone to share the Gospel in these areas?

Some of the things they face and things they need are highlighted in bold. Can you fit them into the right place in the grid?



In many places around the world, it can be **difficult** and dangerous to live as a Christian. Living in these circumstances, they need to hold on daily to the **hope** and **grace** found in Jesus. Missionaries going to these places to share the Good News of Jesus also need to know **God's presence** with them, and know people are **praying** for them. They may face **opposition** and will need **strength** and **courage** to keep going.



How can you and your church **support** them and enable them to stand firm?

And **THANK GOD** for this amazing truth - the **CHURCH** is **GROWING** in these countries!

4. Doing Mission Alongside - Passing on the Baton

Introduction:

If someone gave you a keyboard and music book, would you immediately be able to play a piece of music? If someone gave you a set of skis, would you immediately be able to ski in the snow? If someone gave you a car for your 17th birthday, would you immediately be able to drive off? Of course not! Maybe one day you will become a great pianist, or an Olympic skier, or a skillful driver – but first you will have to learn from someone who can already do these things.... and then spend a lot of time practising!

Some of the countries where missionaries go today first heard the Good News about Jesus many years ago, and now many people are saved, with many churches. But today we are going to discover that God still sends missionaries to work alongside these national Christians, equipping them with new skills so they can become missionaries themselves - **passing on the baton!***



Let's Discover...

Paul was one of the first missionaries, and he often revisited and wrote letters to the churches he had helped establish. Why?

Romans 1:11-12 *to share spiritual gifts to make them strong and to encourage one another*

2 Corinthians 13:9-10 *to build them up*

Ephesians 6:22 *to encourage and share news*

1 Thessalonians 1:5b-7 *by living among them he showed them how to live, which they then modelled*

1 Timothy 1:18-19 *to encourage Timothy to stand firm in the faith*

The people Paul wrote to and revisited still had a lot to learn. At first, they were like baby Christians who needed a lot of help to grow and mature. Paul was able to teach them God's Word, demonstrate how they should live, and pass on skills to help them in their ministry.

* In a relay race, one runner must pass on the baton to the next runner in order to complete the race. In mission, the aim of the missionary is to **pass on the baton** so that not only will people come to know Jesus, but they will then take the Gospel to others who have yet to hear it.

Paul talks about this in his letter to Timothy:

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
2 Timothy 2:2



Reflective Activity

Ask the children to close their eyes and read out this scenario:

Imagine you were lost in a forest, and the only way you could find your way out was for someone to come along and tell you how to get out. It would be really important for you to understand their directions, because your safety would depend on that. Who would you want to explain the way out to you – someone who speaks your language very well and knows all about you and your life? Or someone who doesn't speak your language very well and doesn't understand you?

(Or you could act this story out!)

If you have leaders or children in your group who speak a different language, ask them to give directions to the children in a language they cannot understand!

So, who do you think is the best person to explain the Good News about Jesus to someone in Malawi? Another Malawian who speaks the same language and was brought up in the Malawian culture? Or someone who only speaks English, and doesn't know much about what it is like to be a Malawian?

Of course, the best person to preach the Gospel to a Malawian is another Malawian!

If your children are interested, help them find Malawi on the map.

Today's example:

Mark & Gill Newham, Mongolia

When we were young followers of Jesus, God called us to an adventure in Mongolia. Arriving in Spring 1993, we entered a huge new world where nomads live in tents on the vast Mongolian steppe and move with the seasons.

Life felt strange. We could not speak the language and the weather was different. Mongolian winters are very cold and summers short and hot. It was also hard because there was very little food, petrol shortages and frequent power cuts.

We went to tell people about Jesus and found a people eager to hear. The church was tiny; it didn't even exist before the early 1990s. It grew quickly, not because the missionaries were good at telling people about God, but because God was touching people's lives and they were ready to hear and believe.

Seeing people come to know Jesus was wonderful, but our main work was equipping new believers to know Jesus and the Bible well. Not everyone who believed in Jesus truly followed Him, some only followed because they wanted help.

In the early years, work in the countryside was hard to find, so we started a small business to provide employment. I like to cook and bake, so we opened a café, a bakery and then a guesthouse. It became very popular as people wanted to taste foreign food like lasagne and roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

From a handful of Christians, the church grew quickly, and today there are more than 60,000 believers. Watching the Christians grow and mature, missionaries stepped back to allow the Mongolians to lead. Today, nearly forty years later, there are pastors, evangelists and Bible translators, and some are missionaries too, sharing the Good News in places where Jesus is not known.

(There is also a Mongolia powerpoint in the additional resources.)

Activity

Here's a simple Mongolian song to try:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HfbwdOWhPO



Here are the words for the song in Roman script and the translation.

Halleluyaa Esus, Esus Avragch

Haadin haan, Ezeedniin ezen, burhanni huu

Itgeliin tolaang Monkiin amdarlig

Halleluyaa, Halleluyaa x4

Hallelujah Jesus, Jesus Saviour

King of kings, Lord of Lords, God's Son

Eternal life in the battle of faith

Hallelujah, Hallelujah x 4

Bible example: (Paul and Barnabas - Acts 13:1-5)

Paul and Barnabas were very different characters. Barnabas was a mature believer at the time when Paul was still persecuting believers. When Paul was converted, it was Barnabas who took Paul under his wing, encouraging him, encouraging the church to accept Paul despite his past. So when the church appointed them to go on a mission trip, they choose Barnabas first, Paul (Saul) second.

But look at **Acts 13:13,42,46**. Soon Paul is accepted as the leader of the team, and Barnabas graciously takes second place to someone who is now more able to take the lead. This is what passing on the baton should look like - recognising each other's gifts, encouraging others to take the lead, providing help and support when needed, but not taking back control!

Craft Time:

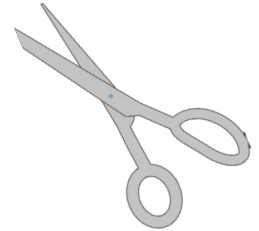
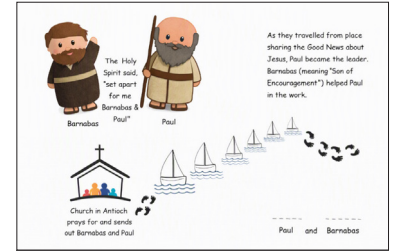
(For younger children. With older children you might prefer to move on to the relay activity.)

You will need:

- printed sheets, scissors, glue and pencils, lolly sticks (2 per child)

To make:

- Print off pictures of Barnabas and Paul, and the scene
- Cut out Barnabas & Paul
- Stick characters onto lolly sticks
- Cut part way along the dotted lines (will depend how big the lolly sticks are)
- Start with B & P, in that order at Antioch
- Move them to the end with Paul & Barnabas (in that order)
- Older ones can fill in the names of places they visited on their first missionary journey (ie, Seleucia - Cyprus - Salamis - Paphos - Perga - Pisidian Antioch - Iconium - etc, etc)



Encourage the children to retell the story using their craft.

Activity:

Depending on the space available, try one of these relay activities with your children & young people.

- Line up in two teams for a relay race. Have a "baton" (it could be a rolled up newspaper or magazine). You could vary the races – hopping , skipping, carrying something on your head....

- Again in teams, try passing a polo mint on a straw from one person to another (each person has a straw)

- Pass a balloon along a line, over one, under another. Once it reaches the end the person with it runs to the front and starts over again

- A dress-up relay where someone dresses in oversized clothes, then passes them on to a team mate to put on, who then passes on to another....until all the team have dressed up

- If outside, then water relays are always good fun!



Challenge:

HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE... SHOULD YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT



Young People: Teach and encourage someone to do something that you can do but they can't.

Leaders: Who could you encourage this week to develop their gifts in serving in the church?

Families: Parents teach your children a new skill or practical task this week. Eg: ironing, loading the dishwasher, cooking a meal, putting the bin out, etc. Ideally something they can continue to do!



Digging Deeper (For older children and young people)

Explore how Paul passed on the baton to Timothy. What can we learn from each of these Bible verses?

1 Timothy 1:2

Paul calls Timothy “my true son in the faith” – someone shaped, equipped and trusted to carry on Paul’s work.

Acts 16:1-3

Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey – learning alongside Paul as they shared doing mission.

2 Timothy 3:10-11

Timothy witnessed Paul’s teaching, conduct, suffering, and perseverance, thus receiving training through lived example.

1 Thessalonians 3:2; Philippians 2:19

Paul sends Timothy as his representative to other churches.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

(written as Paul anticipates his death) Paul solemnly charges Timothy to carry on the work.

2 Timothy 2:2

Paul wants Timothy to pass the baton on to others.

Think about the missionaries that your church supports – how are they passing on the baton to the people they live among? If you don’t know, maybe you could write and ask them!

Doing Mission Alongside - Passing on the Baton

mission & me?



Mission involves PASSING ON THE BATON
- living alongside people, working together,
equipping them with new skills so that they can
become missionaries themselves.

Elevate's Story



Elevate lives in the country of Malawi and was training to become a nursery teacher. But when she was 20 years old her mother and father both died. She had to give up her training and return home, and start earning money selling bananas so that she could support and look after her 6 younger brothers and sisters.

Elevate still longed to work with children and especially to teach them about God. Eventually she got the opportunity to go to Bible college where she met other students who shared her passion for wanting children to hear about Jesus. The desire to teach children and see Sunday School teachers trained grew and that small group of students formed Children for Christ Ministry (CFCM).

Years later, Elevate is still involved with CFCM, training Sunday school teachers in every corner of Malawi so that they can explain the Gospel to children. She also teaches and encourages them to establish weekly Bible clubs in their communities so that children who do not go to church can hear the Good News about Jesus.

Not only is Elevate passing on the baton to the Sunday school teachers she trains, but she also enables some of them to become trainers themselves – passing the baton on to even more people. Find out more about Elevate and how this exciting ministry is growing year by year at www.cfcuk.org.

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CAN YOU READ BACKWARDS?

CAN YOU READ BACKWARDS?



God has given all His disciples gifts and skills. What are your gifts and skills? If you can't think of any, ask someone who knows you well—they may see things in you that you cannot see yourself. And as you grow older your strengths and skills will become more and more obvious. God has a plan for your life, and He is preparing you.

Fill your name in the gaps below:

For _____ is God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God has prepared in advance for _____ to do [Ephesians 2:10].

As you grow older, will you fulfil the task that God has for you, whatever that is?
Will you ask Him to guide you as you take each step of the journey through life,
so that you can be His missionary – at home or abroad?

5. Doing Mission Closer to Home - the World on our Doorstep

Introduction:

Sometimes when we talk about someone being sent on mission for God, we assume that it means being sent to another country. Over the last few weeks, we have thought about people serving God in different countries. But what about people from other countries who have come to our country to live, who have a very different culture to us, but who also need to hear the Good News about Jesus?

There are many people who could be described as “missionaries” here in our own country, because they are obeying the call of God to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ amongst people of other countries and cultures who live here amongst us. They might be right in the same neighbourhood, or in another part of our country, and to reach them means finding out about their language, how they think and what they worship, and maybe even moving to live right amongst them.



Let's Discover...

Matthew 5:13-16 All followers of Jesus are called to be salt and light to the people they live among.

Discuss what salt does:

*makes things taste better,
keeps things from going bad*

What does it mean if we are to be salt?

Discuss what light does:

*helps people find their way, removes darkness,
warns of danger (eg, a lighthouse)*

What does it mean if we are to be light?

Activity

Popcorn Challenge:

Prepare two bowls of popcorn, one bowl containing slightly salted popcorn, and the other bowl unsalted. Let each person taste popcorn from each bowl without telling them which is which. Then ask them one by one to say which bowl contained the tastier popcorn! Hopefully they will agree that the one that has been salted was the tastier popcorn.

We can be salt and light to our friends, family and classmates ... the people like us! But God has a heart for the nations and has always wanted to see people from every nation coming to know Him.

The great thing here in the UK is that God has brought people from all over the world to live and work here. Some may come from countries where they may never have had opportunity to hear about Jesus. Some may come from places where it is hard to follow Him (remember lesson 3). This means we can be kind and welcoming, and share God's love with people from all around the world, *right where we live*.



Let's Discover...

When you hear the words 'refugee' or 'foreigner', what comes to mind? Sometimes we have mistaken ideas towards foreigners. Throughout history, people have often been unwelcoming to refugees and foreigners, but God never has!

Read **Genesis 12:1-3**, God calls Abram to begin a great nation and be a foreigner in a new land. Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants were immigrants, refugees and slaves. Remember too that God used Moses, Joseph and Daniel in the Bible and they were foreigners in the land!

In **Leviticus 19:33-34**, how did God say to treat foreigners? *Do not ill-treat them – love them like yourself!*

In **Luke 7:1-10**, how did Jesus treat the captain of a foreign army? *He healed his servant and commended him for his faith.*

Today's example: THE STORY OF OUR LIFE AT WORLD'S END

Catherine writes:

When we were in our twenties, my husband and I packed up our few belongings and moved to the World's End Estate in London. We didn't come for a job or an adventure—we came because we believed God was calling us to help start a new church. We loved the idea of sharing the Good News of Jesus with the people who lived there. We told ourselves we'd stay for a couple of years, just long enough to help the church get off the ground.

But God had a different plan.

Eighteen years later, we're still here. Our four children have grown up amid the tall buildings, busy streets, and endless noise of London. Coming from small towns, we never imagined raising a family in a city - let alone in London! Yet every time we wondered whether it was time to leave, we sensed the same quiet answer: stay. And honestly, we couldn't have managed life here without the love and support of our church family.

Over the years, we've watched God look after us in ways big and small. He gave us everything we needed. And London, for all its chaos, has given our family opportunities we might never have had anywhere else. One of the greatest gifts has been the people - families from every corner of the world, every culture, every religion. We've learnt so much from them, and with God's help, we've been able to share Jesus with many of them too.

But caring deeply for people who don't yet know Jesus while living in the city isn't easy. Some days the city feels like a giant machine—loud, tiring, relentless. Our church still feels small and fragile. And the burden for the lost can be heavy, even agonising. Yet through it all, one truth keeps us steady: God is wise, God is faithful, and God put us here.

And because He put us here, He can use us.

Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory. Psalm 115:1



Bible example: (Acts 2 - Pentecost)

Acts 1:8 *Just before Jesus goes back to Heaven, He tells His followers that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes. That power will make it possible for them to share the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth!*

THE STORY OF PENTECOST: ACTS 2

Jerusalem was buzzing with people from many countries, all speaking different languages. The streets were filled with voices from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Jesus' friends were gathered in a room when they suddenly heard a powerful rushing wind. Flames like tiny tongues of fire appeared above their heads. It was the Holy Spirit, filling them with courage and joy.

They hurried outside and began speaking — but now they spoke the **languages of all the visitors**. People from faraway places stopped in amazement. "How are they speaking my language?"

Peter told the huge, multicultural crowd about Jesus. That day, thousands believed.

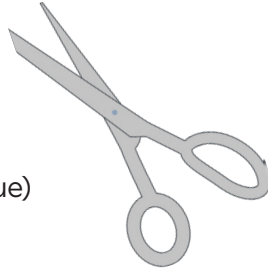
Pentecost showed that God's message is for **every language, every culture, every person**.

Craft time:

Make a Handprint Globe

Materials Needed

- Blue paper plates (or white plates painted blue)
- Green construction paper
- Red washable paint or ink pad
- Scissors / glue sticks / marker pen



Instructions

- Draw around your hand on green paper. Cut it out to represent the world's continents.
- Glue the green handprints flat onto the centre of the blue plate.
- Use the red paint/ink pad to stamp 2 overlapping thumb prints in the centre to make a heart.
- Write around the rim of the plate: Reaching the nations from my own front door.

As you are doing this craft, talk with the children about those in their class, their school, their church or their neighbourhood who come from other nations. Remind them that while people may look different, they are all made in God's image and all need to hear about Jesus.

Think!

How would you like to be treated if you had to leave your home country and go to live in another country?

Which of these things do you think you could help with to make a foreigner feel welcome and help them to know that God loves them?

- Include them in your games in the school playground or the park
- Learn some basic words in their language so that you can say hello to them
- Ask your parents if they'd be willing to invite them for a meal
- Ask your parents if you could bake some cookies to take to them
- Ask your church leaders what you can do as a church to reach out to them

Any other ideas?

Challenge:

Each week there is a challenge for the young people, the leaders, and their families.

HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE... SHOULD YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT



Young People: Make a poster to welcome people from different nations. Write "welcome" in lots of different languages.

Leaders: Find out what nations are represented a) in your church and b) in the neighbourhood surrounding your church. Mark them on a map (to show the children next week).

Families: Choose one nation that you know is represented in your church or area. Make a poster with information on that nation including language, favourite food, customs, flag, popular sports etc. Use it to help you make these people feel welcome and pray that they will get to know how much God loves them.



Digging Deeper (For older children and young people)

Encourage the young people to be open about the people they meet in their school and neighbourhood who are from a different culture. Consider these Bible examples of people who witnessed to others from different cultures without stepping out of their own country:

John 4 - *Jesus witnesses to the Samaritan woman at the well. Explain the context of the hostility between Jews and Samaritans in Jesus' day*

Acts 2 - *the Day of Pentecost. When so many different nationalities are gathered in Jerusalem, the Apostles are given the ability to preach in different languages.*

Acts 8:26-40 - *Philip witnesses to the Ethiopian Official. Race, colour, geography are all broken down in this story.*

Acts 10 - *Peter witnesses to Cornelius. Cornelius was a Roman gentile, traditionally avoided by Jews like Peter, but Peter is clearly instructed to preach to the whole of Cornelius's household.*

What can we learn from these examples?

- *The Good News of Jesus is for everyone*
- *All sorts of barriers can be broken down – ethnic, religious, gender*
- *The person who is witnessed to can go on to witness to others in their own community (see the Samaritan woman)*

One more encouragement to the young people – age does not need to be a barrier either! Explore **2 Kings 5:1-19** and discover how an Israelite slave girl speaks up to her Syrian mistress, and leads to the salvation of Naaman. After his miraculous recovery from leprosy, Naaman returned to God's servant, Elisha, acknowledged that the God of Israel was the one true God and promised to worship Him exclusively. And all because of the little slave girl.

Remind the young people about being salt and light – not just their words, but their actions and attitudes towards people from another culture can be a powerful witness. What might this look like for them?

Lesson 5

Doing Mission Closer to Home - the World on our Doorstep

mission & me?



Mission doesn't only happen far away. Lots of people from other parts of the world have come to live here in the UK. They may speak different **languages**, have different **traditions**, and sometimes believe different things. They are our **neighbours** now, and they also need to hear the Good News about Jesus.



That's why some Christians become "missionaries" right here at home. God calls them to share His **love** with people from other **cultures** who live in our towns and cities. To do this, they learn about their language, their **beliefs**, and how they think. Some even move to live nearby so they can make friends and **understand** them better.

Can you find the words in **bold** in this wordsearch?

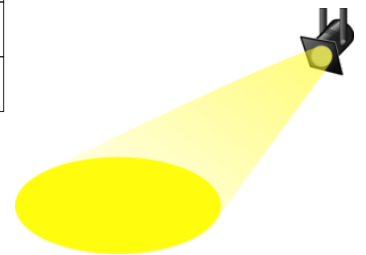
k	t	r	a	d	i	t	i	o	n	s	m
p	q	n	e	i	g	h	b	o	u	r	s
w	b	c	u	l	t	u	r	e	s	y	z
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w	i	q	k	g	m	l	p	y	z	s	x
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y	f	z	x	a	w	v	q	k	m	s	p
x	s	y	z	g	w	e	q	k	m	p	y
k	m	p	q	e	w	x	y	z	k	m	p
z	y	x	w	s	q	k	m	p	z	u	y
x	u	n	d	e	r	s	t	a	n	d	k



What does Jesus call his followers?

Y _ _ _ R _ T H _ S _ L T _ F T H _ _ _ R T H

Y _ _ _ R _ T H _ L _ G H T _ F T H _ W _ R L D



Can you fill in the missing vowels to see what Jesus said in Matthew 5:13-14?



THINK! Mission isn't just something that happens far away. It can happen on your street, at your school, or even next door.

6. *Doing Mission - NOW!*

Introduction:

We've been learning that God has given His people a special mission. He wants His followers to go into the whole world and tell others that they need Jesus to save them from their sins.

We've heard about grown ups who have moved to other countries so they can tell people about Jesus. We've also learned about Christians here in the UK who have jobs that help them meet people who don't know the Good News yet — like refugees, students from other countries, or families who have never heard about Jesus.

Wherever they are, these people are doing the job God gave them. They are using their time and their skills to help others learn that Jesus is the only one who can forgive sins and bring us back to God.

Do you need to wait till you get older to help in God's mission? Today we are going to think of ways you can be involved *right now*.



Some inspirational stories from the past

Many well-known missionaries who have served God within their own countries or abroad felt God calling them into mission while they were young. Tell the children one of their stories to help inspire them to learn more themselves. Some examples you could use:

Amy Carmichael – from a young age Amy felt God calling her to work with the poor people around her, and then when she was older God called her to go to India to share the Gospel.

Hudson Taylor was just 21 when he set sail as a missionary for China – but in the years leading up to that he had been in preparation – studying his Bible, studying medicine, learning the Mandarin language – so that he was ready when the time came.

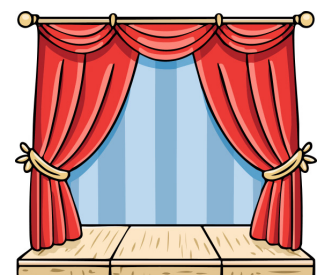
Mary Slessor – from a young age she loved to read about missionaries, especially David Livingstone, and it gave her a desire to follow in their footsteps. Her childhood experience of living in poverty and struggling to survive helped Mary to develop the resilience, drive and determination that would prove invaluable in her later life as a missionary in Nigeria.

More examples, written specifically for children, at <https://answersingenesis.org/kids/bible/world-missions/>

Activity

Drama!!

In your additional resources is a short dramatic reading about Amy Carmichael. Prepare some of the young people in advance to act this out for everyone else, to help bring to life the story of one of these inspirational women. The teacher should take the narrator's part.



Bible examples:

Read John 6:1-13

(NB The story of the feeding of the 5000 is recorded in all four gospels, but only John refers to the small boy who gave his lunch to Jesus, so use this passage.)

This is a very familiar story, and therefore probably most suitable to use with younger children. Point out that it was a small boy who gave his lunch to Jesus, and Jesus was able to take his lunch and do great things.

Read 2 Kings 22:1-5; 23:1-3

The story of young King Josiah is less familiar, so use this story for older children and young people.

Explain some of the background – many kings of Judah had disobeyed God, but Josiah, who became king when he was just 8 years old, started as he meant to go on – obeying God, restoring the Temple, making people listen to God's Word and renew their promises.

Today's example:

Manna's Story (age 14)

What does it look like to go onto the mission field with your parents? Is it just a case of following in their footsteps? That is what I first thought when our family moved from the UK to Tanzania when I was 9.

Over the past 5 years, I've needed to find my own role out here on the mission field. Being out here in Tanzania has given me a chance to see different needs that I wouldn't normally see in the UK. At first it was a bit overwhelming, seeing and meeting people that have so many struggles. It has been a journey realising that I can't help everyone, but I can be kind and generous when I am able.

For example, a few Christmases ago, I raised some money on a GoFundMe page for my friend Julyane's village, because the children restart their school year in January and need to have their school resources. After receiving the donations I went with my family to the market and bought them all new clothes, new bags, books and stationery.

I know that this probably hasn't made a huge impact, but it's a little thing that I could do. It was nice to have felt that I could make an impact without needing help from my parents.



We might not get the chance to live in another country like Manna has. But we can still be part of God's mission right now. We can help people around us know that Jesus cares for them. We can help them understand that Jesus is the only one who can forgive sins and bring us back to God. We can do this with our family, our friends and our neighbours. And as we learn more about what God is doing around the world, we don't know where He might lead us in the future. God might use us right here, or He might take us somewhere new one day. We can trust Him to guide us.



How to get started doing mission NOW!

READING STORIES

of men and women who have gone to lots of different places to fulfil God's mission.

Examples of missionary biographies for different age groups:

- *Do Great things for God* series for ages 4 - 8
- *Trailblazer* series by Christian Focus for ages 9 - 11
- *Christian Heroes: Then and Now* (YWAM) for ages 10 and up
- *Men of Faith and Women of Faith* (Bethany House) age 12 and up
- *Ten Boys who Changed the World* (Light Keepers series by Irene Howat) age 8-14
- *Ten Girls who Changed the World* (Light Keepers series by Irene Howat) age 8-14

Consider giving young people an assignment to find out more about one of these men or women, and set aside a week when they can tell the rest of the class about what they discover.

Additional resources:

- AfriGo magazine is filled with stories of African men and women who are involved in mission : <https://afrigo.org/>
- The Torchlighter series of videos are good for missionary stories: <https://torchlighters.org/>
- Child Evangelism Fellowship include biographies of missionaries for Sunday School or Kids' Clubs: <https://official.teachkids.eu/resources/biographical/>
- Many mission agencies have stories of their missionaries currently working overseas or here in the UK.

PRAYING

1. that God will lead them and show them how He wants them to be involved in His mission, both now and when they are older.
2. for people who are missionaries today – an opportunity to revise from Lesson Two the things we can pray for these people, and also to remind the children of the challenge to pray regularly for the missionaries your church supports.

Here's an amazing story, abridged from *Living Faith* by Helen Roseveare (1980), which you might want to read to encourage your children to know that prayer really does make a difference!

One night in our small African hospital, a mother became very sick while having her baby. We tried everything we could, but she died, leaving behind a tiny premature baby and a sad two year old girl. The baby needed to be kept warm, but we didn't have an incubator or even electricity. We usually used a hot water bottle, but when the nurse tried to fill it, the rubber burst. It was our last one. The next day, I told the children at the orphanage about the baby and how hard it would be to keep her warm. One girl, Ruth, who was ten, prayed boldly, "Please God, send us a hot water bottle this afternoon. And please send a doll for the little girl so she knows You love her."

I didn't think it was possible. I had never received a parcel from home in four years. And who would send a hot water bottle to someone living on the equator? But that afternoon, a car delivered a big parcel from my old Sunday School class in the U.K. The children gathered around as we opened it. Inside were clothes, soap, raisins—and then, to my shock, a brand new hot water bottle. Ruth ran forward, saying, "If God sent the bottle, He sent the doll too!" And at the bottom of the box was a beautiful doll. The parcel had been sent five months earlier—just in time for Ruth's bold prayer.

GIVING

to missions allows all of us to play a part in God's mission to the world, however young we are, and helps us to have an ongoing interest in the projects or people we support. It also helps us remember that having a Sunday School is a huge privilege and that many children do not have one. (Remember our activity earlier in the series of giving out sweets to the front row again and again while ignoring the back rows?)



Let's Discover...

Read out these verses and see if the children spot what is common in every verse:

Genesis 28:22
Leviticus 27:30
Numbers 18:21

Giving one tenth, also called tithing. God's people were told to put aside a tithe to support God's work and those serving God fulltime. It is not a law to tithe, but for someone who wants to give regularly to God, it's a good start. The work of mission is part of God's work, so those involved should receive part of the tithe from others.

More important than the amount is the attitude of the giver. Elsewhere in the Bible God's people are told to give **thankfully**, **generously** and **cheerfully** (2 Corinthians 9:7), remembering how much God has given to them in the first place (James 1:17).

Craft Time:

Buy or collect small cardboard boxes that the children can decorate and turn into money boxes. Perhaps they will want to use some of the words used above to add to their decoration to remind them how they should give (thankfully, generously, cheerfully, etc).

Talk with the children about how they might give a little of their pocket money or earn some extra money by doing jobs.

Talk with the children about wherethey would like their money to go.

Supporting a missionary or a project. Think about where your church is already involved in mission or ask any mission agencies you are in contact with for ideas.

NB. Make sure parents are involved and aware of what the children are doing, and why. You want the children to use their own money or their own efforts, not simply ask their parents for money.



Challenge:

Each week there is a challenge for the young people, the leaders, and their families.

HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE... SHOULD YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT



Young People: Start collecting coins to fill your money box.

Leaders: Organise a fundraising event, involving the young people and the whole church (eg, a cake sale).

Families: Make a donation for every Bible you have in your house. Agree an amount as a family...then count your Bibles!



Digging Deeper (For older children and young people)

Discover more about what the Bible says about giving from these passages:

(Explain that in the verses in 2 Corinthians, Paul is urging the Christians in Corinth to learn from and imitate the attitude of the Christians in Macedonia.)

- **2 Corinthians 8:9** - Our giving must be done **thankfully**, as we remember how much God has given to us, especially in sending Jesus.
- **2 Corinthians 9:5** - Our giving must be done **generously**, trusting that God will care for His children.
- **2 Corinthians 9:7** - Our giving must be done **cheerfully** and **voluntarily**, for giving can be fun if we put our heart into it.
- **2 Corinthians 8:3** - Our giving must be done **sacrificially**, because God promises to bless it when we give more than we can spare.
- **Matthew 6:3-4** - Our giving must be done **in secret**, to ensure our motive is not to receive praise from other people, and we only want God to see.
- **Colossians 3:23** - Our giving must be done **for the Lord**. This means that as Christians we want others to praise God and thank Him when they receive a gift, therefore we do not boast about our giving.

Encourage the young people to think about all aspects of prayer:

Personal prayer should involve **praise, thanksgiving, confession, intercession** and **supplication**.

Discuss each of these aspects and encourage the young people to remember all of them when they pray.

If they made a prayer diary in lesson 2, then encourage them to keep using it. They can put in people and places to pray for as well as recording answered prayers.

Lesson 6

Doing Mission - NOW!

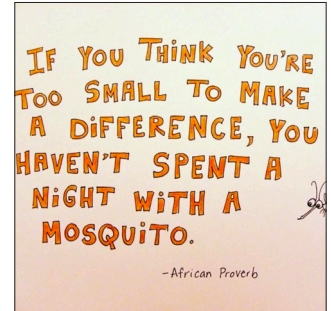
mission & me?



In many parts of Africa, malaria is a very serious illness, especially for children. It spreads through a special kind of mosquito. These mosquitoes give very itchy bites that can last for days, and you often hear them buzzing near your ear before they land. If a mosquito carrying malaria bites you, you can get sick too.



People try to stay safe by sleeping under mosquito nets at night. But that's not always easy. Some families sleep on reed mats on the floor, so there's nothing to tuck the net under. And if a mosquito sneaks inside the net with you, it can't get out and you can't escape quickly. It buzzes around your ear looking for a warm, juicy bite, and getting back to sleep is almost impossible.



That's why the proverb says even tiny things can make a big difference.

King Josiah was only eight years old when he became king (see 2 Kings chapter 22-23). He helped clean up God's Temple and reminded everyone to follow God's Word. He wasn't too young to make a difference!

Are YOU too young or too small to make a difference?? Absolutely not!! ...unless you are smaller than a mosquito!! You can be involved in mission now. You don't have to wait till you're older.

Here are ways you can get involved now...but, O dear! The words seem to be written backwards, or have extra Xs & Zs in them, or are written in the wrong order!! Can you sort them out??

uoY nac DAER seirots fo nem
dna nemow ohw evah enog
ot stol fo tnereffid
secalp ot lifluf
s'doG noissim



.friends your to witness to
young too not are You .Jesus
about others TELL can You

Yozu cxan PXRZAY tzzhat Gxoxd
zwilxl lxxad yzou axnd sxzhoxw
yozu hxowz Hze waxntxs
yozu tzo xbe ixnvzolvxed inx
mxisxsion, bozth nxow azznd

wxhen yozu axre
zolxder. XPRXAY
fzor mxiszszionxaries
zarozund txhe
wxzorld txoxdazy.



You can GIVE what you can to help support people
who are working in God's mission, and remember:

ROF OGD LVESO A CEHERLUF GERVI

(2 Corinthians 9 v 7)



Final Thoughts

How can you incorporate the theme of global mission into your group all year round?

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Incorporate a mission slot into your regular kids and youth programmes.
- When mission partners speak in church, ask them to prepare something for the younger members of your congregation too.
- Create a missionary display area, involving as many of the senses as you can, keeping it updated.
- Have a missionary 'zoom' into your youth group for a Q&A time.
- Provide missionary biographies for children in a lending library.
- Connect your young people with mission kids of a similar age to share prayer points.
- Organise a care package to be sent from your kids or youth group to a missionary family
- At Christmas, send a refillable advent calendar with notes from your kids' group, verses and small treats to a missionary family.
- Encourage the children to write to a missionary and send these notes digitally.
- Record a group video message to encourage a missionary or the children of missionaries.
- If a missionary family visits your church, have the children think practically about how they could welcome the children.
- Research an unreached people group and create a display to inform the church
- Commit to pray regularly as a group for unreached people groups and for those who are trying to reach them.
- Consider sending a church team to go and see missionary work first hand!

Involve the young people in deciding how to go forward.

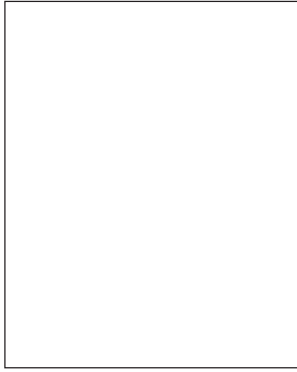
If this series has helped to excite and inspire your young people, don't stop now!

Additional Resources

mission & me?



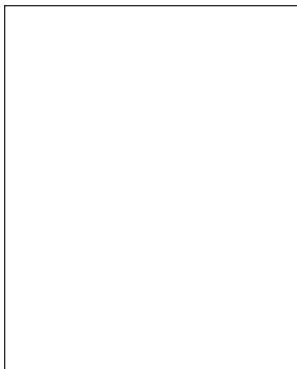
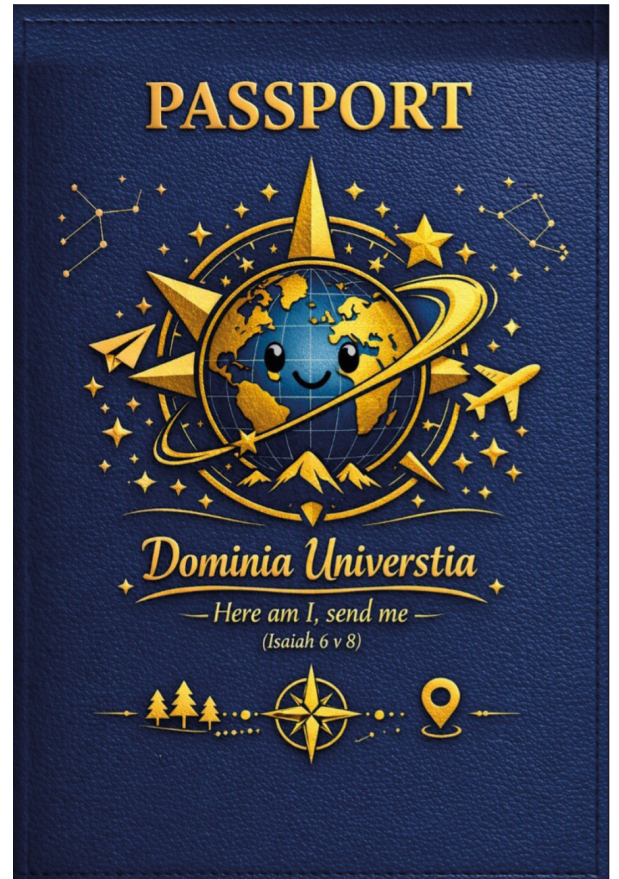
1. Lesson 1 - Carrie's PowerPoint can be downloaded at:
www.pioneers.org.uk/mission-and-me
2. Lesson 1 - Passport
3. Lesson 3 - Suitcase
4. Lesson 4 - The Mongolia PowerPoint can be downloaded at:
www.pioneers.org.uk/mission-and-me
5. Lesson 4 - Paul and Barnabas (2 pages)
6. Lesson 6 - Amy Carmichael drama



Name: _____

Birthday: _____

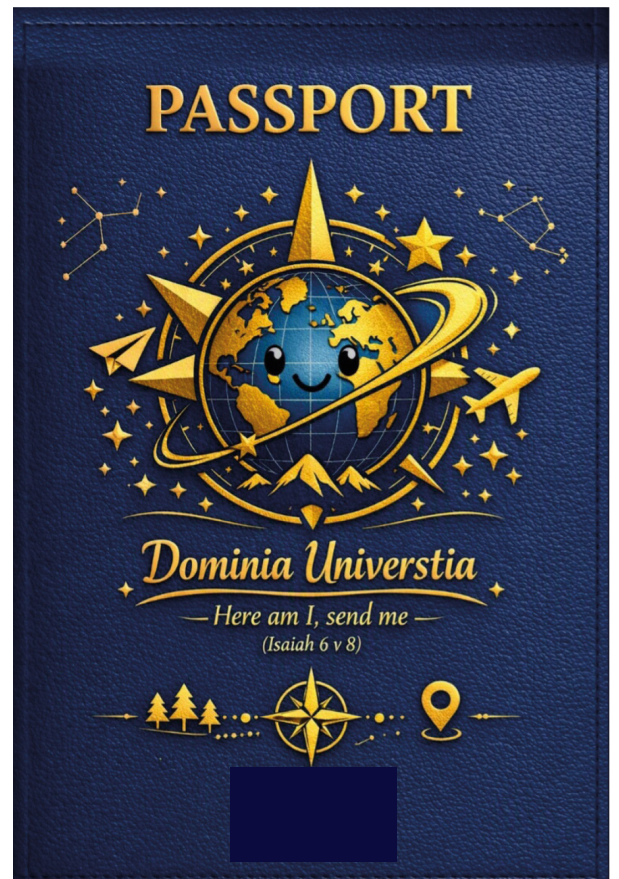
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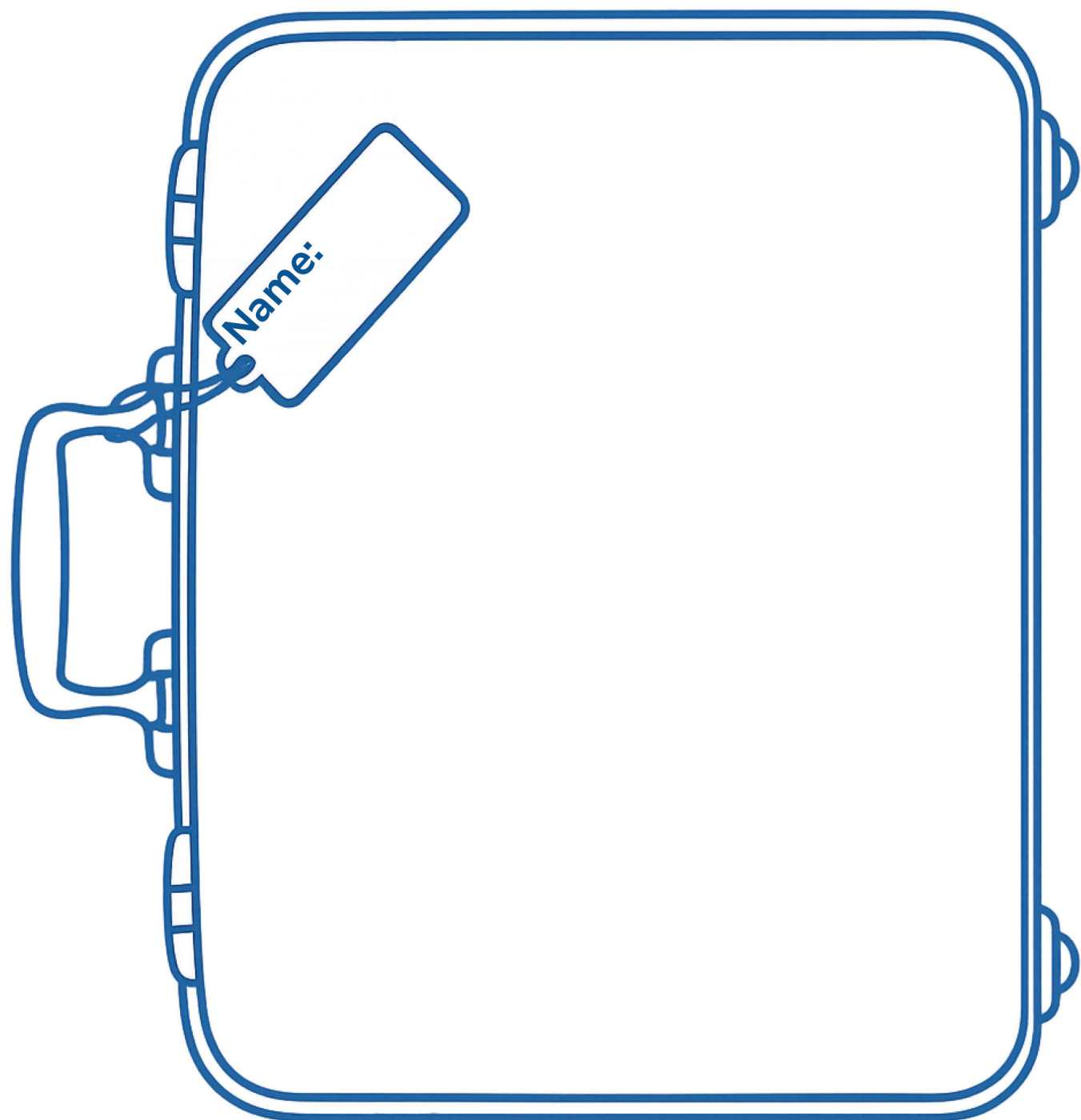


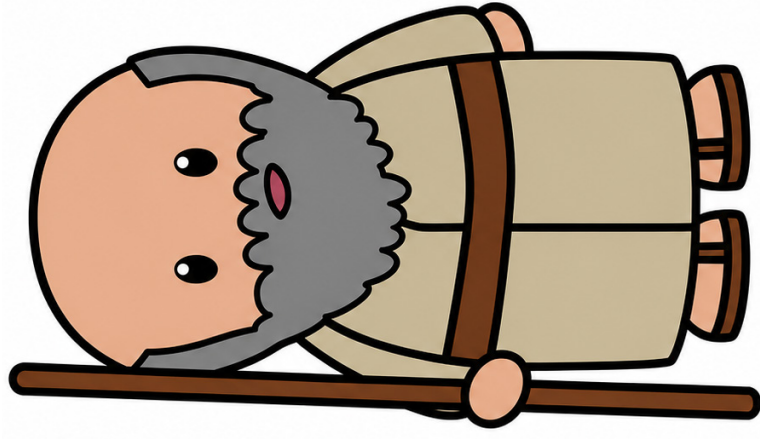
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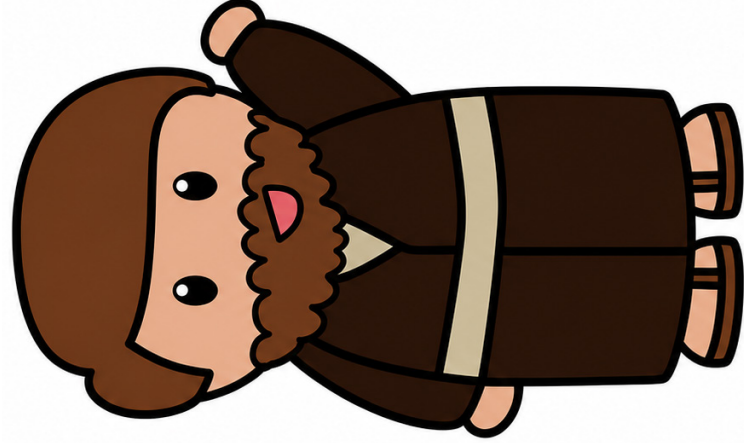
Nationality: _____







Paul



Barnabas

You will need:

printed sheets, scissors, glue and pencils, lolly sticks (2 per child)

To make:

Print off pictures of Barnabas and Paul, and the scene

Cut out B & P

Stick characters onto lolly sticks

Cut part way along the dotted lines (will depend how big the lolly sticks are)

Start with B & P, in that order at Antioch

Move them to the end with P & B (in that order)

Older ones can fill in the names of places they visited on their first missionary journey (ie Seleucia - Cyprus - Salamis - Paphos - Perga - Pisidian Antioch - Iconium - etc etc

The Holy Spirit said,
 " set apart
 for me
 Barnabas &
 Paul"

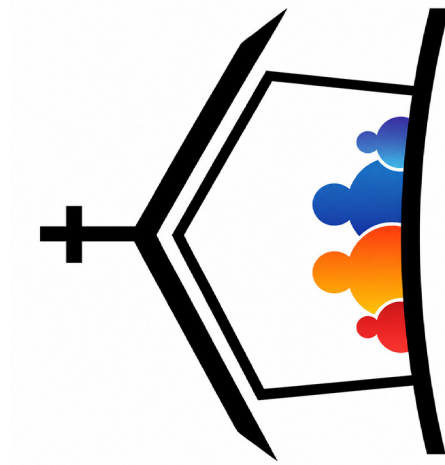
Acts 13 v 2

As they travelled from place to place sharing the Good News about Jesus, Paul became the leader. Barnabas (meaning = "Son of Encouragement") helped Paul in the work...

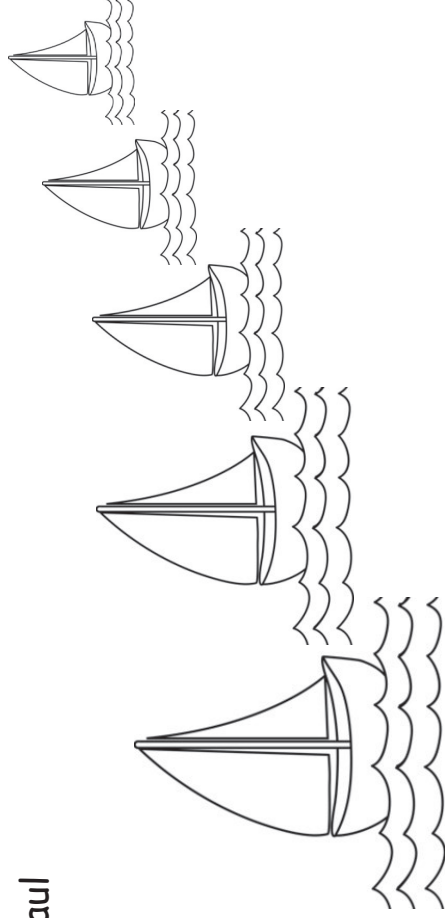
Barnabas

and

Paul



Church in Antioch
 prays for and sends
 out Barnabas and Paul



Paul

and

Barnabas

The Story of Amy Carmichael

Characters: Narrator, Amy, Brothers, Mother, Father

Narrator: Amy lived in a big house near the sea, with her mum, her dad and brothers.
Amy was always looking for adventures

Amy spotted a rowing boat one morning and said to her brothers,

Amy: Let's go out to sea in this rowing boat

Brothers: OK

Narrator: It was exciting at first but then the tide carried them further and further out to sea

Amy: Row harder!

Brothers: I'm getting scared!

Narrator: Then Amy had an idea...

Amy: Let's sing as loudly as we can.

Narrator: A sailor heard them singing and rescued them.
When they got home their mother told them off

Mother: Sailing is too dangerous!

Narrator: A little while later...

Amy: Let's climb onto the roof – it will be a great place to see the sea.

Narrator: When Amy's dad saw them he ran upstairs and onto the roof. He told them off

Father: Climbing on roofs is dangerous!

Narrator: Another time, when Amy had been told that eating plum stones would make her ill, she thought.

Amy: I wonder if that's really true.

Narrator: So she sat down and ate 12 plum stones. She felt very ill. When her mum and dad realised what she'd done they told her off.

Mother & Father: Eating stones is dangerous!

Narrator: Some time later Amy was looking in the mirror...

Amy: Brown eyes are boring! Why did God give me brown eyes, not beautiful blue eyes?

Narrator: Amy knew that God answered prayers so she prayed ...

Amy: Please give me blue eyes.

Narrator: But the next morning her eyes were still brown.

Amy: Why didn't God answer my prayer?

Mother: God always answers prayer – but sometimes the answer is "no".

Narrator: When she was still a teenager, Amy's life changed. Her father died and she had to stop going to school to help her mum look after her younger brothers and sisters. One cold day, as Amy was leaving church, she saw an old beggar woman, with torn clothes and dirty rags on her feet instead of shoes. She could barely walk. Amy felt sorry for the woman and so she and one of her brothers helped the lady along the road. But Amy thought,

Amy: What if someone from church sees me with this beggar lady.

Narrator: So she hid her face. When she got home she realised she had wrong to worry about what others thought....so she prayed..

Amy: Dear God, from this day on I will only do things to please you and not worry about what others think.

Narrator: God then challenged Amy to think about what she spent her money on and she made another promise to God:

Amy: When I'm grown up I will give my money to help the poor.

Narrator: Now Amy wanted to do what God wanted her to do, so she started to help these poor people (known as "The Shawlies" because they wore their shawls over their heads to try and keep warm.) She started to tell them about God's love and many of the Shawlies believed. Amy prayed,

Amy: God, please help us build a church. I don't want the rich people in my home church to help because they don't really care. Please God, will you provide.

Narrator: And He did!.

Narrator: Many years later, when Amy was 27 years old, she went to India. She still loved to go on adventures, like she did as a young child, but now she also wanted to tell people about Jesus.

Not many people knew about Jesus and many people worshiped false gods in temples. Sometimes people would sell their baby girls to the temple priests believing that would please their gods.

Amy: This is awful, I must do something!

Narrator: So Amy would rescue the babies and look after them. One night as she was rescuing a baby, the little girl was crying - but when she looked at Amy's soft brown eyes she stopped crying and smiled. Then Amy remembered her prayer as a child.

Amy: Now I know why God gave me brown eyes - all the Indians have brown eyes! If I had blue eyes the babies would be scared of me! When God said, "No", He knew I would go to India, even though I had no idea then. He was right after all!

Amy Carmichael lived in India for 55 years and never visited back home. She wore Indian clothes and made her skin darker using coffee. Of course her eyes were already beautifully brown like the Indian women! The centre for rescued girls that she founded saved over 1000 children from being mistreated in the temple worship.

Amy wrote lots of books and inspired many men and women to go and serve Jesus around the world.

(story adapted from the Little Lights series for young children, by Catherine Mackenzie)