



DiscipleLand

Missions Education

Level 1, Quarter B—At Work With God

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

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1B—Missions Education God's Great Job

Teacher Intro—It's easy to get so caught up in missions that we think it all depends on us. It's exhilarating to guide children to catch the vision of world missions. We tell thrilling stories of missionary heroes and tell about the urgent needs in other countries. We lead them to pray and give, then rejoice with them when they see the rewarding results: clinics built, bodies healed, orphans fed, and Bibles distributed.

In this quarter, we introduce children to missions from God's perspective. His plan is being worked out in sending witnesses to every nation. His Word gives the big picture. In Creation, God reveals His glory. We discover that the history of Abraham's family is His story, working out redemption to bring forth people who receive salvation through His Son and respond with worship and obedience. Finally, in Revelation we see the climax of God's plan as Jesus receives worship in a new song, praises from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Revelation 5:9). The story comes full cycle—God created us to worship Him, revealed Himself in Creation, in His Son Jesus Christ, and in His Word, redeemed us to glorify Him, and in heaven we will worship in praise and adoration throughout eternity.

Lesson 1—God Reveals Himself in Creation

Bring an illustrated copy of *The Three Bears*. Ask children to tell what Goldilocks could learn about the three bears just by being in their home. Point out how they left many clues about themselves.

Close your eyes and imagine a beautiful park—green grass, flowers, bushes, trees, bright sunshine, birds, butterflies, friendly animals, and two people—a man and a woman. They have everything they need and are very happy. You notice that they are alert and seem to be expecting something very special to happen.

And it did! Every day in the evening God came and talked with them. What do you think they talked about? Encourage children to give their ideas. **I wonder what they said about the delicious fruit that hung from the branches of trees. I wonder if they thanked God for the beauty that filled the earth. I wonder if they praised Him as the sun set, the sky darkened, and the stars began to twinkle—many, many**

stars, far too many to count. God made them all and called each one by name!

God gives many clues about Himself—His power, love of beauty, and care for us. He filled the earth with many wonderful, amazing gifts, but best of all God made it possible for each person to know and love Him.

Sadly, those first two people chose to disobey God, and He had to make them leave the garden. No more happy visits in the evening. But still God loved them, and He still left clues about Himself that we can explore.

Lesson 2—God Communicates His Plan

Bring gingerbread cookies made with plain sugar cookie dough. Have on hand a variety of frosting in tubes and any other decorating items that are easy to apply and clean up.

The family of Adam and Eve grew and grew with children and grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, uncles and aunts, and cousins. Soon there were many groups of people on earth. (See Genesis 10.)

Show the cookies. **The people were part of the same family, but God wanted them to enjoy their differences.** Invite children to each decorate a cookie.

Show a world map and point out how people have spread out over the whole world until there are now over 16,000 people groups! Let children enjoy their decorated cookies. **God loves all these people. He made them and wants them to be happy in knowing and loving Him, and doing everything to bring Him honor. The big question is—how will these people know God loves them and offers them their greatest happiness in loving and obeying Him?**

Lesson 3—God Blesses Abraham and Calls Him to Be a Blessing

Prepare treats for your class. Place the treats in a box with a label inside, “You will be a blessing.” On the lid of the box attach one treat and label, “I will bless you.”

God created people so they would be happiest when they loved and obeyed Him. But, as God looked at the people who had spread out all over the world, He saw that they did not know Him nor worship Him. But God had a plan.

Show the box and hand it to a child. Ask him or her to read the label aloud and then enjoy the treat. **God gave this promise to Abraham. He was promising to give good gifts to Abraham—gifts that would help him know God and understand how much God loved him. Indeed, God did love Abraham and had wonderful plans to give him a family that would grow into a large nation and to give him the land of promise.**

But that was not all. God had not forgotten about all the other people who also lived on earth. He loved them too. Let’s see what God had for them. Ask the child to open the box, read the label, and distribute the treats so all can enjoy them.

God’s plan included everyone. Abraham and his family would enjoy God’s good gifts and they would have the privilege of sharing those gifts with others. They were given the job to tell everyone about the one true God who loved them. What a wonderful plan God had, and it includes you and me, too.

Lesson 4—Tell Who God Is

God promised to make Abraham’s family a great nation. If they would obey Him and walk in His ways, then all the people on earth would see that they belonged to Him. (See Deuteronomy 28:9-10.)

Abraham’s family, called the Israelites, or the Jews, had a song of praise to God. Read Psalm 96:1-3.

God loves the Israelites. They are His special people, but He also loves all people on earth. He wants them also to enjoy His blessings. The Israelites had the job of spreading the good news everywhere. We too have the job of telling others who God is. What shall we tell them about the Lord? Encourage children to share.

If time permits, help children write a song of praise to a familiar tune. Be sure the words include the thought that all people need to hear the greatness of our God.

Lesson 5—Tell What God Has Done

God had promised to bless Abraham with a family and a land. His family, the Israelites, grew in number until one day they filled the land of Egypt (Exodus 1:7). They waited on the Lord and His promise to Abraham.

They were living in Egypt, but they were slaves and had to work very hard for the Pharaoh. Then, the time came for God to fulfill His promise. It was God’s time to give them their own land, as He had promised—but not before He had shown them and all people His great power.

God sent amazing plagues—bad things like frogs and locusts crawled over everything. God proved He has more power than the gods that the Egyptians worshiped. Then when Moses led the Israelite slaves out of Egypt, He saved them from the Egyptian army that chased them. As they walked through the wilderness, God sent water pouring out of a rock and gave them food which fell from heaven, called manna. News of these marvelous events spread from country to country as God’s people told the amazing, miraculous things He had done.

God wants us to tell all people in the world what He has done. What can you share with others that He has done for you?

Lesson 6—Tell What God Is Doing Today

Make four large question marks cut from poster board. Print the first part of each question on the upper part and part two on the cutout circle under it.

- How can they call on the Lord / if they have not believed?
- How can they believe / if they have not heard?
- How can they hear / if no one tells them?
- How can someone tell / unless they are sent?

God is the one true Living God today just as He was long ago in Bible times. He has power to send plagues, to heal the sick, to provide food and water, and to protect His people. How is God at work today? How has He chosen to show His love for all people? Let children respond.

God has given us wonderful words that we can keep in our hearts all our lives. He says that if you receive Jesus as your Lord and believe that He died and came back to life again for you, He promises that you will be saved. It doesn't matter what people group, you are from—anyone anywhere in the world can receive eternal life.

Help children find Romans 10:14-15 in their Bibles. Read the verses, then show the “question marks” you have prepared. **God's salvation is for everyone. Our part is to go and tell them ourselves or send others who will tell them.**

Lesson 7—We Show What God Is Like

God gave Abraham and his family a job—to be a blessing by telling the world of His greatness and love.

Jesus came to earth to tell and show what God is like. Can you name some ways He did this? If available, bring Teaching Pictures (from Level Three) showing various aspects of Jesus' ministry on earth.

- Jesus taught.
- He healed the sick and disabled.
- He raised the dead.
- He fed the hungry.
- He gave His life by dying on the cross in our place.

Shortly before Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, He prayed, “As You [My Father] sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

Today, Jesus' followers are in many places all over the world. They work in hospitals. They adopt orphans. They feed the hungry, teach in schools, and prepare radio programs telling about Jesus. They learn difficult languages and translate the Bible. They suffer persecution and are put in prison or killed. They love Jesus passionately and love to tell the world about His love.

Lesson 8—God Prepares Hearts

Where do we turn when we want to learn about Jesus? (God's Word, church, a pastor, Christian books, etc.) In some places there is nowhere to turn—no Bibles, no churches, no pastors—nobody knows God. But God sees the hearts of these unreached people and He prepares them to hear about Him.

Here's how God worked in Ethiopia. Show Ethiopia on a world map. **Among half a million Gedeo people, lived a man named Warrasa Wange. He was the only one to pray to Magano, the Creator. “Please show us who You are,” he prayed.**

One day, God gave him a vision—a picture in his mind. He saw two light-skinned men come and set up shelters under a nearby sycamore tree. Then, he saw these men build structures with shiny metal roofs. How strange! Nothing like this had ever happened. Everyone in Warrasa's village had roofs of grass. Then, God spoke to Warrasa and said, “These men will bring you a message from Magano, the God you seek. Wait for them.”

Eight years passed! Then, two missionaries arrived, hot and tired. And where do you think they set up their tents? Under a nearby sycamore tree! Later, they built structures with shiny metal roofs—just like in the vision!

Well, God fulfilled the vision. Warrasa listened to what the missionaries said about Jesus—the Son of Magano! God had prepared Warrasa's heart and he believed in Jesus, as did 40,000 other Gedeo people!

Lesson 9—God Prepares Us

As a high school student, Thomas was very smart and very ambitious. He was planning on his future as a famous politician! But God had different and better plans.

God called Thomas to surrender his life and trust in Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior. God gave him a new life and Thomas learned that before he was born, God had planned good works for him to do (Ephesians 2:10).

One day, Thomas picked up a pamphlet that told about the country of Nepal. 10 million people lived in Nepal but there were not enough doctors or hospitals. Thomas gave up his dreams of being a politician and joyfully chose to follow God's call to be a missionary doctor in Nepal.

Cynthia also chose to follow Jesus. She and Thomas met in medical school. Thomas trained to be a surgeon and Cynthia studied to be a pediatrician. They married, and after 16 years of preparation, they began to pack for life in Nepal. Soon they would be in the city of Kathmandu (Kaht-mahn-doo), in the biggest hospital, in the biggest city in Nepal, helping people and telling them about Jesus.

Lesson 10—God Guides Us

Dr. Thomas Hale knew God had told him to take his wife and two sons to Nepal to be medical missionaries. He would work as a surgeon, and his wife, Cynthia, would care for children as a pediatrician in the largest hospital in Nepal's capital city of Kathmandu.

Then a letter came. Instead of going to the city hospital, they were going to a small, unfinished building in a remote village. There was no road. To get there, they would fly to a landing strip and then hike six miles up a mountain!

Suddenly Dr. Thomas knew he had a problem. If there wasn't a finished building, there would be no equipment. How could he be a surgeon if he did not have any instruments for his work?

Our God is the God of miracles. God guided Thomas to ask two U.S. army hospitals to give their extra, unused equipment! Thomas and Cynthia were completely equipped with everything good for doing God's will. God provided and enabled them to do the good works He had prepared for them.

Lesson 11—God Hears Us

Nine-year-old Mary was busy, busy, busy working on a report for Social Studies class. First, she found Mongolia on a map. Find it on a world map. Then, she found answers to the homework questions on the Internet.

- What kind of climate does Mongolia have?
- What natural resources are there?
- What religions do the people follow?

When Mary learned that there were almost no Christians in Mongolia, her heart felt heavy with sadness. Mary began to pray for the Mongolian people who needed to know Jesus' love. This became so important to Mary that she talked to her friends. They wanted to pray too. Mary made "Pray for Mongolia" stickers which she and her friends put on their backpacks. Then, many more people asked what that was all about and began to pray, too.

Mary prayed faithfully for three years. Imagine how she felt when she heard one day that there were 1000 people in Mongolia who believed in Jesus! Today, Mongolians have the Bible in their heart-language. Mongolians are going out as missionaries to share about Jesus with people around the world! Since the day Mary and her friends began to pray, many people in Mongolia have believed in Jesus—how do you think Mary felt when she heard that?

Lesson 12—God Gets All the Glory

We've been looking at the map and talking about real places in other parts of the world where people live and need to know about Jesus. Today we're going to talk about another place. It isn't on the map, but it is just as real. We'll talk about heaven, where God lives. He will live there with us, His people.

One day, there will be a great gathering of thousands and thousands of people. These people will sing a new song to honor Jesus because He died on the cross for us. The song will praise Him for giving eternal life to people from every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).

That's why we are so excited to spread the Good News of Jesus' salvation to every place on earth. God wants people from everywhere to worship Him, no matter where they live. He created them for His glory and He will enjoy their praise for ever and ever.