

Go Into All the World

Children's Lessons to Teach about Cross-Cultural Missions

Churches of God, General Conference



How to Use These Lessons:

- During VBS this summer, take 5 minutes during your opening or closing to present these lessons. You may also want to incorporate some of the Additional Ideas on the last page during the class time of VBS.
- If you have a Children's sermon during your service at church each Sunday, use these lessons for six weeks.
- Use these lessons in Sunday School classes. You could do one each week and pair them up with the Additional Ideas on the last page.

SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED:

- Globe or map of the world (for Day 2).
- A coat, hat, gloves, boots, flowers (or Hawaiian lei), grass skirt, Hawaiian shirt (for Day 4).
- Possibly snacks that represent things eaten in Sweden and Hawaii –crackers with ham & cheese, bananas, and pineapple (for Day 4).
- Several flashlights (for Day 6).

DAY 1

READ: The Bible says: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13: 34-35

Pick 5 children to bring up front. Ask the children questions about their preferences and then ask them if they think God loves one more than the other.

Example:

You: “Katie, what’s your favorite food?”

Katie: Pizza.

You: Joey, what’s your favorite food?”

Joey: Tacos.

You: Do you think God loves people who like tacos more than people who like pizza?”

Children: “No”

Continue with this using all the children up front as a part of an example. Some other questions you might ask: What is your favorite color? What is your favorite sport? What is your favorite subject in school? What is your favorite cartoon?

Then say:

God loves all of us. It doesn’t matter if you like tacos or pizza. It doesn’t matter if you like blue or green. It doesn’t matter how tall we are or what color our hair is. There are lots of children in the world who may seem very different than us. They might look different, eat different kinds of food, wear different kinds of clothes, and even speak different languages than us. God loves all these different kinds of children just as much as He loves all the children in this room. In the Bible, God says that we should love one another as He has loved us. So, it’s important for us to show our love and care for all different kinds of people.

One way we can show our love for others is by helping them when they are sick. In a country called Bangladesh* in Asia, the Churches of God has a hospital and an eye clinic. They help many sick people there. They had over 120,000 patients in 2011. They help a lot of people who have trouble with their eyes, and they also train nurses so they can go and help other sick people. In Bangladesh, people are working to “love one another as He has loved us”!



*Pronounced “Bong-la-desh”

Day 2

You will need a globe or map of the world.

READ: The Bible says: “He said to them. Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”
Mark 16:15

It’s important to tell others about Jesus. Look around you at all the other kids sitting in this room with you. Is it important that all the kids in this room know that Jesus loves them? (*Children will answer “Yes” after every question you ask.*) Now think about your school or your pre-school class. Is it important that all the kids in your class know that Jesus loves them? Now think about our whole town and all the people in it. Is it important that all the people in our town know that Jesus loves them? What about our state (Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, etc.). Is it important that everyone in our state knows that Jesus loves them?

Now point to your state on the globe you are holding. Our state is very small compared to the whole world. God loves the people in all the different countries of the world. God wants us to tell the people in all the countries that Jesus loves them. Here is the country of China (*point to China on the globe*). Is it important that all the people in China know that Jesus loves them? Here is the country of Australia (*point to Australia on the globe*). Is it important that all the people in Australia know that Jesus loves them? Here is the country of Haiti (*point to Haiti on the globe*). Is it important that all the people in Haiti know that Jesus loves them?

The Churches of God is working to tell people in Haiti about the good news of Jesus. In Haiti we have 33 churches and mission stations with over 6,000 members. These congregations reported 230 conversions and 166 baptisms in 2011. The missionaries in Haiti are following Jesus command to “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation”.



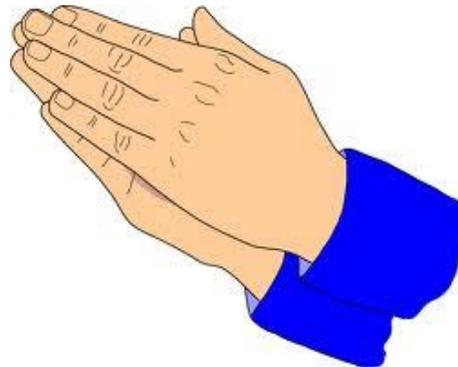
Day 3

READ: The Bible says: “He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Luke 10:2

On our first day we talked about how God loves children all over the world. Even though they are different than we are, God knows and cares about them. On our second day we talked about how God calls us to go into the whole world and tell all these different kinds of people about Jesus and the good news. Now, you might be thinking that you can't do much to help with that. You are just a child. Your mom and dad wouldn't let you go to another country, and it might not be safe for you to go. So, what can you do? There is a lot you can do to help! One thing you can do is pray. Pray for people who will be sent out to other countries. Pray for the missionaries who are already in other countries. Ask God to help and protect them as they spread the Good News of Jesus. Today I want us to pray together for some missionaries.

The Churches of God has missionaries in Thailand named Brook and Sara Sarver. They have a baby girl named Hailey. They are working to share the good news of Jesus to the people in Thailand. Today I want us to pray together for Brook, Sara, and Hailey.

Children all bow their heads. Pray: “Dear Lord, we want to thank you for sending Brook, Sara, and Hailey to Thailand. We know you love the people there, and we are thankful that this family was willing to go to share your Good News. Please be with Brook, Sara, and Hailey. Protect them and give them peace. Help them to know best what to say and do to help the people in Thailand. In Jesus name, Amen”.



Day 4

You will need a coat, hat, gloves, boots, flowers or a Hawaiian lei, a grass skirt or Hawaiian shirt.

READ: The Bible says: “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Psalm 24: 1

God made the whole world. Everything in the world belongs to Him. No matter where you go in the world, you will almost always find people living there. There are some very, very cold places where no one lives. But there are people living almost everywhere else. People live by the oceans and by the lakes. People live in forests and on plains. They live on islands and on mountains. People are everywhere! All these people need to know about Jesus. In different places in the world, God made the weather different. Some places are hot. Other places are cold.

Call two children to the front. Dress one in a coat, hat, gloves, and boots. Dress the other in a Hawaiian shirt and shorts or a grass skirt with a lei or flowers behind the ears. You might want to dress the children before you start and just call them forward at this point if you are short on time.

In some places that God has made the weather is cold. In the country of Sweden, it’s cold almost all year long. The people in Sweden need to keep warm, so they dress like this (*point to the child dressed in the warm clothes*). Sweden is also near the ocean so the people there eat a lot of fish. In Sweden, they often have snacks called “fika”*. During fika, people usually have tea or coffee with cheese, ham, and krisp bread that is like crackers. The Churches of God have a missionary family in Sweden. They are Douglas and Anna-Karin Molgaard. They have three daughters. This family is working to plant churches and tell others about Jesus in the cold country of Sweden.

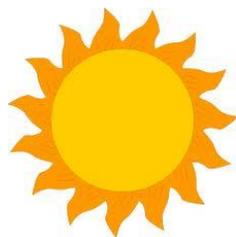
In other places that God has made the weather is warm. In the state of Hawaii, it’s warm and sunny all year long. The people in Hawaii don’t need to wear warm coats. (*point to the child dressed in the Hawaiian clothes*). In Hawaii there are many flowers, and the people make these into necklaces called leis**. In Hawaii, it’s easy to grow many kinds of fruits like bananas, pineapples, and coconuts. The Churches of God also have a missionary family in Hawaii. They are Dave and Kenda Kapaku. They are working to tell the native Hawaiian people about Jesus in the warm state of Hawaii.

Many times, the way people dress and what they eat has a lot to do with the kind of weather God has given them where they live. If you got to choose, do you think you would rather live in a place with cold weather like Sweden or a place with warm weather like Hawaii? Why? *Give a few different children a chance to answer this question.*

*Pronounced “feeka”

**Pronounced “lays”

****Consider having snacks that represent things they might eat in Sweden and Hawaii—crackers with ham and cheese, bananas, and pineapple.*



Day 5

READ: The Bible says, “. . .And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.” Acts 4: 33-35

Are you good at sharing? If you have something you like (such as a new toy or some candy), do you want to keep it to yourself or do you want to share it with others? Jesus calls us to share what we have to help others who don’t have enough.

Can you imagine what it would be like not to have many of the things that you take for granted every day? You have toys to play with and a house to live in. You have food to eat and clean water to drink. You have much more than you need to survive every day.

What are some of the things that God has blessed you with that you can thank Him for? *Give several children a chance to answer. They might say things like family, toys, friends, etc.*

Did you know that there are many children living around the world that have to worry each day that they might not have these things. They wonder if they will have anything to eat the next day. They wonder if they will be able to find clean water. They may have very few or no toys at all. Do you have a playground at or near your house? There are many children around the world who have no clean place at all to go and play. Could you imagine what it would be like not to have a school to go to? Many children around the world don’t have a chance to go to a school.

The Bible is clear that if we believe in Jesus we should share what we have with those who are in need. Most of us have so much. We should give some of what we have to help those who are struggling to survive each day.

The Churches of God have schools in Haiti and India. In India, more than 750 children are enrolled in these schools. In Haiti, over 3,000 students are enrolled in schools supported by the churches. When we help support missions, we can give children in other countries the help they need to be able to have things like food, water, and a chance to go to school!



Day 6

You will need several flashlights.

READ: The Bible says: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

We all have a light that we can shine. This means that if we believe and follow Jesus, He will help us to do good things for others. In this way, others will see what we are doing and understand that God cares about them. It's important for all of us to “shine our lights” for Jesus!

Call several children to the front and give each child a flashlight. Dim the lights if possible.

For this example, we will pretend that these flashlights are our “lights” that we are shining for Jesus. Everyone take your flashlights and cover them up with your hand. Is any light getting out? No. In order for others to see our lights, we can't keep what we know about Jesus to ourselves. We have to be willing to shine our lights out so others can see. Now point your flashlights all in the same direction. *(Have children point their flashlights to one specific place that you show them)*. If we all point our lights in the same direction, can we light up the whole room? No. We can light up one area really well, but the rest of the room stays dark. Now everyone point your flashlights in different directions. Can we light up more of the room when we all point our lights in different directions? Yes! In order to light the whole room, we all have to coordinate and work together to point our lights in different directions.

Missionaries are shining their lights for Jesus in other parts of the world. They can't do that by themselves, though. They need our help and support to be able to do it. They need our prayers, money, and encouragement. We can shine our lights to help them shine theirs! When we all work together, more of the world can be lit up with the Good News of Jesus.

The Churches of God has two missionary families in Brazil, the Aveys and the Poes, working to shine their lights there. They are making new churches and telling many children about the love of Jesus. You can help them by shining your light. You can pray for the missionaries in Brazil. You can ask people you know if they can also pray for the missionaries or send them money. You can also help by sending the missionaries cards or letters to help encourage them or let them know you are praying for them. If we all shine our lights together, we can light up more of the world for Jesus!



Additional Ideas:

- If you have a projector that can be connected to a laptop with access to the internet, you could project maps of the countries you mention each day onto your screen for the kids to see while you are talking.
- In VBS or Sunday School classes, have students write letters to missionaries or make cards for them.
- Give students in VBS or Sunday School classes information about specific missionaries or mission fields. Have students pray for a day or a week for the particular missionary or mission field. (Free prayer cards are available through the CGGC office)
- Help students raise money for a missionary. Collect an offering from students, or have them do a project to raise money. (Please refer to online giving/giving codes)
- Help students connect with a missionary. This can be done through email or even Skype. Students may learn a lot from having an opportunity to talk with a missionary (current or former) and ask them questions. If you are interested in this, contact the CGGC office for help setting something up.

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