



**DiscipleLand**

*Missions Education*

Level 6, Quarter B—God—Up Close and Personal

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

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## 6B—Missions Education

### World-Class Preparation

**Teacher Intro**—Saying “yes” to God for missions is only a first step. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), Jesus said “go.” For any missionary, going takes preparation, organization, and coordination.

Your children will examine the organizational hurdles and preparation of large missions agencies. They’ll compare and contrast different approaches in regards to their importance and their impact for expanding God’s Kingdom. They’ll also see that their own efforts can have eternal consequences for people around the globe.

### Lesson 1—Pray!

**Supplies:** spiral notebooks, world map

**We are going to discover what’s involved when a missionary says “yes” to Jesus’ call to go into the world and preach the Good News. First, let’s remind ourselves whom Jesus called.** Read Mark 16:15. **Jesus’ command still needs to be obeyed by all of His followers today.**

**Becoming a missionary is a world-class challenge. When people feel God is asking them to go to the missions field, they should pray! What are some of the important things they could pray about?** Encourage responses.

**Missionaries rely heavily on prayer.** Share any missionary answered prayer stories that you know. **A missionary encounters many obstacles as he or she prepares to go to the missions field—praying about everything is vital!** Read Philippians 4:6. **When a missionary prays about everything, he or she is allowing God to lead and work out the details.**

**God may not be calling every Christian to go to a foreign missions field, but He does plan for every Christian to be involved in reaching the world. One of the most strategic ways to be involved in missions is to pray! In fact, your greatest role in helping missionaries is to pray for them! What are some things you could pray for someone who just said “yes” to being a missionary?** Encourage responses.

Distribute spiral notebooks to kids to begin their own Missions Preparation Journals. They’ll write down their thoughts about ways to prepare for being a missionary. Have them begin by writing Philippians 4:6 and listing missionaries to pray for.

**Pray:** Thank God for listening to prayer, answering, and speaking through prayer. Ask Him to instill in each child the practice of praying for missionaries and for open hearts to hear what God is saying to them about missions.

### Lesson 2—Prepare Now—Exposure to Missions

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals, missionary newsletters, missionary biographies

**When someone says, “I want to be a missionary,” that is just the very beginning. By learning about missions and the missionary life, a missionary will be better prepared when the time comes to go where God sends him or her.**

Pass around the missionary newsletters. As you read little bits of info about the missionaries, let children ask questions. **One way to prepare for missions is to learn what life is like for missionaries. Do you receive any newsletters or emails from missionaries?** Let children respond. **How might a missionary letter help prepare someone for missions?** Encourage responses. **When you read a missionary letter, you can begin to picture what life is like and what challenges are encountered. You can imagine yourself in the situation and think about how you would handle the situation.**

Hold up missionary biographies. **How might reading missionary biographies help prepare someone for missions?** Encourage responses. **Have you read any missionary biographies?** Let kids tell about the missionary stories they’ve read. **As you read stories about missionaries who faced dangerous situations, you can begin to imagine yourself in that situation and how you would respond. The more stories you read, the more you will discover how much the missionaries rely on God’s power to help them.**

**Some churches organize mission conferences or host missionary speakers. When a person researches and learns about missions, he or she will have a better understanding about the type of life and ministry God has asked them to do. What opportunities do you have to be exposed to missions?** Let children respond.

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to expose themselves to missions in their Mission Preparation Journals. Encourage the class to explore these websites: [simkids.org](http://simkids.org)  
[omnz.org.nz/kids/kids](http://omnz.org.nz/kids/kids) [windowkids.com](http://windowkids.com)  
[wholesomewords.org/children/child.html](http://wholesomewords.org/children/child.html)  
and [wycliffe.org/kids/kidssite.aspx](http://wycliffe.org/kids/kidssite.aspx)

**Pray:** Thank God for allowing children to learn about missions and how God is at work around the world. Ask Him to provide opportunities for the children to be exposed to and involved in missions.

### Lesson 3—Prepare Now—Language/People Group

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals, Bibles or books in foreign languages

Give foreign language Bibles to the children and ask them to read Acts 2:1-8, 41. Let them struggle for a minute or two to find the book and chapter. **How would it feel to know that the key to eternal life is written in this language that you can't understand?** Encourage responses. **The Gospel message is more effective when given in a person's native language. The Bible gives an example of how people felt when they heard about Jesus in their own languages.** Read Acts 2:1-8, 41.

**What are some ways that a missionary could prepare for the language where he or she will work?** Possible answers: study the language online, take a college class, spend time with native speakers, etc. Talk about the language opportunities available in your area and languages spoken by people in your church.

**If the person isn't yet sure where God is sending him or her, the person might begin by studying different people groups. Prayer helps guide the missionary to focus on a particular people group or area of the world. Do any of you feel a special interest in a certain people group?** Let each child answer.

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to be exposed to missions in their journals. Encourage the class to explore these websites: [joshuaproject.org](http://joshuaproject.org), [kidstalkaboutgod.org/missionexplorers.aspx](http://kidstalkaboutgod.org/missionexplorers.aspx) (video of girl's mission trip to different countries) and [unreachedoftheday.org](http://unreachedoftheday.org)

**Pray:** Thank God for the ability to learn languages and learn about people groups. Ask Him to help the children develop an interest in studying languages and people groups. Let the children pray for missionaries who are learning a language to quickly acquire the skills needed to communicate in the language.

### Lesson 4—Prepare Now—School

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals

**What job would you like to do when you become an adult?** Let children respond. **How will you prepare for that job?** Encourage responses. **Proper training is a vital key to success in any job—even being a missionary!**

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. **Paul trained Timothy to minister to others. Why did Paul spend time one-on-one with Timothy?** Possible answers: that was the only way to teach him, he wanted to personally guide him, he cared for Timothy and wanted him to do a good job, etc. **Timothy had a powerful ministry because he was trained. Why do think it is important for missionaries to be trained?** Encourage responses.

**Today, missionaries have many options available to receive training for the missions field. What ways might missionaries receive training today?** Possible answers: online courses, Christian college, missions training school, working with a missionary, etc. **A missionary may need specialized training in Bible translation from an organization like Wycliffe. What kind of schooling do you think would help a missionary?** Possible answers: nursing, teaching, Bible training, pilot, computer, etc. Lead a discussion about the type of jobs done by missionaries and the training needed for each job.

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to prepare for missions by studying or learning a job in their journals.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is all-knowing and will guide missionaries as they study and prepare for the missions field. Ask the Lord to reveal talents and special skills that the children can develop to bring glory to Him. Let the kids pray for missionaries preparing at school or job training to successfully learn what they need to be effective on the missions field.

### **Lesson 5—Prepare Now—Cultural Experiences**

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals, local phone book

Have the kids look through yellow pages for ads that show some type of business related to another culture. Discuss any cultural experiences the children have had.

Read Acts 1:8. **Where did Jesus say we should go to be His witnesses?** (We are to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth.) **Missionaries can follow this command by going anywhere on the earth! Going to another country usually means encountering a different culture. What are some of the different cultures you've learned about?** Let kids respond. **Encountering a different culture might mean different food, clothes, language, transportation, houses, sports, animals, jobs, and religions. How might a missionary prepare for a different culture?** Encourage responses. **Missionaries can try to find cultural experiences to expose themselves to and learn how to deal with a different culture.**

Just as missionaries preparing to go to the missions field expose themselves to other cultures, you can also! **If possible, go on a family missions trip with your church or through a missions organization. Family vacation destinations give cultural experiences such as Disney World's Epcot Center or the Wycliffe Wordspring Visitor's Center that teaches about missions and Bible translation.**

**How could a meal turn into a cultural experience?** Let the children answer. **When you eat at ethnic food restaurants, you can develop a conversation with the staff about their country. Remember to pray for those people and develop a friendship with them. Ask your parents and youth group to consider a missions experience made by Wycliffe in Illinois called "Jungle Jump Off." You could experience a remote village and Bible translation and other missions jobs.**

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to be exposed to cultural experiences in their journals. Encourage the class to explore these websites: [wycliffe.org/wordspring](http://wycliffe.org/wordspring) [wycliffe.org](http://wycliffe.org) (search for "Jungle Jump Off").

**Pray:** Praise God that He loves everyone in every culture! Ask Him to bring cultural experiences to the children. Let the kids pray for cultural experiences that will help missionaries be better prepared for the missions field.

### **Lesson 6—Prepare Now—Bible Training**

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals, Bible trivia questions

Read some of the Bible trivia questions to the group. **Do you think that missionaries would be asked these questions out on the missions field? What are some questions about the Bible a missionary might be asked?** Let children respond.

Read 1 Peter 3:15. **What are we told to prepare to do?** (Prepare to give an answer about the reason for the hope we have.) **Do you know which Bible verses will help show someone they are sinners in need of a Savior?** Let students respond. **What important topics would missionaries want to study to know what the Bible says about them?** Encourage responses. **What might happen if a missionary didn't know the Bible very well?** Possible answers: people wouldn't want to listen or trust him, the person would miss an opportunity to lead someone to Jesus, etc.

**Missionaries need to know the Bible so they will be able to show people what God's Word says. What ways could missionaries learn more about the Bible?** Possible answers: take a course from a Christian college, online classes, a Bible study, study the Bible yourself, etc.

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to learn more about the Bible in their journals.

**Pray:** Thank God that He has shared His story with us through the Bible! Ask Him to speak to the children through His Word so they will develop a hunger and thirst for the Scriptures. Let the students pray for the missionaries to receive good Bible training to be better prepared for the missions field.

## Lesson 7—Choose a Missions Agency—Ask Questions

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals

Read Romans 10:13-15. **What steps are outlined to reach people with the Good News?** (Before people can hear about Jesus, someone needs to preach, but before someone can preach, that person needs to be sent.) **There are also many steps for a missionary to be sent. Today we will focus on what is involved with choosing a missions agency that will actually send the missionary to the missions field.**

**There are hundreds of organizations that send missionaries around the world. A missionary needs to make a list of questions to ask the different agencies. The first question should be about doctrine—what the organization believes. If your church denomination has a missions agency, you'll know what they teach about the Bible, baptism, and other doctrines. As you look at missions agencies, examine carefully what they believe and teach about God, Jesus, and the Bible. Talk about your church's denominational missions agency or other agencies affiliated with your church.**

**The policies of the different agencies differ greatly on items such as finances (do they support you or do you raise your own support), housing (do they supply or do you live with locals), school options for your children (homeschool, local school, or Christian school), medical insurance, furloughs (return home for a set period of time to rest), etc.**

**Also consider the training that is required to be accepted by the agency, training that will be needed throughout your time on the field, conferences you are required to attend, and supervision out on the field.**

Brainstorm together and make a list of questions missionaries should ask about the different topics: What are some questions a missionary might ask an agency about doctrine? Policies? Training?

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to be exposed to cultural experiences in their journals. Encourage the class to explore these the websites: Non-denominational: *omf.org* *sim.org* *maf.org* *hcjb.org* *pioneers.org*  
Denominational: *imb.org* *alma-online.org*  
and *worldmissions.ag.org*

**Pray:** Thank God that He works through so many different organizations to get His work done around the world! Ask Him to speak to the children about their future role in missions. Let the students pray for missionaries to follow God's leading as they choose a missions agency.

## Lesson 8—Choose a Missions Agency—Living abroad

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals

**For a missionary, living in a foreign country is never a simple matter. Today, many countries don't allow missionaries. The missionaries need to have a primary reason to be in the country such as being a teacher of English, doctor, computer expert, disaster relief worker, or visitor.**

After a missionary gets permission to be in the country, he or she needs money for living expenses. A few missions agencies pay all expenses, but most missionaries need to raise financial support before going to the country. Raising support takes effort initially before going to the missions field but once there, you can concentrate on reaching people with Jesus' salvation message. Hard work is needed to continue relationships with the donors and to maintain the support level needed.

**Another option is to work in the country and earn your money. Paul set an example of working at a job and telling people about Jesus. Read Acts 18:1-4. What was Paul's job? (Tentmaker.) Today, we call missionaries who work with local people and earn their living "tentmakers." Tentmakers can win the respect of local people who also have to work for a living. It gives an opportunity to work with people and let them see you live the Gospel through your words and actions.**

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to live and work abroad in their journals.

**Pray:** Praise God that He supplies for our needs here at home and on the missions field! Ask Him to show the children glimpses of how He could use them in a missions field someday. Let the students pray for missionaries to be allowed into countries to do the work God has prepared them to do.



## Lesson 9—Choose a Missions Agency—Ministry Types

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals

Here are some more topics to think about when choosing missions agency. Knowing what type of work God wants you to do, you can find an organization that does that type of ministry.

Think about the training you have and how you want to minister. If a missionary has training in a field like teaching or medicine, then the missionary may choose to work in a missionary school, a local school, or a hospital. Why might a missionary choose to work in a missionary school or hospital? Let kids respond. Why might a missionary prefer to work at a local school or hospital?

Think about how you want to tell the Good News of Jesus. When a missionary wants to spend his or her time talking about God, he or she could choose to be a church planter or to build one-on-one relationships that will allow deep and meaningful conversations about God. Missionaries often find ways to combine preaching to a large group on Sunday and spending time during the week building relationships.

Starting a church in a new area is hard work. It takes time to know the area, find a place to meet, invite people to come, and run the church. Often a church planter works with a local group of believers and trains them to run the church. What are some benefits of starting a church? Encourage responses. What are some difficulties? What are some benefits of building personal relationships? What are some difficulties?

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to minister in their journals.

**Pray:** Thank God that He works in so many different ways around the world! Ask Him to bless the children with opportunities to prepare for their life's occupation and to share the Gospel with others. Let the students pray for missionaries to discern how God wants them to use their gifts and talents on the missions field.

## Lesson 10—Final Preparations—Health and Debt

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals

Read Luke 10:2. **What are we to ask the Lord for?** (Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.) **What is the “harvest field”?** (The harvest field is the spiritually lost people who don't yet know Christ as their Savior.) **Part of sending out missionaries is getting them ready to go to the missions field. Before they can hop on an airplane and head off to the harvest fields, they need to make some final preparations.**

One huge obstacle that keeps many young people from getting on their way to the missions field is debt—credit card debt, college loans, etc. A missionary needs to be debt-free—some missionaries on the field even need to return home to pay off the debts. Why would a missions agency require that a missionary be debt-free? Encourage responses.

When missionaries take a job at home to pay off the money owed, they sometimes get settled into a lifestyle and then lose an interest in going to the missions field. One organization has a creative answer. Project MedSend pays for the college loans of missionaries as long as they serve on the missions field! What are some other creative ways a missionary might pay off debts? Let children respond.

Another area of preparation is a missionary's health. Many countries don't have the same level of health care. If a missionary has health issues or needs surgery, he or she would need to take care of it before going to the missions field. A missionary can be more effective when he or she is healthy!

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to prepare for the missions field in their journals. Encourage the class to explore this website: [medsend.org](http://medsend.org)

**Pray:** Thank God that He is able to meet all of our physical and financial needs! Ask Him to nurture the seeds that are being planted in each child's heart to be involved in reaching the world with Jesus' message. Let the kids pray for missionaries to easily and quickly take care of the medical needs and financial debt so they can go to the missions field.

## Lesson 11—Final Preparations—Raise Support/Build a Team

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals

**When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, they all left their jobs—their lives—to be with Jesus.** Read Luke 8:1-3. **Who paid for things like food or lodging?** (Women healed of diseases and demons, Mary, Joanna, the manager of Herod's household, Susanna, and others paid the expenses.) **Today, missionaries need others to help them pay the expenses of serving God in a foreign country. Most missionaries raise monthly support or ask people to give money each month to help pay the expenses of living and working.**

**Living expenses can be very high in some countries and in poorer countries the amount of money needed may be less. Missionaries might raise support by sending out letters asking for monthly support and by speaking at churches and at fundraisers. Have you received a support letter from a missionary?** Let kids respond.

**It can be very lonely and discouraging at times for a missionaries. Missionaries need a support team of people who will pray for them, send packages, give financially when a need comes up, and pass along local and church news or encouragement. What are some ways you could be involved as part of missionary's support team?** Let children answer and then spend time praying for your church supported missionaries.

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how to support missionaries in their journals. Encourage the class to copy down the email addresses of any of your church supported missionaries.

**Pray:** Praise God for His faithfulness to supply our needs and place encouragers around us. Ask Him to show the children how they can help support missionaries and be part of the missions team. Let the students pray for missionaries to raise the financial support they need and to be surrounded by people who will pray, give, and encourage them.

**Supplies:** Missions Preparation Journals, passport

**When a missionary has been accepted and approved by a missions agency, paid off all debts, taken care of any medical needs, raised support, and gathered a support team—what's left to do?** Let children respond. **Now it's time for the missionary to get a passport, any visas or paperwork to enter a country, and get airplane tickets!**

**Do any of you have a passport?** Let the students respond and tell about which countries they visited. Pass around a passport to show the students what it looks like. Talk about any stamps or visas in the passport.

**Some missions agencies help with the paperwork needed to enter some countries. A "visa" is permission from the country to enter the country. Usually there is a charge for a visa. Sometimes missionaries get permission to work in the country and other times they can only receive a tourist visa for a short amount of time. Sometimes missionaries must leave a country for a short period of time in order to get a new visa. This disrupts their work, but it is a necessary requirement to be allowed into the country.**

**One more task to complete before leaving—missionaries might need to get vaccinations or shots that would protect them from diseases and illnesses in some countries.** Talk about any diseases like malaria or typhoid and why vaccinations would be important. If children express fear about shots, remind them of the work God has called them to do and God's ability to help them endure the shots.

**Let's find out what is left for a missionary to do when all the preparations are finished.** Read Matthew 28:19-20. **What's left for the missionary to do?** (Go!) **How do you think missionaries might feel as they board the plane on the way to a strange, new place?** Possible answers: scared, excited, sad about leaving family, anxious about whether they will be able to do the work, etc.

**Now it is your turn to remember to pray for missionaries as they prepare for missions. Target your prayers as you focus on the different steps for preparing to go. Look for ways you can help support missionaries through prayer, giving, and encouraging!**

Give kids time to write any personal thoughts about how they can help missionaries go to the missions field in their journals.

**Pray:** Thank God that Christians continue to obey Jesus' command to go into all the world and preach the Good News! Ask Him to remind the children to pray, give, and encourage missionaries as they prepare and then go to the mission field. Let the kids pray that all the final preparations will be completed and missionaries will be able to GO!