



DiscipleLand

Missions Education

Level 1, Quarter A—Family Life With God

Integrate these World-missions concepts into your **DiscipleLand** lesson. Introduce your children to one missions truth each lesson.

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1A—Missions Education

God's Great Family

Teacher Intro—The world—we hear about it on the news, we travel to faraway places to admire the beauty, and are attracted to the unfamiliar people who live on our planet. This quarter you have the privilege of introducing your students to the world from God's perspective! God created all people on Planet Earth for His glory. He loves every person and invites everyone into His family.

He is God the Creator who made the earth. He is God the Father who is gathering a family from people of every nation. He is also the God of mission, who loves the world so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ. Your children will have the opportunity to learn about every continent, because God is passionate about the whole world. His great family will include people from every continent and every nation.

Throughout these lessons, children will learn the following action rhyme:

God made the world. *Hold arms over head in a large circle.*
A beautiful place. *Slowly bring arms down in sweeping motions.*
He made me and you *Point to yourself, then someone else.*
And the whole human race. *Hold out hands to include everyone.*
God loves people *Put hand over heart.*
Near and far. *Point down then far away.*
He'll always love them *Point up, then put hand on heart.*
Wherever they are. (in "country name" starting lesson 5)
Twirl around with hands out.
Who will tell them? Oh who will tell them? Who will tell them of God's great love? *Put hands behind ears.*

Supplies used throughout these lessons:

- Balloon globe
- Large world floor map—may be traced on a heavy shower curtain, placed on the floor so students can walk on it.
- Colored labels for the seven continents: North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, Antarctica.
- In addition, you may find a puzzle map, a fabric map, or poster visual helpful.

Additional Quarter-Long Activities:

Adopt an "MK" (Missionary Kid)

Supplies: names/photos of missionary kids

Find out the names of missionary kids your church or school supports and what country/continent they serve in. Obtain a photo of their family from your church website or directory if possible. As your children learn about different continents, share about any missionary kids who live there. Attach their name/photo onto a world map that your children can see throughout the quarter.

Global Scale

Supplies: USA map reproduced from floor map, ruler

Have a map of the USA (or your country) duplicated from the floor map. After finding your own location, name a city or landmark about 500 miles away. Measure this distance with a ruler. Estimate how long it would take to drive to that place. Now use the ruler to measure the distance from the east to west coast of the United States on the map. Estimate the number of miles (3,000 miles) and how long it would take to drive that distance. Throughout the quarter, use this map to compare the sizes of other continents and countries with the size of the USA by placing the copy of the USA map on the relevant part of the floor map. Estimate the time required to drive from one side to the other for each continent.

Match the Country: Name that Continent

Supplies: country-continent flashcards

Using the flashcards, show the children the names of countries discussed during this quarter and let them match each country with the continent where it is located. (Countries included this quarter: Japan, China, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Liberia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, USA). Then, show them the names of continents and allow them to match them with the appropriate countries. As students learn about new countries and continents each week, introduce more cards for the activity.

Lesson 1—God’s Big World

Supplies: balloon globe, floor map, Bible

Long ago, God created a very large ball. (Spin balloon globe slowly.) **We call it Planet Earth or the world. What a wonderful place He made! God made large areas of land called continents and huge bodies of water called oceans.** Ask students to identify on the floor map whatever they can. **Can you point out the land and the water? Try to find the continent where you live.** Name some of the other continents.

When God created our world, He had a wonderful plan in mind. Look up and read Isaiah 45:18. **Part of God’s plan was to fill the earth with people. Did this happen? Yes. God created and loves all of them.**

Demonstrate the action rhyme found on page 1. Then have children gather around balloon globe and place a hand on it for prayer.

- Think of something wonderful that God created. Thank Him for making it.
- Thank God for communicating with us through His Word, the Bible.

Lesson 2—God’s Big Heart

Supplies: balloon globe, floor map, colored labels for the seven continents: North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, Antarctica

Place continent labels on the floor map. **Our continent is just one part of the huge world God created.** Have a child stand on your location, then have them walk up, down, left, or right until they are standing on another continent. **What continent are you standing on?** Repeat this until all continents are named. **Most continents are divided into smaller areas called countries. Can anyone name a country? What continent is that country in?** Find countries on the balloon globe. **What do you think the children who live there are doing?**

Children all around the world love to learn, laugh, and play. Right now, a boy or girl in another country might be learning about Jesus—just like you! Did you know that all the people who live on earth today came from one set of parents, the first man and woman God created? God had a strong friendship with Adam and Eve and He wants this same kind of relationship with each person on earth. In fact, God wants to be our Heavenly Father!

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme found on page 1. Then have children gather around floor map for prayer.

- Thank God for creating us and wanting to be our Heavenly Father.
- Pray for one person you know that does not have Jesus as his or her friend.

At the end, have children take turns picking up a continent label from the floor map, standing on the continent and naming it.

Lesson 3—God’s Big Plan

Supplies: mirror, Bible

Hold up the mirror and let some of the students look in it. **Can you see your reflection? Does it look the same or different from you? God planned to fill the whole earth with people who would reflect what He was like, starting with Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they broke the strong friendship between God and people. As people spread around the world, they did not know or follow God anymore.**

God chose one man named Abraham to love and obey Him. Abraham became the father of a group of people called the nation of Israel. This nation was to reflect God to all the other groups of people living around them. Read Psalm 67:1. **God did not choose Israel because it was the biggest or the best group of people. He chose them to demonstrate what it looked like to have God as a Heavenly Father.**

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme found on page 1. Then have children gather around balloon globe and place a hand on it for prayer.

- Who is someone you know that reflects God. Thank God for putting that person in your life.
- Ask God to help you reflect Him to someone this week.

Lesson 4—God’s Big Solution

Supplies: mirror covered with dirt or mud, Bible, glass cleaner, paper towel

Hold up the mirror and let some of the students look in it. **Why can’t you see your reflection clearly? This mirror is so dirty that it cannot do the job it was created to do—reflect. God chose the nation of Israel to show others what He was like, but Israel disobeyed God and did not keep His commandments. Their sin became like the dirt covering this mirror. Sin kept them from doing what they were created to do—demonstrate what life looks like when God is our Heavenly Father.**

Give the glass cleaner and paper towel to a pair of students and have them clean the mirror. **Now the mirror is back to its original condition and can reflect again. When God sent His Son, Jesus to the earth, people could see God. Read Hebrews 1:3. Not only did Jesus reflect God exactly, but Jesus also took care of the problem of sin. What did Jesus do to get rid of the sin in our lives?** Let students share. **Like the glass cleaner, Jesus’ death on the cross made a way for us to have clean hearts. When we receive Jesus, we can do what we were made to do—reflect God clearly.**

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme found on page 1. Then have children gather around balloon globe and place a hand on it for prayer.

- Thank God for sending Jesus so we could know what God is like.
- Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for the sins of the world.

Lesson 5—Asia

Supplies: floor map, continent labels

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. Then invite students to stand on Asia, the largest continent. Indicate its outline on the map. **Asia is a huge continent that stretches from the icy water of the Arctic Ocean far in the north to the warm water of the Indian Ocean in the south. Can you name some countries in Asia?**

If we could travel to all the countries in Asia, we could visit amazing sights. Imagine climbing Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. What would it be like to sail on Asia’s longest rivers in China and Russia?

We would see a variety of people from many nations. In fact, more than half the world’s total population lives in Asia! We could hear different languages and musical tunes. We would see many styles of homes and places where people worship. One thing is true of every person living in Asia: God loves each one and wants them to be a part of His family.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. This time add Asia, to the “Wherever they are” line. Then have children gather around Asia and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Thank God that He sent Jesus to die for the sins of the billions of people in Asia.
- Pray for the millions of people in Asia who have never had a chance to hear about Jesus.

Lesson 6—Asia: Japan and China

Supplies: balloon globe, floor map, continent labels, an item that says “Made in Japan” (optional)

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. **Asia has more than 40 countries! Let’s take a closer look at two of them: Japan and China.** Locate Japan and China on balloon globe.

Japan is a small country with a big population. About 12 million people live on this string of islands! Japanese children go to school six days every week! Students work hard because they want their parents to be proud of them. Japanese parents work hard too, helping produce televisions, cameras, cars, and computers. It’s very likely that something in your home says “Made in Japan.” (show item) On days off, Japanese families go to the countryside to enjoy the peaceful scenery. Most Japanese families do not know God or His Son, Jesus.

Across the Sea of Japan is China. China has more people than any country in the world! Christian churches exist in China, but members must obey strict laws that the government enforces. One law says that churches cannot teach children under age 18 about God. Children who believe in Jesus must worship secretly with their parents in other locations. If someone offered to give a Chinese Christian anything he wanted, what do you think he would ask for? Did you guess a Bible? God wants the peoples of Japan and China to be a part of His family.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add Japan and China to the “Wherever they are” line. Then have children gather around Asia and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Pray that Japanese families would come to trust in Jesus for their future rather than in education and hard work.
- Pray that God will give believers in China strength and courage to follow Jesus even when they must go against the government rules.

Lesson 7—Africa

Supplies: balloon globe, floor map, continent labels

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. Briefly, review the continents, especially Asia. Encourage students to name countries there. Point out that Asia is a huge part of our world. **Let's travel from Asia to another continent.** Have a child walk from Asia to Africa. Now, find Africa on the balloon globe. Touch the country of Egypt towards the north (top) of Africa. **This ancient country has existed since Bible times. Can you remember what happened to Moses and the Israelites in Egypt? Egypt is 96% desert! Only a small stretch of land along the Nile River is good for farming.**

Ahmad lives in an apartment in Cairo, the capital city. His family struggles to buy food because Ahmad's father does not have a job. Ahmad helps earn money. He uses his donkey and a cart to run errands for other families in his apartment building. They pay him what they can. Because he works, Ahmad cannot go to school regularly. He is learning to speak English by watching western TV shows with his friend, Samuel. They recognize all the cartoon characters.

Five times each day, a loud voice booms over speakers from a nearby mosque, the Muslim place of worship. It is the call to prayer. Ahmad's family follows the religion of Islam, but Samuel's family is Christian. They worship in a church that needs repair, but the Muslim government won't give them permission to work on the building. God wants the peoples in Egypt to be a part of His family, even if they don't know God yet.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add Egypt to the "Wherever they are" line. Then have children gather around Africa and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Pray for Muslim children like Ahmad who need to know that Jesus is God.
- Pray for Christian families like Samuel's living in African countries where it is difficult to follow Jesus.

Lesson 8—Africa: Sudan, Uganda, and Liberia

Supplies: pillow, blanket, balloon globe, floor map, continent labels

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. **Do you have a house to live in and enough food to eat? Hold up the pillow and blanket. Do you have a warm, comfortable bed? Many children in Africa do not. Wars have raged all around them since they were born.** On the balloon globe, find the African countries of Sudan, Uganda, and Liberia.

In these countries, children who should be going to school and laughing with their friends live in constant fear of soldiers. Sometimes armies burn down or destroy homes as they pass through villages. Families escape the fighting by fleeing with only the clothes on their backs. They run to refugee camps to be safe. Many frightened families crowd into these camps. Some have huts or tents, but many live outdoors. They have no beds, no food, no medicine, no grocery stores, or money to buy anything. Relief workers try to help, but with so many people and so few supplies, the needs are great.

These children of war need safety, food, and freedom. But most of all, these children need to hear about Jesus. God wants them to be a part of His family.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add Sudan, Uganda, and Liberia to the "Wherever they are" line. Then have children gather around Africa and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Pray for families who are in great need because of war.
- Pray that children in Sudan, Liberia, and Uganda will learn that God loves them.

Lesson 9—Europe

Supplies: floor map, continent labels

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. **Who remembers which continent has the countries of Sudan, Uganda, and Liberia?** (Africa) Have a child stand in Africa. **Let's travel to Europe, another continent filled with beauty and history.** Have volunteer walk from Africa north (up) across the Mediterranean Sea until he/she reaches Europe.

What countries are in Europe? You may have grandparents or other relatives who lived there. Maybe you know people who went to Europe on vacation. Share something you know about a European country.

Many cities in Europe have beautiful buildings called cathedrals. Decorated with stained glass windows, woodwork, paintings, and sculpture, these cathedrals were built as places to worship God. Today, many tourists visit the cathedrals, but on Sunday mornings, the cathedrals are almost empty! Very few people go there to worship God.

Some of the people in Europe have forgotten about God, but God has not forgotten European nations. God wants the peoples of Europe to turn back to Him and become part of His family.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add Europe to the "Wherever they are" line. Then have children gather around Europe and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Pray that families in Europe will turn back to the God of their grandparents and great-grandparents.
- Pray that empty places of worship will be full of worshippers, praising Jesus Christ.

Lesson 10—Australia and Oceania

Supplies: floor map, continent labels

Next stop—Australia. Australia is surrounded by water. Find this island continent on the floor map. **The entire population of Australia could fit into the state of Texas! The inland area called the outback has hot deserts and grasslands. Most people live in cities near the coast.**

Hundreds of years ago, the Aborigines came to Australia from islands in the Pacific Ocean. Then, the Europeans came to Australia to raise sheep and cattle. England shipped criminals out of Europe to Australia. Today, Australian cities have churches, but many people still need to hear about God who loves them so much that He sent His Son to be their Savior.

Surrounding Australia and New Zealand are thousands of neighboring islands. Some are tiny and some are huge, like the island of New Guinea. The country of Papua New Guinea occupies half of this large island. It has mountains, dense forests, swamps, and many different groups of people. You could hear 700 languages spoken in Papua New Guinea! The people need Bible translators so they can hear about God in their own language. God wants the peoples who live on islands like Australia and New Guinea to be part of His family.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add Australia, New Guinea, and the surrounding islands to the "Wherever they are" line. Then have children gather around Australia and New Guinea and place a hand on the map for prayer.

- Pray that believers in Australia will share Jesus with those in their country who do not know Him.
- Pray for the many groups of people in Papua New Guinea who have never heard about Jesus.

Lesson 11—South America

Supplies: balloon globe, floor map, continent labels

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. They may now take turns holding the balloon globe and naming a continent or country they have learned about in previous lessons. Point out that all these have been in one half of the world. **Now we move to the western part of the globe and visit South America.**

Have a child stand on South America on the floor map. **The equator passes through South America. What do you think the jungles are like there? Did you guess hot and steamy? South America also has snow-covered mountains, dry deserts, wet forests, and spacious grasslands.**

Let's stop on the continent's most crowded country—Brazil. Point out Brazil on balloon globe. **Families in Brazil move to the cities to find work, but there are not enough jobs to go around. They cannot afford homes so they build shantytowns; groups of flimsy houses huddled together. Thousands of homeless children live on the streets of Brazil. They get food by stealing or digging through trash for scraps. Some kids take drugs to numb the pain of an empty stomach. Many suffer from malnutrition and sickness. God cares about each of these children and wants to be their Father in Heaven.**

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add South America to the “Wherever they are” line. Then have children gather around South America and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Pray that the peoples of South America will trust in Jesus as their Savior.
- Pray for believers who are showing the love of Jesus to the street children of Brazil by providing food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and friendship.

Lesson 12—North America

Supplies: balloon globe, floor map, continent labels

Ask students to place the continent labels on the floor map. **We finish our world tour on the continent of North America.** Look on the balloon globe. Name three countries that share this continent. **If you could travel anywhere in North America, where would you like to visit?**

Canada has huge mountains, miles of prairie grasslands, and huge forests. Although Canada is the second largest country in the world, much of the land in the north is frozen and unpopulated. Mexico has tall mountains, deserts, tropical forests, and pasture land. Beaches stretch along the coasts. Many people in Mexico have heard about God, but have not received Jesus into their hearts.

The United States is the third largest country in the world, in both size and population. God has blessed the people here with the freedom to worship as they choose and to talk about God openly. Many immigrants, people from other nations, have come to the United States seeking a good education or job. Others come to have freedom to worship God, something they could not do in their homeland.

In many parts of the world, you would not find a church nearby where you could worship Jesus. How many churches are in your city? With so many churches in North America, you might think that everyone would believe in Jesus, but this not so. God loves all the people in North America and wants them to be a part of His family.

Invite students to join you in the action rhyme on page 1. Add North America to the “Wherever they are” line. Then have children gather around North America and place a hand on that continent for prayer.

- Pray that the peoples of Mexico would put their faith in Jesus instead of in good actions or religious ceremonies.
- Pray that immigrants who come to the United States would have the chance to learn about and receive Jesus.