



DiscipleLand

Missions Education

Level 4, Quarter D—World Ambassadors

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

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4D—Missions Education

The Global Team

Teacher Intro—In our age of globalization, it is no surprise that missions agencies have formed that are autonomous and international, subject to no local church or denominational authority. By existing outside of national boundaries, these organizations have the ability to affect change across a wide spectrum of political and cultural barriers.

This quarter your students will be introduced to some of these ministries and will come to appreciate the pros and cons of serving God in such a capacity. They'll realize that without God's sovereign authority and the Holy Spirit's direction, international missions would be able to accomplish nothing to further the Lord's kingdom and to fulfill the Great Commission.

Lesson 1—Secrets to the Success of International Missions

David had a deep love for the people of Egypt. Ever since his 8th birthday party—themed around Ancient Egypt—he wanted to be a missionary to the Egyptian people. When he graduated from high school, he worked and bought an airplane ticket to Egypt. He was so excited to tell Egyptians about Jesus and watch them become Christians! Things didn't work out like David had imagined. He didn't have a team or anyone to help him with all the paperwork and documents to fill out, he didn't have a place to live, his money was quickly running out, and when he told people about Jesus they didn't choose to follow Jesus but continued following Islam. Discouraged, David shared his story with a missionary he met. The missionary explained that the missionary organization he joined had prepared him for serving God. Encouraged to be part of a team and receive training that would help him be an effective missionary, David returned home and started to research the different sending organizations. After attending a missions fair, he joined a missions organization and within a year was back in Egypt—this time seeing fruit from his labor! What reasons might a missionary join a missions organization? Encourage responses.

Are you interested in becoming a missionary? Do you feel a special desire to go to a certain country or people group? Let the children respond. Many Christians feel called to be missionaries like David. They are anxious to answer God's call to work in the harvest fields, but like any workers—they would be wise to train for their jobs!

Fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) depends on a missionary following God and using His power through the Holy Spirit to do the work. Missionary organizations exist to prepare and train people to be effective workers on the missions field. The variety of missionary organizations is amazing! It's almost like looking at all the deserts at a desert bar—which one do you pick? Missionaries might choose to go with a missions organization from their church's denomination. If you go to a Baptist church, you may want to be part of what the Baptists are doing around the world. Or you may have a special interest in Muslims and want to find an organization that specializes in reaching Muslims. In the following weeks we'll explore several different sending organizations and help explain why someone might want to join these organizations. Do you know the name of any organization that trains people and sends them out to be missionaries? Encourage students to share any info they know about missions organizations.

Pray: Pray for Christians who are currently researching and choosing a missions organization to rely fully on the Holy Spirit to lead them to where God wants them to serve. Also pray for any of the organizations mentioned by the children.

Lesson 2—Wycliffe Bible Translators (wycliffe.org)

Supplies: Bible in another language

Note: If possible, let kids to explore the websites mentioned this quarter or bring in information printed out from the missions websites.

Take a Bible in another language and ask a child to find John 3:16 and read it to the group. Continue allowing each child to look up a Bible verse. **What if this was the only way you could learn about Jesus? How would people in our language learn about Jesus?** Encourage responses.

Cameron Townsend founded Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1942 because he desired to see all people have Scriptures in the language they understood clearly. So far, Wycliffe translators have completed over 740 language translations that reach 82 million people. Today their work continues in about 90 countries around the world. Let the children share any information they know about Wycliffe, the work they do, or any Wycliffe missionaries.

What does Wycliffe do? **Wycliffe's statistics show there are 6,909 languages spoken in the world and 2,393 of these languages don't have any Bible translation project yet begun. Their goal is to have Bible translations in progress in every language still needing a Bible by the year 2025.**

What opportunities does Wycliffe offer? **Translating Bibles is only one of the many tasks done by Wycliffe missionaries. Before translating, someone must study the culture and language. Some languages have never been written down before—they need an alphabet to be developed, and then the people need to be taught to read. Scripture activities are developed using the culture's music, drama, and other forms of communication.**

A variety of non-language related skills are needed to help Wycliffe Bible Translators complete their task. Computer operators, teachers, builders, medical workers, and pilots are just a few of the people who serve and are part of the translation team.

Learn more about Bible translation at Wycliffe's children's website (wycliffe.org/resources/kids.aspx). Also, check out Wycliffe's Channel on YouTube (youtube.com/user/wycliffeusa).

Pray: Before class, print out prayer requests from the Wycliffe website (wycliffe.org/pray.aspx). Spend time praying for any Wycliffe workers you or your class know.

Lesson 3—YWAM (ywam.org)

Imagine being told that you can't go on a missions trip because you haven't graduated from college or established yourself in a career! Let the kids comment and point out any middle school or high school missions trips from your church that wouldn't have been allowed. **If you were a young person in the early 1960s, that is what you would have been told if you said you wanted to go on a missions trip.**

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) began in 1960, and now has 16,000 workers in over 149 countries. When Loren Cunningham founded YWAM, there weren't opportunities for teenagers and young college students to experience missions. YWAM focused on training young people and giving them opportunities to serve. Let the children share any information they know about YWAM, the work they do, or any YWAM missionaries.

What does YWAM do? **YWAM locations host short-term outreach teams made up of individuals, youth groups, families, and churches who participate first-hand in making God known through both words and actions. YWAM sends out over 25,000 short-term missionaries each year. Imagine your whole family being able to work together for Jesus!**

What opportunities does YWAM offer? **Not many missions organizations need snowboarding missionaries, but if you look through the extensive list on YWAM's website, you'll discover many amazing opportunities in almost every country and in almost every possible job or talent. Young people can choose a short-term or long-term position with a particular people group or doing a particular job. For some people, this is the first time they experience trusting God in faith to provide the money needed for their trip.**

Pray: Let each child choose a country of the world and pray for the YWAM training and outreach taking place in that country. Also encourage students to choose one of the specialized areas of interest from the YWAM list and pray for the YWAM people serving in that area.

Lesson 4—OM International (*om.org*)

Supplies: Risk board game (optional)

Note: Don't confuse OM International with OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship), the organization formerly known as China Inland Missions founded by Hudson Taylor in 1865.

If you have a copy of Risk, ask volunteers to explain how the game works and set up armies to show how to mobilize them to conquer other countries. If you don't have the game, let kids tell about the game.

To mobilize means “to prepare and move out for a purpose.” Just like the game of Risk where armies move across the map to take over every area, we want Jesus’ message to move out and go to every area of the world. Operation Mobilisation began preparing and mobilizing people to do God’s work around the world in the early 1960s. Now it has 5,400 workers in over 110 countries. Let the children share any information they know about OM International, the work they do, or any OM missionaries.

What does OM do? **Working in every continent and on every ocean (via two ocean-going ships), Operation Mobilisation seeks to demonstrate and proclaim God’s love. In every situation, OM teams adapt to the local culture and circumstances, finding the best ways to share Jesus.**

Through literature, the creative arts, friendship, Bible studies, videos, DVDs, CDs and mp3s, correspondence courses, relief and development work, and much, much more—by all means possible—they tell people how their lives have been changed, and how those people can meet Jesus, too.

Wherever possible, Operation Mobilisation partners with the local church, encouraging and supporting local believers. Where there is no church, they seek to plant churches.

What opportunities does OM offer? **Check out the OM website to learn more about the short-term missions trips offered. Here are a few exciting trips: baseball spring training camp in Hungary, help the homeless in Brazil, work with churches in Ireland, arts and media outreach in Italy, cycling evangelism in Moldova—just to name a few! OM provides many opportunities for people to use their talents to help others learn about Jesus. People who serve with OM need to raise the money to pay for all their expenses.**

Pray: If you have access to the OM website, choose key stories and pray specifically for the current headlines or needs. Also pray for the people raising support right now to join OM or remain on the missions field.

Lesson 5—Greater European Mission (*gemission.org*)

Supplies: world map, travel books, postcards, or pictures showing a variety of famous tourist locations in Europe (optional)

If you could go anywhere in Europe, where would it be and why? Let each child explain. **Maybe you’ve always wanted to see the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Buckingham Palace in London, or ski in the Swiss Alps. Did you ever think that you could do these things and also be a missionary at the same time? Greater European Missions (GEM) was founded in 1949, and works in each country of Europe to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ.** Let the children share any information they know about GEM, the work they do, or any GEM missionaries.

What does GEM do? **GEM focuses on the 821 million people in what they call the “40/70” window. Maybe you’ve heard of the 10/40 window.** Let children respond and explain that the 10/40 window is where the most unreached people live. The 40/70 window starts at 40 degrees and goes up to 70 degrees latitude. Show this area on a map.

What opportunities does GEM offer? **Students, singles, married couples, families, and business people can all find opportunities to serve God in Europe. Opportunities can last from six weeks to a lifetime. GEM offers the following categories of ministry: children’s ministry, church planting, evangelism, teaching, women’s ministry, discipleship, working with immigrants, media and arts, technology, camping, counseling, business, and teaching English. Which of these opportunities interests you the most?** Discuss the categories. *Note:* if you have access to the website, as children mention a category, click on the link to reveal the countries and current opportunities to serve.

Some people choose to work in the country of their ancestors. Most people can trace someone in their family history back to Europe. You may have ancestors who came from Europe. Let the students discuss their ethnic backgrounds. **How could you serve God in the land of your ancestors?**

Pray: Pray for open hearts of the people being ministered to by GEM missionaries. Also, pray that the GEM missionaries will recognize the God-ordained opportunities to have meaningful conversations about Jesus.

Lesson 6—Frontiers (frontiers.org)

What do you know about the word “frontier”? Let kids share. Just like the American west was once a frontier land offering many adventures and hardships, there is a missions organization that seeks to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the frontiers of the Muslim world! Frontiers has one goal—to see Jesus fellowships emerge and reproduce among all Muslim people. Frontiers started over 25 years ago and today works in over 40 countries. Let the children share any information they know about GEM, the work they do, or any GEM missionaries.

What does Frontiers do? Frontiers seeks to work with the Muslims they call “unengaged” (who don’t have someone among them showing and telling them about Jesus). Frontiers has identified 247 Muslim people groups with populations of 100,000 that haven’t heard the truth about Jesus. They focus on three areas: southwest and southeast Asia and northeast Africa.

What opportunities does Frontiers offer? Frontiers trains and sends individuals and will also help a church equip and send a team to work with Muslims. Imagine getting a group of people you know together to go to the missions field for a short time or a long time! You might want to just assist a missionary family by being a nanny or homeschool teacher. Frontiers also has many special assignments that might just match your skills—so check out their website.

Pray: Encourage the children to pray for missionaries working with the 247 Muslim people groups to be effective in sharing Jesus in a way the Muslims understand and decide to follow Jesus.

Lesson 7—HCJB Global (hcjb.org)

Can you guess what HCJB stands for? After a few guesses, let the kids know that HCJB stands for “Heralding Christ Jesus’ Blessings.” Heralding means “telling out.” Which of Jesus’ blessings should we tell people about? Encourage responses. HCJB were the radio call letters of a radio station in Ecuador in 1930. The following year, HCJB Global became the first missionary radio organization in the world. Since that time, HCJB has grown into a ministry that works in 400 cities in 100 countries and reaches over 120 different languages and dialects. Let the children share any information they know about HCJB Global, the work they do, or any HCJB missionaries.

What does HCJB Global do? HCJB focuses on two major areas—media and healthcare. The radio stations spread God’s Word through the air waves, and the hospitals and clinics spread God’s love through meeting the medical needs of people.

What opportunities does HCJB Global offer? HCJB trains believers to serve as missionaries, pastors, broadcasters, and healthcare providers. They desire to integrate discipleship with practical tools to equip the growing church around the world and see lives transformed. If someone is interested in healthcare or radio ministry, they can search the website for a variety of fascinating ways to use their skills to make an impact for Jesus.

Pray: If possible, look at the HCJB website and click on missionary updates to pray specifically for the missionaries (hcjb.org/missionary-giving/give-to-missionaries.html). Pray for missionaries working with HCJB to be effective ministers for Christ.

Lesson 8—New Tribes Mission (ntm.org)

What do you think of when you hear the words “tribal people”? Encourage responses. Many tribal people live in remote parts of the world. Because of isolation, they may have very different ways of living and thinking. New Tribes Mission began in 1942 to reach the tribal people of the world. Today, over 3,000 missionaries serve God around the world as part of this organization. Let the children share any information they know about New Tribes Mission, the work they do, or any New Tribes missionaries.

What does New Tribes Mission do? New Tribes Mission helps local churches train, coordinate, and send missionaries to tribes that have yet to hear the Gospel message. The NTM missionary team learns the tribal language and understands the culture, so the message of the Gospel can be presented in the language and manner that the people will understand.

They translate God’s Word, teach people how to read and write their own language, and teach through the Bible chronologically, laying a foundation for the Gospel among people who have never met the God of the Bible.

Missionaries disciple the new believers, equip them to lead their church, and help them reach out to other villages within their own tribe and to neighboring tribes.

What opportunities does New Tribes Mission offer? Anyone who likes going to remote places will love some of the exotic locations where New Tribes has projects. Christians can choose to work in diverse regions such as Papua New Guinea or Greenland!

Pray: Missionaries depend on their children getting an education while they are on the missions field. Look up some of the Education Prayer Requests posted (ntm.org/education/prayer.php) and pray for the missionary children, their education, their teachers, and their school situations.

Lesson 9—AIM International (aimint.org)

Supplies: world map or map of the continent of Africa

Which African countries can you name? Let kids name as many as they can and then point to them on a map. **In 1895, a Scottish-American missionary founded the organization known today as Africa Inland Mission International. Today, the number of missionaries has grown to almost 800, and they serve God in fourteen African countries.** Let the children share any information they know about African Inland Mission, the work they do, or any African Inland missionaries.

What does AIM International do? **Africa Inland Mission International aims to see Christ-centered churches among all African people groups. They exist to help new believers grow strong and healthy in their faith.**

One of AIM International's new programs offers two year training to help missionaries adjust to the missions field, learn a new language, and be part of a team of missionaries.

What opportunities does AIM International offer? **AIM International's Reach Africa through Six Avenues of Ministry seeks to connect believers in Christ with opportunities to use their skills or interests to make disciples in African countries. The six areas are: prayer, community outreach, leadership training, youth development, medical missions, and support services. Which area do you think you would want to be involved with?** Let each child respond.

Your church or Sunday school class may want to consider choosing a people group to pray for from the Adopt-a-People page on the website (aimint.org/usaladopt-a-people.html).

Pray: If possible, print out copies of the Effective Intercession prayer points for a week for each child. Take turns praying specifically for missions using this list.

Lesson 10—Missionary Aviation Fellowship (maf.org)

How many of you have flown on an airplane? Why do people fly? Encourage a discussion. **Imagine that you are in the middle of a dense jungle, and a venomous snake bites you! How would you get to the doctor who's in a village an hour away?** Encourage responses. **Flying people to a doctor is just one of the many activities Mission Aviation pilots do. Three Christian pilots during World War II began to discuss starting a ministry, and in 1945 the Mission Aviation Fellowship began (MAF). Did you know that part of a MAF plane was taken into space? Astronaut Patrick Forrester took part of a battery box from the airplane of missionary Nate Saint who was martyred in 1952 up in the Discovery Space Shuttle. Read more about this story online (maf.org/news/maf-news/shuttle-astronaut-returns-to-earth-with-piece-of-missionary-history).** Let the children share any information they know about Mission Aviation Fellowship, the work they do, or any MAF missionaries.

Note: If you have time and Internet access, watch a 30 minute documentary about MAF's beginnings (maf.org/history). If not, encourage kids to watch the video online with their families.

What does MAF do? **MAF's mission statement is: "Sharing the love of Jesus Christ through aviation and technology so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed." They accomplish this through 122 aircraft flying about 6.7 million miles each year. MAF assists about 1,000 Christian ministries and humanitarian organizations.**

What opportunities does MAF offer? **Pilots and mechanics are vital to this organization, but many other skills are needed to lead and serve missionaries in the missions field.**

You may not be ready right now to join MAF as a missionary, but you can still be involved in this ministry. Check out their website (maf.org/get_involved) and learn how you can adopt a MAF plane and help take the Gospel to remote areas!

MAF has other ideas to help people be part of the work they do. Your church can host a MAF Sunday and show a video about the organization. Adults can even get a MAF credit card and help MAF get money through their purchases!

Pray: Pray for the safety of MAF pilots, for God supplying the needed parts for the planes, and for funds to keep the planes fueled and running well.

Lesson 11—Adventures in Missions (*adventures.org*)

Have you ever watched the television show “The Amazing Race”? Encourage children to explain how racers go around the world and try to finish the race first to win a prize. **Right now, teams of young people are racing around the world as part of a missions organization called Adventures in Missions (AIM). The teams aren’t racing to win money—they race to take God’s love and message of hope! AIM was established in 1989 to offer opportunities for believers to hold orphans, bring hope to the hopeless, and pray for the sick. Over 80,000 people have been part of this ministry.** Let the children share any information they know about Adventures in, the work they do, or any AIM missionaries.

What does AIM do? **AIM provides opportunities for young people to experience adventure, ministry, community, and self-discovery. Many young people hunger to be challenged to learn what God is doing around the world and join Him in doing it. Lives are transformed in both the young people serving and the people they serve.**

What opportunities does AIM offer? **AIM wants today’s youth to be involved in missions, so they offer one- and two-week-long missions trips for middle school and high school students. These trips are designed for individuals or entire youth groups!**

The World Race invites Christians to give eleven months of their lives to travel to eleven countries. During this race, young adults join together in praying, healing, helping, and loving people around the world. They are challenged to put compassion into action through their words and deeds to help bring the hope that is found only in Jesus Christ. Check the website for current status of where the teams are and what they are doing (*theworldrace.org*).

Your class or family can adopt a team from the race and read their blogs and know how to pray for them (*theworldrace.org/?tab=teams&subtab=adopt-a-team*)!

Pray: Pray for the teams currently racing around the world. Pray for their health, safety, spiritual growth, opportunities to minister, and for them to discover God’s direction and plan for their lives.

Lesson 12—Your Role in Global Missions

Review the ten highlighted missions organizations: Wycliffe, YWAM, OM International, Greater European Mission, Frontiers, HCJB Global, New Tribes, AIM International, MAF, and Adventures in Missions. **Which missions organization did you like the best? Which organization could you imagine yourself someday being part of?** Encourage each child to answer and join in the discussion.

Choose one or more of these activities to do with your class:

Activity #1 Scavenger Hunt

If you have Internet access, let kids explore the ten missions organization websites to find information to complete the scavenger hunt. If you don’t have Internet access, encourage the children to do the scavenger hunt online with their families!

Find a missions organization that...

- works in China
- needs teachers
- has opportunities to travel to a place you’ve never heard of before
- asks you to raise your own expenses (support)
- is holding a conference this year
- works with Muslims
- lists prayer requests online

Activity #2 Class Mural

Make a class mural depicting each child serving God somewhere in the world. Display the mural in the hallway or on a bulletin board.

Activity #3 Mock Applications

If possible, download applications from various missions organizations for the children to see and practice answering the questions. You could conduct a mock interview for joining one of the missions organizations.

Pray: Pray for each of the missions organizations studied this quarter. Close by praying for each child by name to desire to be part of what God is doing around the world.

