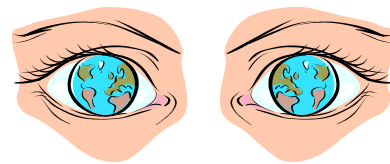


Teaching the Believing Child about Missions



I. Definition of Missions and Missionary

A. What is Missions?

Missions is the word used to describe the job God gave to all Believers of sharing the gospel with all people everywhere of all ages. Following this they are to disciple those who do believe on the Lord Jesus until they become spiritually mature. This maturity will be evidenced by their obedience to the commands of Christ, including the command to evangelize and disciple others.

B. What is a Missionary?

A missionary is "one who has been sent" to accomplish the mission (job) of evangelizing and discipling others. The New Testament is clear in teaching that all true Believers in Jesus Christ are commissioned by Christ Himself as missionaries to the spiritually lost world around them (Mark 16:15). Each Believer is to begin fulfilling his missionary calling wherever he lives by sharing the gospel with those who are around him and by living a holy life. In addition, he is to help the gospel reach other unreached people through his prayers, financial support, or by going to these lands himself (Acts 1:8).

II. Important Verses on Missions



A. God is a Missionary God (John 3:16)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



B. The Great Commission from Christ Give to All Believers (Matthew 28:19-20)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."



C. Mark 16:15

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"



D. Luke 24:47

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."



E. John 20:21

"So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'"



F. Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."



G. Romans 15:20

"And so I made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation."



H. I Corinthians 9:16b

"Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."

III. Important Teaching on Missions and Missionaries

A. Help the Believing Children to Understand Missions

1. Ask and answer questions that will increase their understanding of missions and their responsibility to be involved in missions.
 - a. Who can be a missionary?

Christ has commanded all Believers of every age to be actively involved in sharing the gospel with the lost, as well as in helping new Believers to grow in their faith (Matthew 28:19-20). No Believer has any excuse for not witnessing and praying for the salvation of lost people around him.



b. What does a missionary do?

A missionary's first concern is to share the gospel with lost sinners and invite them to accept Christ and His forgiveness. His second concern is to help these new Believers to grow spiritually by teaching them what the Bible says about the way they should think, speak, and behave. He can do this through the following.

c. Where does a missionary go?

A missionary goes wherever there are lost people. Normally we think of two types of missions, *home missions* and *foreign missions*. Home missions is used to describe the ministry of a Believer who reaches lost people in the same area where he lives or in nearby areas that he can easily travel to in order to evangelize and disciple them. Foreign missions (or cross-cultural missions) is used to describe the ministry of a Believer who goes to another country or area where the people he is trying to reach have a different language and way of living. According to the Bible, both kinds of missions are equally important and it is a Believer's responsibility to be involved in both kinds through praying, giving, or going (Acts 1:8).



d. When can the believing child be a missionary?

All believing children should think of themselves as missionaries since the Lord Jesus has commanded all Believers to be His witnesses to the lost boys and girls around them (Acts 1:8). A believing child who is not concerned about the unsaved children of the world or is not involved in some way in helping them hear the gospel is a disobedient Christian. He needs to confess that sin and ask God to give him a burden to reach the lost before they perish in their sins. Then he needs to start witnessing, inviting others to Sunday school, praying for, and giving New Testaments or gospel tracts to the lost around them.



A wise teacher will also occasionally give a challenge for saved children to consecrate their lives to God, being willing to be a missionary to another country when they grow up (if that's what God wants).

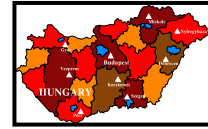


Can a child make a decision to serve as a future missionary?

**Twenty-five years ago research showed that 80% of foreign missionaries felt called to be a missionary as a child.*

**More recent research shows that 16% felt called to missions as a child.*

Are teachers neglecting their duty of challenging children for missionary service?



e. Why should believing children be missionaries?



◆ All people are born sinners and will be separated from God for all eternity in a place of punishment if they do not repent of their sins and believe in Christ (Psalm 51:5; Romans 6:23).

◆ Most of the world's population is lost and needs to hear the gospel (only some 15% are Believers).



◆ God does not want any person to perish, but instead he wants all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). The Bible tells us that they need someone to tell them the gospel (Romans 10:14).

◆ God has commanded them to be missionaries (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

2. Teach children about other countries where people need to hear the gospel



- ♥ Use a map to show other countries
- ♥ Show pictures of other people and their cultures (dress, language, foods, etc.).
- ♥ Describe different religions (briefly) and their need to hear the truth.



3. Introduce the children to specific missionaries



- ♥ Have their picture
- ♥ Describe their work
- ♥ Write or e-mail the missionary
- ♥ Pray for the missionary
- ♥ Give to help with a specific need



4. Teach about great missionaries of the past and present

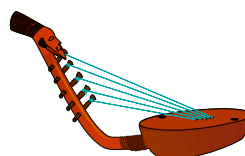
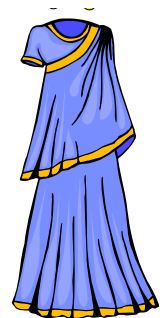
B. Help the Believing Children to Pray for Missions

1. Select at least one missionary family to pray for as a class.
2. Share their specific requests and answers to prayer.
3. Pray for this missionary each week in class (you or the children).



4. Make a prayer reminder for the children to use in order to pray regularly for your missionary (picture, book mark, etc.).

5. Encourage the children to form their own prayer cells of two or more children in order to pray regularly (weekly?) for lost children and missionaries serving around the world.



C. Help the Believing Children to Give Toward Missions

1. Teach why they should give their money to missions

Giving to the Lord's work around the world is a biblical command

**1 Corinthians 16:2*

**2 Corinthians 9:7*



2. Teach the children to give their own money

♥ Each Believer is to give as **he** has prospered (received money).

♥ God blesses the true giver of the gift (Luke 6:38). The child is not practicing biblical giving when he puts money into the offering that was given to him by his parents.

♥ The child needs to develop a personal habit of giving from what he has, no matter how big or how small. This habit will go with him all through his life.

♥ Help the child find ways to earn his own money that he can give (doing work for others, etc.).

3. Have opportunities for giving in your class hour

♥ Take a regular offering (always explain how the money will be used).

♥ Select a special missionary or project to give to.

♥ Set a giving goal with the children, and show progress toward it.



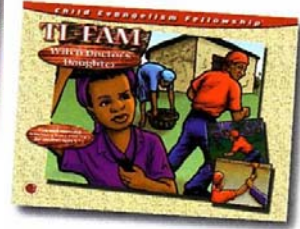
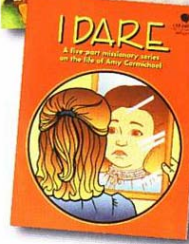
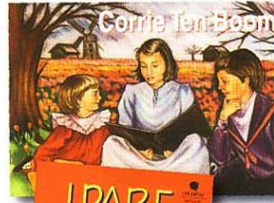
IV. How to Teach Missions

A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

- Jonah goes to Nineveh
- Paul, God's Servant (CEF series)
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B. Through Special Missionary Stories

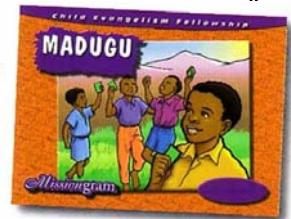
1. William Carey (India)
2. Hudson Taylor (China)
3. Mary Slessor (Africa)
4. Amy Carmichael (India)
5. Jim Elliott (Ecuador)
6. Ringu (Indian boy convert)
7. Ti-Fam (Haitian girl convert)



How to Teach these Missionary Stories Effectively

1. *Read the entire story first.*
2. *Reread the chapter or part of the story you will teach that week.*
3. *Summarize 3-4 main facts to teach for each picture.*
4. *Practice telling the story out loud.*
5. *Limit your story to 8-10 minutes (you may need to leave out some details).*
6. *End each presentation at an exciting part (making them curious about what will happen next).*

C. Through Songs



D. Through the "Special Segment" Time of the Class Hour

1. Teach about missions

- ◆ Make a tool large enough for the whole class to see. Include many of the key verses and important teachings on missions. Teach a little from this tool each week.
- ◆ Teach a chapter each week from one of the above visualized missionary stories.



2. Have prayer time for lost children and for your missionary
3. Take a volunteer offering for your missionary or a special project