



**DiscipleLand**

*Missions Education*

Level 6, Quarter C—Standing Above the Crowd

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

© 2009, **DiscipleLand**. All rights reserved.



## 6C—Missions Education

### World-Class Opportunities

**Teacher Intro**—The twenty-first century has seen unprecedented advances in technology, transportation, and communication. More than ever, it is possible to reach masses of people with Jesus’ message of hope and forgiveness of sins. The Church’s ability to penetrate isolated geographical regions has increased, and a climate of global “connectedness” has opened doors in previously closed countries.

Your children will examine the way modern technology and the world political climate have changed the approaches that missionaries adopt to spread the Gospel. They’ll consider what factors continue to hinder world missions, and how those obstacles are overcome. Kids will be challenged to follow Jesus everywhere—to the “ends of the earth”!

### Lesson 1—The Ends of the Earth

**Supplies:** world map

**When Jesus left earth for heaven, He gave a command to His followers.** Read Acts 1:8. **What does it mean to go to the “ends of the earth”?** Encourage responses. Use a world map to talk about areas in each continent that might be “ends of the earth.” Examples: Siberia because it so cold and barren, desert areas, jungles, remote mountain villages, etc. **When we think about the “ends of the earth,” we probably think of some place extremely remote or far from cities and civilization. What is the most remote place you’ve been?** Have kids explain what made the area seem so remote.

**Did Jesus’ disciples accomplish the task of going to the “ends of the earth”? Why or why not?** Encourage responses. **What things might have hindered or stopped them from reaching the “ends of the earth”?** Let kids share ideas. **Today we have many advantages that help us be Jesus’ witnesses to the “ends of the earth” that His disciples didn’t have. However, many groups of people still haven’t yet heard Jesus’ message. These unreached people need to hear about Christ and how only He can forgive their sins.**

**This quarter we’ll explore ways to follow Jesus and be His witnesses to the “ends of the earth.” Many things try to stop us from completing Jesus’ command—but God has provided ways to overcome them! So let’s head out on our mission to follow Jesus wherever He leads us!**

**Pray:** Praise God that He alone is the One True God worthy of all praise. Ask God to open up opportunities for Christians to follow God to the “ends of the earth.” Also pray that each child will desire to follow Jesus at all times and to all places!

### Lesson 2—Political Hindrances

**Americans have a unique blessing—they live in a country founded as a place of religious freedom by leaders who prayed and revered God’s name. They based the founding documents and laws on the Bible. Although some of those religious freedoms seem to be disappearing, Americans still enjoy more freedom to worship God than most other countries. Around the world, there are many governments that don’t allow people to worship God. What countries have governments that don’t allow people to worship God?** (2009 list of worst persecutors: 1. North Korea, 2. Iraq, 3. Saudi Arabia, 4. Somalia, 5. India, 6. China, 7. Pakistan, 8. Iran, 9. Eritrea, 10. Vietnam)

**Imagine what it would be like if your neighbors could report you to the police because they saw you read a Bible or heard you talk about Jesus.** Discuss how a government law against being a Christian would affect their lives in ways such as meeting together, listening to Christian radio, buying a copy of a Bible, learning how to grow in their relationship with God, etc.

**Overcoming Political Hindrances** **When Christians were persecuted years ago, it took a long time for other Christians to learn about the persecution. Today, technology helps believers instantly share information—and Christians around the world can pray for persecuted believers. Some Christian websites send email “persecution alerts” to people who sign up. What other ways is the Gospel being told in countries that don’t allow people to be Christians?**

#### What can I do?

1. Research some of the countries that persecute Christians. Websites—[persecution.com](http://persecution.com), [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org), [christianfreedom.org](http://christianfreedom.org) If your classroom has access to the Internet, learn more about the problem of persecution and how to help persecuted Christians.
2. Send emails and letters to your government representatives asking them to intervene for the persecuted and imprisoned believers (get more information from [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org)). This is a great way to go to the “ends of the earth” without even leaving your own home!
3. Pray! Intercede for imprisoned and persecuted believers to have endurance, opportunities to witness to their persecutors, and faith in God’s ability to use their persecution for His glory!

### Lesson 3—Hunger and Thirst

**Sometimes when we miss a meal, we feel like we are “starving to death.” When was the last time you felt so hungry that you could die?** Let kids share. **Every day around the world, many poverty-stricken countries suffer from food shortages so severe that people die from hunger.**

**When was the last time you went to get a drink of water and there was no clean water to drink?** Encourage responses. **In many remote areas, people get drinking water from rivers or lakes that are also used by people and animals. People might wash clothes and bathe in the same water they use for cooking and drinking. Imagine drinking from water that animals swim and go to bathroom in. A lack of clean water is a major health issue that causes illness and disease in people.** Lead a discussion about what the children have learned at school about world hunger and thirst.

**Overcoming Hunger and Thirst** **When a person is hungry and thirsty, they have a basic need that must be met. Jesus met the immediate needs of the people He ministered to so they could listen and receive His message of love.** Read Matthew 15:32-38 aloud. **How did Jesus solve the problem of hunger?** Encourage responses.

**Today, scientists are discovering ways to grow plants in water and ways to genetically engineer food. These methods are used to create food in areas where food is scarce or won't grow. Many organizations raise money to send teams with equipment to dig good wells that will provide clean drinking water for a whole community.** Let children share other ways people are helping relieve hunger and thirst for people.

**The best way to overcome physical hunger and thirst is to be Jesus' hands and feet. Then teach them about the Bread of Life and the Living Water.** Ask volunteers to read John 6:35 and John 4:10, 13-14.

#### What Can I Do?

1. Research Christian organizations that help with hunger and sharing the Good News of Jesus.
2. Research Christian organizations that help provide clean drinking water for communities.
3. Pray! Thank God for the food and clean water that He has provided for you! Ask God to send people to the “ends of the earth” to show His love through providing food and water so that unreached people will have their basic needs met. Pray for God to show you how you can be involved!

### Lesson 4—Poverty

**Supplies:** M&M candies and paper cups

Write a name of a country on each cup (a few wealthy countries and many poor countries). Give each child one cup. Distribute the M&Ms by placing fifteen candies in the cups of wealthy countries and only one in the poor countries.

Identify the cups that represent wealthy countries. **What makes a country wealthy?** Possible answers: jobs so people earn money, natural resources like petroleum that can be sold, good farm land to grow and sell food, etc. **How does it feel to have lots of M&Ms knowing that other people only have one?** Let students respond. Identify the cups that represent third world countries. **What makes a country poor?** Possible answers: too many people and not enough jobs or food for them, lack of natural resources or good soil to grow food, etc. **How does it feel to know that other people have lots of M&Ms when you only have one?** Encourage honest answers. **What could be done to help?** Help students see that giving is the answer. Have the “wealthy” students give M&Ms to the others.

**Wealthy countries have more money to spend on things other than the basic necessities of life like food, clothing, shelter, and medicine.** Talk about the wealth in your country. **Poverty can mean a person has little of the things that are needed such as food, clean drinking water, clothing, and shelter. Do you think you live in poverty?** Encourage responses.

**Overcoming Poverty** **What do you think children in poor countries would choose: video game players or a pair of shoes without holes?** Let the kids vote on an answer. **Children in poverty want to have “enough”—enough food, enough clothing, enough water, and enough shelter. They want hope that they will be able to provide for their own family in the future. Today, we can help with poverty by supplying education and training for employment so that people living in poverty can have hope of someday being able to have enough of what they need. What are some other ways to help poor countries?** Possible answers: send resources, send people to teach about how to start their own small business, donate tools needed to do certain jobs that could earn them money, etc. **The best way to overcome poverty is to tell people about Jesus and the hope they can have through Him!** Read Luke 4:18-19.

#### What Can I Do?

1. Consider sponsoring a child in a third world country through a ministry such as Compassion International ([compassion.com](http://compassion.com)), World Vision ([worldvision.org](http://worldvision.org)) or Vision Trust ([visiontrust.org](http://visiontrust.org)).
2. Research organizations that help people in third world countries. Find websites that sell handicrafts made by people in poverty stricken countries. You can send donations or make purchases that help people living in poverty.

3. Pray! Praise God for providing the things you need. Ask Him to show you how you can help others have “enough” food and things they need.

### Lesson 5—Disease

**Supplies:** empty medicine bottles (optional)

**When was the last time you were sick? Were you given medicine that helped you get better?** Let kids respond. Usually if you are sick, you see a doctor and get a prescription for medicine. Or you go to store and buy medicine.

**Overcoming Disease** Malaria is a disease that comes from being bitten by a certain mosquitoes. This disease kills more than one million people a year. Sadly, it doesn't have to kill that many people because there is a cure that costs about two U.S. dollars. The problem is that poor people don't have money for the medicine and in many areas the medicine isn't available. Today, people work to take medicine to people who need it and to provide mosquito nets that reduce the possibility of being bitten.

Scientists work to discover cures to diseases and create helpful medicines. Modern technology allows laboratories to study tiny cells and learn what causes diseases so they can find ways to cure the diseases. Just think of all the shots and inoculations that you received to protect you from diseases. At the time, you may not have appreciated getting the shots, but you can appreciate not becoming sick.

Sin can be like a disease, and Christ's forgiveness is the only cure! People around the world need to learn about Jesus so they can experience His ultimate cure for sin! When you are a witness for Jesus to the “ends of the earth,” then you can help provide the best cure for a person's life!

#### What Can I Do?

1. Research Christian organizations that provide medical help to people around the world. Look for ways to raise money to help them get medical supplies and medicines to give to people in need.
2. Pray! Praise God for being the Great Physician who heals all our diseases (Psalm 103:2-3). Ask God to send Christians who will take medical supplies to help people's physical needs so they will be healthy and want to learn about Jesus who died on the cross to provide our healing (1 Peter 2:24).

### Lesson 6—Children at Risk

**In many countries, children live very differently than you. Describe your typical day.** Allow each child to respond, Millions of children would love to go to school, have three meals a day, have a home, have one or both parents taking care of them, attend church, and just enjoy being a child. “Children at risk” describes children who suffer and must assume many adult responsibilities.

Some children have been abandoned by their parents and live on the streets. They have to earn money for food or find some way to get food.

Many children in poverty stricken areas must work long hours to earn money to help their families. When children spend all day working, they are unable to get an education. How might the child's life be different if he or she was able to attend school? Encourage responses.

In some countries at war, boys are kidnapped and forced to be soldiers. In some countries, girls are sold or taken away from their families. These children are exploited and used by adults who rob them of their childhood.

When children live in fear without a hope for their future, they often have little opportunity to learn about Jesus and God's love for them. Jesus cared about children and wanted them to be cared for. Ask volunteers to read Luke 18:16, Psalm 82:3-4 and James 1:27.

**Overcoming Children at Risk** Throughout history, children have suffered. Today, technology allows us to learn about suffering and help hurting children. The Internet can alert people of problems and point to many organizations formed to rescue children. As Christians work together to end suffering, they can begin to bring the message of hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. In many countries, missionaries show the “Story of Jesus for Children” film. Sometimes they project the movie on a sheet hung between two trees. Other times they use a laptop or a solar powered device. God loves all children and has a good plan for them—let's help them learn about Jesus!

#### What Can I Do?

1. Organize a time for your class to get together and pray for children at risk. Free resources are available to watch or download ([viva.org](http://viva.org) and click on Weekend of Prayer).
2. Check locally to find out how you can help children at risk in your community or state. Show them God's love through your actions of helping them.
3. Pray! Thank God for blessing you with an opportunity to hear about Jesus. Ask God to show you ways to witness through your actions the help children at risk.



## Lesson 7—Transportation

**Supplies:** pictures of different forms of transportation from around the world (optional)

**What different forms of transportation have you experienced?** Encourage responses. If you brought pictures, show them to the class. **Some remote areas don't have roads, so missionaries travel by small airplane or boat. In some cities you might ride in a cart pulled by a bicycle. If you like animals, you might find transportation by riding on a horse, elephant, or a camel. One of the most unusual forms of transportation is in northern India where natives travel across a river on a raft made of inflated animal carcasses!**

**When a group of people live in a difficult-to-reach area, they have often have little access to the Good News about Christ. Missionaries must persevere, spending many hours and even days to reach a group of people. Sometimes missionaries stay in an area for months and train believers. Then they move to the next village and continue. The next year they go back to the villages and give further training. It is difficult, but missionaries know it is important to go to the “ends of the earth”—even if they have to ride on an inflated antelope carcass to reach the people!**

**Overcoming Transportation Hindrances** **Think about missionaries from the 1700 and 1800s whom you have studied. Many missionaries spent months on a ship traveling to China or India. Discuss how difficult travel was for past missionaries. Today, missionaries travel only a few and arrive ready to tell people about Jesus. Airplane flights make it easy to travel and allow more Christians to experience short mission trips. Mission Aviation Fellowship flies missionaries into remote areas and transport people from those isolated areas to receive medical treatment in a city or village with a doctor. Modern transportation makes following Jesus to the “ends of the earth” much easier!**

### What Can I Do?

1. Check out Mission Aviation Fellowship ([maf.org](http://maf.org)) and the special KODIAK airplanes they designed to meet the special needs of flying into jungles and extremely remote places. Host a “Coffee Fellowship” with the kit available on their website or adopt a plane for only \$1 a day!
2. Use your imagination and design a new kind of transportation to help missionaries reach the “ends of the earth.”
3. Pray! Thank God for the modern transportation that takes missionaries to reach the people living in very isolated areas. Ask God to help the missionaries be able to keep the transportation running and supply the needed transportation so missionaries can go to the “ends of the earth.”

## Lesson 8—Illiteracy

**Do you remember how it felt before you could read?** Let kids share. **How did you feel when you could finally read a book all by yourself?** Encourage responses. **When someone can't read God's Word, they must trust that what they are told from the Bible is accurate. Many people around the world miss getting an education. What reasons might a person not learn to read? If someone gave these people a copy of God's Word, they wouldn't be able to read it!**

**Some areas don't have schools because of a lack of teachers or a place to have it. How would you feel if there wasn't a school for you to attend?** Let children answer honestly. **Illiteracy—or not being able to read—keeps people in poverty. These people often work jobs with very long hours that leave them exhausted with little time or energy to attend a church. How will these people hear about Jesus?** Let the children suggest answers.

**Overcoming Illiteracy** **Some ministries actually go to areas and teach people to read so they can read the Scriptures for themselves. There are many organizations that make Christian radio programs teaching people about Jesus and explaining God's Word. How will people without electricity for a radio hear God's Word?** Encourage responses. **Modern technology has produced creative solar powered cassette players and projectors that allow missionaries to show the JESUS film to people in remote areas without electricity.**

### What Can I Do?

1. Research ministries that teach literacy ([wycliffe.org](http://wycliffe.org), [sil.org/literacy/mother.htm](http://sil.org/literacy/mother.htm)). Find out ways you can help by giving donations and praying for them.
2. Pray! Thank God for your opportunity to learn to read and the blessing of reading God's Word for yourself! Ask God to provide opportunities for people to learn to read the Scriptures so they will understand God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

## Lesson 9—Refugees

A refugee is a person who leaves a country to escape from a war, persecution, or natural disaster. Refugees leave everything behind as they flee. Sometimes they leave family members whom they will never see again. Taking only what they can carry, they leave all their other possessions. If you had to hurry out of your home, what would you take with you? Remind the children that most refugees are leaving due to life threatening circumstances.

When refugees flee an area, they are sometimes not welcomed in another area, and must stay in a refugee camp—a temporary place where thousands of people wait for the crisis to be finished. In some situations the refugee camp becomes permanent because the conflict endures. The people often aren't allowed to leave the camp or find jobs. Imagine living in a tent or tiny shack with thousands of people. How would you spend your time? Encourage responses.

Life in a refugee camp would be full of fear of the future and worry about loved ones left behind. People in refugee camps have basic physical needs, but they also have spiritual needs. How might those spiritual needs be met in a refugee camp? Let kids answer.

**Overcoming Refugee Hindrances** When Christians learn about a refugee situation through television or Internet, they often look for ways they can help. Food, clothing, blankets, tents, and medical supplies are sent to the refugee camps.

Sometimes churches choose to sponsor a refugee and provide housing, food, a job, and transportation for the refugee. When a refugee is taken in and cared for, he or she can see God's love in action. What a great way to bring the mission field right to your own community!

### What Can I Do?

1. Research Christian organizations that work with refugees. Look for items that need to be collected and sent. Organize a community collection.
2. Pray! Thank God for the ways people around the world reach out and help the refugees. Ask God to encourage believers to be Jesus' witnesses to the refugees and bring needed supplies along with the hope that comes through a personal relationship with Christ. Also pray for refugee believers in Christ to be able to tell others about Jesus.

## Lesson 10—Natural Disasters

**Earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods are examples of natural disasters.** Lead a discussion of any current natural disasters happening around the world. When natural disasters hit, emergency evacuations are needed. Often people return later to their homes and find things destroyed or ruined. Entire communities need to be rebuilt.

**What kind of suffering is caused by earthquakes? What kind of help is needed after earthquakes?** Ask the same questions for tornadoes, floods, volcanic eruptions, famine, landslides, and tsunamis.

When people live through a natural disaster, it affects them emotionally and physically. It also disrupts life and causes people to focus on getting their basic needs of food and shelter.

**Overcoming Natural Disasters** Natural disasters occur quickly, so people need to respond quickly. Many ministries rely on Internet and television to get the word out about supplies they need to send to an area hit with a natural disaster.

When people suffer from a natural disaster, that is the time they really need to have their spiritual needs met. If a church is destroyed in a flood, the people need help rebuilding the church. Sometimes people will take a short missions trip to help rebuild a church or give assistance to an area destroyed by a natural disaster.

Many Christian organizations gather donations of food, clothing, blankets, and medical supplies to be quickly taken to the area. As they meet the physical needs of people, they can also tell them about Jesus. When people see God's love shown to them through kindness, they are more willing to learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### What Can I Do?

1. Check with your church to find out ways they have helped with disaster relief in the past. Look for ways your church can gather and store items to send when a natural disaster hits.
2. Pray! Praise God that He is the Creator of nature and nature must obey His command. Ask God to bring opportunities to send materials and to go help people suffering from natural disasters.

## Lesson 11—Communication

**Supplies:** book in a foreign language (not a phrase book)

Show kids the book and have them pretend that it contains the answer to everything on their next school test. Pass the book around. After each child has examined the book, continue with the discussion. **How did it feel to know there was a book with important answers you needed, but you couldn't understand it?** Encourage responses.

The Bible is the book that holds the answers many people need for their lives, yet they don't have a copy of the Bible in their languages. Fortunately, some of these languages have access to hearing about Jesus or reading God's Word in another language. Why do missionaries work so hard to translate the Bible into the language the person first began to speak as a child? Encourage responses. **It is important for people to know that God loves them enough to speak to them in their own language. How would you feel if you couldn't read God's Word in your language?**

There are other communication difficulties that hinder people from hearing the Gospel. Some Christian organizations have made translations of God's Word in a variety of languages, but some governments don't allow Christian TV or radio broadcasts. The Internet is a great way to communicate and tell the Gospel, but some governments filter the website access and read emails.

**Overcoming Communication Hindrances** Because millions of people still need to hear about Jesus, Christians need to find ways to reach them. Technology helps overcome some of the problems in communicating the salvation message and offers some very creative ways to be a missionary.

More and more people have access to the Internet. Although filters keep some websites from being accessed, many people learn about Jesus from the Internet or through emails.

Even a fax machine can be an evangelistic tool. Recently, a Christian organization sent fax messages containing the Gospel message to businesses in North Korea. The fax messages must have been effective because the group received a reply fax warning them to stop.

Satellite television is popular and can be broadcast into areas where local television stations are prohibited from showing Christian programs. SAT-7 offers Christian satellite television to people in the Middle East and North Africa, mainly Muslim areas. They produce dramas, talk shows, and educational shows that reach young Arabs with the message about Jesus.

Sometimes missionaries need to communicate with someone in a different city. A camera and microphone hooked up to a computer allows communication that helps people grow in their relationship with God. Pastors can receive training from people in at a different location. The training is more effective than reading a training manual or even a conversation on the telephone.

### What Can I Do?

1. Talk with your parents about how to safely use the Internet as a family and be Internet missionaries. Imagine reaching the "ends of the earth" from sitting in your own house!
2. Research some of the creative ways missionaries are helping communicate the message of God's love to others such as SAT-7, a Christian satellite television (listen and see a sample: [www.sat7.org/en-US/node/1304](http://www.sat7.org/en-US/node/1304))
3. Pray! Thank God for the ways He communicates His love to us and opens up opportunities for us to communicate that love to others. Ask God to continue to inspire Christians to use creative ways to communicate the message of salvation to people everywhere!

## Lesson 12—Choosing to Follow Jesus?

These lessons focused on showing a variety of things that could hinder the spread of the Gospel. Whenever something tries to block people from hearing about Jesus, God can provide a solution because He wants people to know about Him! Most of the time people are the solution to overcoming a problem. If children need a school where they live, they need a teacher to choose to say “Yes” to teaching them. God may be calling someone to go, but God will never force that person to go. God leaves the choice to follow Jesus up to each one of us. Why do you think God leaves the choice up to us? Encourage responses.

**Overcoming Excuses** When you feel God speaking to you and showing you an opportunity—say “Yes!” to Jesus! God is always speaking to people and giving opportunities to serve Him, but it is easy for us to come up with lots of excuses. What are some excuses you think people might use to explain why they won’t follow Jesus as His witness? Let kids share. Why do you think they make excuses?

The best way to fight against excuses is to quote Bible verses that give you the power and desire to do what God has asked you to do. Ask for volunteers to read Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15, Colossians 4:5-6, and Matthew 28:19-20. How do these verses help you? Encourage responses.

### What Can I Do?

1. Make a commitment card promising God that you will follow Jesus in each opportunity He brings to you. You may want to write Bible verses on the card as a reminder to follow Jesus. Each time you choose to follow Jesus, write what you did to tell someone about Jesus or show God’s love.
2. Make a map that shows areas of the world that you would like to someday travel to be Jesus’ witness. Start researching and learning about those areas. Look for ministries that work in those areas and become part of their prayer teams.
3. Pray! Praise God that someday “All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him” (Psalm 22:27). Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior and that He included us to be His witnesses. Ask God to send opportunities to be His witness and pray for courage to faithfully follow Christ to the “ends of the earth.”