



**DiscipleLand**

*Missions Education*

Level 5, Quarter B—New Testament Champions

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

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## 5B—Missions Education

### The Victory

**Teacher Intro**—In the study of missions there is always the danger of distilling statistics and resources until there is no human face left on the souls being won for God. Jesus explained that heaven rejoices when just one sinner repents (Luke 15:10).

Your children will refocus on the importance of each individual reached with the message of Christ. They'll examine the relational aspects of missionary work in light of Jesus' example in the Gospels. Kids will look forward to the day when God's plan is fulfilled and all nations, tribes, and tongues will worship Jesus as the Lamb of God, the Alpha and Omega, King of kings, and Lord of lords.

### Lesson 1—The Importance of “One”

**Supplies:** variety of candy in an unopened bag

Hold up the bag and let each child talk about how much he or she loves candy. **This bag is filled with many different kinds of candy. You may want the entire bag for yourself, but you'd still be very happy just to have one piece, right? Each piece of candy in this bag has value—especially if we are given only one piece!** Hand each child a piece to eat.

**When we talk about missions, we think about how to reach the lost people of the world. Just as we eat the entire bag of candy one piece at a time, Christians reach an entire people group by starting with reaching out to just one. God loves the entire world and doesn't want anyone to die without knowing Him. Every single person is worthy of His love and valuable to Him.**

Read Luke 15:3-7 to the group. **Jesus spoke with “sinners” and religious leaders who didn't think Jesus should be spending time with “sinners.” In this parable, Jesus showed how valuable one person is to Him. What did Jesus say the shepherd would do if one lamb became lost? (The shepherd would leave the 99 sheep to go look for the lost lamb.) How would you feel if you were the one lost lamb that shepherd came to find? Encourage responses. Jesus showed that God cares about every single person who doesn't know Him—each one is precious!**

**Missionaries often study foreign languages and move to a foreign land all to minister to people who don't know Jesus as their Savior. The missionary would love for everyone to call on the name of Jesus, but even if only one person becomes a Christ follower—it is worth all the work!**

**What about you? Think about one person that you would like to focus on to share the salvation message with, just like Jesus focused on the one lost lamb.** Brainstorm together some people who need to know Jesus as their Savior. Ask kids to think about some of the clubs, teams, groups they are involved in and also to consider people at school or in the neighborhood.

**Pray:** Thank God for loving and valuing each child in your class. Ask Him to lead each student to focus on one person and show God's love to that person.

## Lesson 2—The Importance of “One-to-One”

**Supplies:** cell phone or cordless telephone

**I want to get to know you better, so I want you all to tell me about your favorite TV show and why it is your favorite. When I count to three, I want you all to start telling me about your answer.** Have the kids all answer at the same time. Afterwards, try to recall which show each person liked. **This was very difficult because you spoke at the same time.** Hold up the phone. **If I called you on the phone, I could talk with each one of you and hear you explain your favorite show and why it is your favorite. I could focus on you much better if we were talking one-on-one in a room together or on a telephone.**

**Jesus preached to huge groups of people, but He also spent one-on-one time with individual people. Let's look in the Bible to find people with whom Jesus had one-on-one conversations.** Have volunteers look up and read the following passages: John 3:1-3 (Nicodemus), Luke 19:1-6 (Zaccheus), and John 11:20-27 (Martha). Discuss the importance of each conversation and how it changed the person's life.

**Missionaries desire to reach many people with the message about Jesus but they also follow Jesus' example of reaching out one-on-one to individuals. What are some ways a missionary might spend time one-on-one with somebody?** (Variety of answers such as spend time sitting by someone who is sick, carrying water together to the village, gather firewood together, etc.)

**What about you? Think about the person that you are going to focus on telling about Jesus. What ways can you spend one-on-one time with that person?** Brainstorm together some ways the students could spend time with the person they chose.

**Pray:** Praise God for communicating one-on-one with us! Ask Him to help the kids recognize opportunities to spend time one-on-one with someone.

## Lesson 3—Know Their World

**Supplies:** variety of items from another culture such as book in a different language, piece of clothing, unusual food, etc.

Set out the items and let the children look at them. **How many of these items do you recognize?** Let the children guess or explain if they recognize an item. **These items are typical of a different culture. When a person wants to build a relationship with someone from another culture, it is important to learn about that culture. What are some things you know about a different culture?** Let children respond.

Read Matthew 15:21-29. **Jesus had left the Jewish territory where He had lived and walked to an area where Gentiles, or non-Jews, lived. Who came up to Jesus?** (A Caananite woman approached Him.) **What was her request?** (She wanted Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter.) **How did the disciples respond to her?** (They wanted her sent away.) **Jesus understood that a woman from her culture didn't have as many rights as a man. To be taken seriously, she had been very persistent with Him. He praised her faith and announced that her daughter was healed.**

**Do you know missionaries living in different cultures?** Let the students respond. **Why is it important for missionaries to understand the culture of the people they are trying to minister to?** Possible answers: don't want to offend them, want to know what they value, so you can know how to show respect, etc. **What ways can missionaries learn about the people they want to minister to?** Possible answers: listen to the things they talk about, watch how they act or where they go, etc. **Missionaries take the information they learn and use that to help them be more understanding, caring, and effective in ministering and praying for the people.**

**What about you? Your “world” right now consists of the people you know, where you live, what you do with your free time, and where you travel. You probably understand your world pretty well, but the person you are building a relationship with may experience a very different type of family, home, or lifestyle. Let's list questions that will help us understand the world of the people we are trying to reach so we'll know how to pray for them.** Help the kids brainstorm ideas such as: do they struggle financially; do both parents live at home; do they seem sad; are they lonely; etc. After making a list, let the kids spend time praying for the person they've begun to build a relationship with.

**Pray:** Thank God for the wonderful opportunities and people He has placed in each child's “world.” Ask Him to help the children understand more about the world of the person they are ministering to and to allow the children opportunities to develop a deeper relationship with the person.

#### **Lesson 4—Know What They Do**

**Supplies:** variety of tools used in different jobs such as an unusual kitchen gadget used by a chef, a type of screwdriver used by a construction worker, etc.

Set out a variety of tools. **What are these tools used for?** Let children answer. **Today we will discover that it is important for missionaries to understand the type of work done by the people they are trying to reach. Let's see how Jesus built a conversation around the job some men were doing.**

Read Matthew 4:18-20. **Where was Jesus when He met Peter and his brother, Andrew?** (He was walking beside the Sea of Galilee.) **What job did the brothers do?** (They were fishermen.) **What job did Jesus ask them to follow Him and do?** (He asked them to become fishers of men.) **Jesus went to the place where fishermen were. Fishermen understood fishing, so he used an example they could relate to. What did Jesus mean "fish for men?"** Encourage responses. **How did they respond?** (They left their nets and followed Jesus.)

**Missionaries learn what the people in their area spend time doing. In some villages the men farm, the women might weave rugs, and the kids might take care of a herd of goats. A missionary shares Jesus with people in a way they understand based on what they do. What ways could a missionary explain Jesus or God's love to a farmer?** Possible answers: God takes care of us like a farmer takes care of the plants, God wants a full harvest of people worshiping Him, etc. **A weaver?** Possible answers: God has a plan for our lives like a weaver has a pattern, He is involved in each little part of our lives, etc. **A shepherd?** Possible answers: Jesus is our Shepherd, God watches over us and protects us, etc. If you have extra time, discuss other jobs done by people around the world and how missionaries could use that job to help explain about Jesus.

**What about you? Think about the person that you are building a one-on-one relationship with. What things does that person do? How could you use that activity or job to help tell the person about Jesus?** Brainstorm together some ways the kids could explain Jesus to their person through focusing on what the person does.

**Pray:** Thank God for being involved in the things we do and asking us to follow Christ. Ask Him to bring creative opportunities to help others recognize God's love for them and His desire for them to know Him.

#### **Lesson 5—Know What They Like**

**Supplies:** bottle of perfume

Put a little perfume on a facial tissue or small piece of clean cloth. Let the children smell the perfume sample. **How many of you liked the smell of the perfume? How many of you didn't like the perfume?** Have the children raise their hands. **When you have a one-on-one relationship with someone, you can build a deeper friendship and open more opportunities for ministry if you take time to notice what the person likes and dislikes.**

Ask a volunteer to read John 12:1-8 to the group. **What did Mary do that surprised the guests?** (She took expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet.) **The perfume was very expensive, in fact, it probably cost an entire year's wages. Jesus knew that this was very precious to Mary. Which disciple was upset with Mary's actions?** (Judas Iscariot.) **Jesus didn't scold Mary. He recognized that she showed love towards Him and praised her.**

**Missionaries look for activities or things that are well liked by the people they are trying to reach with the Good News about Jesus. Soccer, also called football, is the favorite sport in many countries. There are Christian soccer players who put on sports clinics or play soccer with people as a way to build a relationship. Then a person is more open to listen to the player tell his or her testimony. What other ways might a missionary use a well-liked sport or activity as a way to tell others about Jesus?** Encourage responses. **How might an individual respond if he or she knew the missionary liked or cared about the same things?** Let kids respond. **In a one-on-one situation, a missionary might know that someone really likes flowers, so the missionary could give the person a picture showing flowers from America. What might a missionary do if someone liked: a certain food, a special type of music, a particular animal?** Let the students respond to each item.

**What about you? Think about the person that you are building a one-on-one relationship with. What things does that person like? How could you use that activity or thing to help tell the person about Jesus?** Brainstorm together some ways the children could explain Jesus to their person through focusing on things the person likes.

**Pray:** Praise God for creating so many activities and things that are enjoyed by people. Ask Him to create opportunities for the kids to enjoy things together and enthusiastically share their love of Jesus with others.

## Lesson 6—Know How They Feel

Let's play a quick game to see if you can read someone's face and detect his or her emotions. Have children take turns displaying an emotion and let the class guess the emotion. **Jesus showed us that it is important to respond appropriately to what a person is going through or how they feel.**

Read John 11:32-36. **What was Mary feeling when she saw Jesus?** Possible answers: sad, upset that Jesus didn't come sooner, glad Jesus was finally there, etc. **How did Jesus respond to the sad situation?** (He wept.) **Jesus set the example of Romans 12:15.** Ask a volunteer to read Romans 12:15 to the group. **Jesus mourned with those who mourned. How did the people watching respond?** (They knew Jesus loved Lazarus.)

Missionaries want to build relationships that are deep and personal. One aspect of building a relationship with someone is to be sensitive to what they are experiencing or feeling. Suppose the missionary is with a man who just lost his job, how might the missionary respond? Let students respond. If a person just received some wonderful news, how might the missionary respond? What might happen if the missionary's response isn't appropriate? Encourage responses.

What about you? Think about the person that you are building a one-on-one relationship with. What things is that person feeling or experiencing? How could you show that you care and respond appropriately? Brainstorm together some ways the kids could recognize and respond well to the person.

**Pray:** Thank God for Jesus' example of showing sensitivity that we can follow. Ask Him to remind the children to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.

## Lesson 7—Know What They Need

What are some ways people go about finding out someone's needs? Possible answers: take a survey, ask them, watch them, listen to what they talk about, etc. **Sometimes a person's needs are very obvious, but that doesn't mean that someone will respond to the need. Jesus recognized people's needs and helped them.**

Read Luke 7:1-9. **What need did the centurion have?** (He needed Jesus to heal his sick servant.) **Why didn't the centurion come to Jesus?** (He didn't think he was worthy.) **The centurion was a very important man, but he was not Jewish and felt unworthy of meeting Jesus. How did Jesus respond to the centurion?** (He was amazed at the man's faith.) **Jesus set a wonderful example of helping both Jews and non-Jews with their needs.**

Missionaries have many opportunities to help people with their needs. Sometimes they can dig a well to help an entire village meet their need for water. Or missionaries might raise money to buy solar powered burners for the village women to use for cooking so they don't have to go into the dangerous forest to gather cooking wood. Suppose a missionary was working one-on-one with someone who just lost his job. How might the missionary help this friend? Let students respond.

What about you? Think about the person that you are building a one-on-one relationship with. What needs does that person have? How could you help meet that need? Brainstorm together some ways the children could recognize and respond to the person's need.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is able to meet all of our needs! Ask Him to connect each child with ideas and people who can assist in helping meet the needs of the people the kids are trying to reach for Jesus.



## Lesson 8—Know What They Fear

**Supplies:** Bibles

**What are some things that people might fear?** Possible answers: losing a job, snakes, dark, strangers, flying in an airplane, etc. **How can people overcome these fears?** Encourage responses. **In the Bible we read many places where people are told not to fear, but to trust Jesus. Let's see how Jesus helped a woman with her fear of people.**

Ask a volunteer to read John 4: 6- 10. **Where was Jesus?** (He was resting by a well.) **He did something very unusual and had a one-on-one conversation with a Samaritan woman—Jews and Samaritan didn't associate with each other. She came to well when no one from her village was around because she feared they would yell at her for her choice of lifestyle. How did Jesus help her?** (He chose to speak with her and offered her living water, eternal life.) **Jesus chose to engage her in a conversation that not only changed her life, but as soon as she left Jesus she told her village and many of them believed in Jesus because of her testimony!**

**Missionaries can be very effective when they build one-on-one relationships and can deal with the fears of an individual. Suppose a young person in a village is fearful of being kidnapped. The missionary might share John 14:27 with the youth. How could this verse help get rid of the fear?** Let the children read the verse and respond. **What are some situations that a missionary might share 1 John 4:18 with a fearful person?** Have kids read the verse and suggest situations.

**What about you? Think about the person that you are building a one-on-on relationship with. What fears might that person have? How could you show the person that Jesus will help remove fear?** Brainstorm together some ways the children could recognize and respond to the person's fear.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is with us at all times and there is nothing we need to fear! Ask Him to reveal Bible verses and ways to help remove fear and begin to build faith in Jesus.

## Lesson 9—Know What Keeps Them from God

**Supplies:** chairs or items arranged in an obstacle course

Set up an obstacle course and let kids complete it. **How did you feel when came to an obstacle?** Let children respond. **How did you feel when you overcame each obstacle to finish? Congratulations, you made a choice to not let the obstacles keep you from completing the course. Today we will talk about some of the obstacles that stop people from following Jesus.**

Read Mark 10:17-23. **What question did the man ask Jesus?** (He asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?") **What one thing did Jesus tell him to do?** (He was told to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Jesus.) **What kept him from following Jesus?** (He was rich and didn't want to give up his wealth.) **Jesus pointed out the love of money that kept the rich young ruler from following Him. If the man had given up his wealth, what would he have gained?** Possible answers: Jesus would take care of his needs, he would be with Jesus for eternity, etc.

**When a missionary builds a relationship with an individual, he or she can begin to understand what keeps that person from accepting Christ as Savior. Often the person lives in a country where it might be dangerous to become a Christ follower. Or a university student might have a hard time with faith because he or she relies on knowledge and what is provable. What are some ways that a missionary could help the person overcome the obstacle that keeps him or her from following Jesus?** Let kids suggest responses to these two scenarios and also talk about other barriers that keep people from following Christ.

**What about you? Think about the person that you are building a one-on-on relationship with. What obstacles might keep that person from following Christ? How could you help show the person that it is worth it to follow Jesus?** Brainstorm together some ways the children could recognize and respond to the person's obstacles with Scriptures, sharing a personal testimony, and prayer.

**Pray:** Thank God for loving us and allowing us to become part of His forever family. Ask Him to help each child recognize ways to encourage others to follow Christ.

## Lesson 10—Know What They Need to Hear

**Supplies:** paper, pencils, Bibles

Have the children gather into groups of three or four and list the “top ten things people should know about Jesus.” After about five minutes, let the groups read their lists.

**There are many things that are important to know about Jesus. When we read the Bible, we discover more and more reasons why Jesus is worthy of our praise and our trust. Let’s look in God’s Word to see what Jesus wanted people to know about Himself. You may want to write down some of these verses to share with the person you are building a relationship with.**

Read Luke 4:17-21. **What did Jesus say He came to do?** (He came to preach good news, proclaim freedom, release the oppressed.) Read John 10:11; 13:13; 14:6. **Who did He say He was?** (Good Shepherd; Teacher and Lord; and the Way, the Truth, and Life.) Read John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. **What was said about Him?** (God said Jesus was His son and came to save the world; Christ died, was buried, and rose again.)

**People who haven’t heard about Jesus need to learn about His love, forgiveness of sins, and power to help them. When a missionary talks with someone, the person may express hopelessness or despair about the future. How could Jeremiah 29:11 help change his or her perspective?** (God plans a hope and a future for each person.) **Extreme poverty may cause someone to feel worthless. Why would a missionary share Luke 12:7 and Psalm 17:8 with someone?** (God knows the number of hairs, more valuable than sparrows, and God keeps us in the center of His eye.) **Some people feel like an outcast, that no one knows they exist. Why might a missionary share Isaiah 43:1-2?** (God calls us by name and is with us.)

**What about you?** Have a volunteer read 1 Peter 3:15. **This verse tells us to be prepared to give an answer for the hope we have. You may be the only person who will tell someone what he or she needs to hear about Jesus. Your testimony is a powerful tool and so are verses that explain who Christ is and why He came to earth.** Brainstorm together some verses the kids could share with the person they are building a one-on-one relationship with. Let children practice giving their testimonies to each other.

**Pray:** Praise God that we can know Him and become His sons and daughters. Ask Him to supply the words the kids need as they share their testimony and the reason for their hope in Jesus.

## Lesson 11—Know How to Follow Up

**Supplies:** small new seedling plant and packet of seeds

Hold up the seeds. **What must you do to help these seeds grow into strong plants?** Let kids share their ideas. Hold up the little seedling. **Can we abandon this seedling now that it has sprouted?** Have children explain the care it needs to continue growing. **The seed is like a person we witness to and try to help bring about a changed life in Christ. New believers are like the seedlings that we need to help nurture so they grow in Christ.**

Read John 20:24-29. **Jesus recognized that one of his followers, Thomas, had trouble believing that He had risen from the dead. What did Jesus say to Thomas?** (Christ invited Thomas to put feel the nail wounds and the hole in His side.) **What effect did that have on Thomas?** (He proclaimed, “My Lord and my God!”) **Jesus spent time with Thomas and allowed him to touch the wound marks so that Thomas’ faith could grow.**

**Missionaries make sure that an individual who has accept Christ is equipped to continue trusting and following God. They disciple or train the person to grow in his or her relationship with Christ. By following up with a new believer one-on-one, the person can ask questions and get feedback. The missionary will listen to the new believer’s questions and teach the person how to search for those answers in the Scriptures and through talking with God. What things might a new believer want to know about the Bible or God? How might a missionary respond to those topics?** Let kids respond.

**What about you? Don’t abandon your relationship with the person. Now is the time for your relationship to go deeper as you spend time together praying, reading the Bible, and going to church together!** Brainstorm together ideas of how to follow-up and help the person grow in Christ.

**Pray:** Praise God that He places people in our lives to help us grow in our relationship with Christ. Ask Him to help each child to be willing to invest time and effort to help disciple others.

## Lesson 12—The Celebration

**Supplies:** party hats, noisemakers, balloons

Let the kids use the party supplies. **What things do you like to celebrate?** Possible answers: birthdays, births, graduations, etc. **The Bible talks about a celebration in heaven.** Read Luke 15:7. **Describe what you think the rejoicing will be like in heaven each time someone accepts Christ.** Let children share their ideas.

**What was the best party you have attended?** Let each child respond. **The Bible tells us the best party of all time is still to come. The book of Revelation describes the scene.** Read Revelation 7:9-10 and let the class comment.

**Missionaries work to help create that scene in heaven. Each time a missionary goes somewhere in the world to some remote tribe, he or she is hoping that someone will want to join that scene from Revelation in heaven someday. By working one-on-one with someone, the missionary can personally show God's love and help the person choose to follow Jesus. Think about some of the missionaries you've studied. All will be in heaven surrounded by the people that listened and chose to follow Christ.** Let kids name some of the missionaries they know.

**What about you? Who will you personally invite to join you in heaven? How many people around the throne of God will thank you for personally telling them about Jesus?** Allow time for each child to pray for the person he or she is building a relationship with.

**Pray:** Praise God that He and all of heaven celebrate each person who becomes part of God's family. Ask Him to encourage the children to become passionate about helping to fill heaven with people who will worship around God's throne.