



**DiscipleLand**

*Missions Education*

Level 6, Quarter D—After God's Own Heart

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

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## 6D—Missions Education

### World-Class Living

**Teacher Intro**—Nothing shows Christ more clearly than His commandments lived out in His followers (Matthew 5:16). This becomes vital at the global level, where souls waiting for God to “find” them hang in the balance. We are living testimonies to the forgiveness and salvation found through Jesus Christ—our conduct and words can change the course of human hearts, and therefore change the world.

Your children will examine how a life committed to God is never wasted—no matter how long or short, no matter how obscure or famous. They’ll also see that their own efforts can have eternal consequences for people around the globe.

#### Lesson 1—Make a Difference

**Supplies:** clear pitcher of water, food coloring, wooden spoon (for stirring), bleach

**What do you think is the best way to help people understand about God?** Let kids respond. **Many answers can be given to that question, but one of the most powerful ways to help people want to know God is to live out the commandments and things God says in His Word.** Have the students find and read together Matthew 5:16. **What are some of God’s commands that you live out for others to see?** Encourage responses. **Each of us can make choices to live in a way that shows God’s love and greatness.**

**All around the world people live in spiritual darkness. Most have never heard about God’s love for them or about Jesus’ death on the cross that provides forgiveness of their sins. The Bible is God’s story of His love for people and His searching for people who will worship Him. But people need to hear about God before they can believe in Him. The job of telling people around the world is humongous, but if we all work and do our part—the job can be done! We are living testimonies to the forgiveness and salvation found through Jesus Christ—our conduct and words can change the course of human hearts, and therefore change the world.**

**Sometimes the job may seem too hard or you may feel very unable to do anything significant. Don’t give up! Just do what God sets right in front of you—no matter how small or insignificant it may seem to you. God’s power multiplies the tiniest effort.**

Hold up a clear pitcher of water. Ask a child to add food coloring to the water. Stir so the color mixes in well. **This pitcher of clear water changed to colored water. What are some ways to get rid of the color?** Let kids respond. **I’m going to show you how one drop can make a huge difference in this water.** Place a drop of bleach in the water and stir. **Just think, you can be like that drop of bleach! You can make a big difference in the world by just doing what God asks you to do. Imagine when you get to heaven and can see what developed from your simple conversations or acts of love done in Jesus’ name—you’ll probably wish you had done more! So why not get busy right now being Jesus’ hands and feet as you show love and tell others about Him!**

This quarter the lessons will examine how a life committed to God is never wasted—no matter how long or short, no matter how obscure or famous. The children will also see that their own efforts can have eternal consequences for people around the globe.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is worthy of the praise of every person on earth! Ask God to help each child get a vision of the significance he or she can make through simply doing what God calls him or her to do.

## Lesson 2—David and Svea Flood

People rarely understand the impact they have on the world. One man lived most of his life feeling he had failed and that God had failed to use him on the mission field. Before he died, he learned that God had actually used his act of obedience to go to the mission field in a very powerful way.

David and Svea Flood took their young son and left Sweden for the continent of Africa. They were proud to be missionaries to the area known today as Zaire. However, the people in the villages feared the strangers would make their gods angry, so they wouldn't allow them to stay. David made a hut for his family to live in away from the village. One small African boy ventured near enough to sell them chickens and eggs. Svea spent time telling him about Jesus, and he became a Christian.

Svea died after she gave birth to a baby girl. David became very sad and angry that he lost his beloved wife and that his only convert was a small boy who probably didn't understand what he had done. He gave up his baby girl to be raised by other missionaries. Feeling defeated, he and his son returned to Sweden.

That baby girl grew up and—through amazing connections led by God—she discovered that the village where her parents had been missionaries had hundreds of Christians now. As she learned more, she was amazed to discover that the little boy her mother had led to the Lord was responsible for evangelizing the entire village! She traveled to Sweden and found her father. He was absolutely shocked to learn that his short time in Africa had made a huge impact on the eternity of hundreds of people. David Flood died a short time after hearing the news that God had used the small seed his wife planted in a little boy to turn a village into followers of Christ.

Although David doubted the significance of his time in Africa and only remembered the pain of his wife's death, God redeemed that time of personal loss and turned it into spiritual abundance, as the villagers became Christians. Have you ever felt like God couldn't turn your pain or a bad situation into something good? Did He? As children share, take time to pray that their hurts and problems don't overshadow them from seeing God at work in the situation. **God works remarkably in our lives and in the lives of others to help people see His power and ability to turn bad situations into good situations for His glory! What ways can you give God something to use for His glory?** Let kids share.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is All-powerful and able to turn bad situations into something that gives Him the glory. Ask God to help the children see that He is working in their lives.

## Lesson 3—John Paton

Not all missionaries go to serve God in a place where their lives are in constant danger, but John Paton did. In 1858, John and his wife left Scotland for a tiny island near Australia. The people on the islands in the South Seas were known as cannibals and lived in fear from the magic spells of witch doctors. John faced many problems: his wife died, his infant son died, and tribes on the island tried to kill him. A passing ship rescued him, and he returned to Scotland after being gone less than four years.

As John returned to Scotland, his thoughts wandered back to the people who wondered why he wanted to go so far away and try to teach heathens about God. They thought John was wasting his life by leaving Scotland. John knew that his life couldn't be wasted if he followed God. If you were John, how would you have felt to return to Scotland? Encourage responses.

Although he could have chosen to stay in Scotland, John knew God had called him to the islands in the South Seas. With a new wife, John returned to a smaller island in the South Seas. The island witch doctors vowed that if they had a piece of food John had eaten, they could kill him with their curses. John knew his life was in God's hands, so he felt no fear as he took a bite from some plums and gave them to the witch doctors. As the witch doctors spewed out curse after curse on John—nothing happened. One week later, a very healthy John gathered the whole village together. John explained God's love and mercy to people who had never heard about salvation. Before his death in 1906, nearly all the people on the island became followers of Christ.

Some people measure a person's value by what they earn or the level of success they achieve in a job. John Paton could have stayed in Scotland and become a well-known preacher. His life would have been much easier and less traumatic. John recognized that God's call was difficult, but it would be worth it to follow Him. John helped change many people's lives by giving up the comforts of Scotland to tell them about Christ. What comforts are you willing to give up to make an impact on others? Encourage responses. **Some people choose to not obey God. They miss out on the blessing of seeing God work through them. Which people have you seen God use?** Let the children share examples from people they know. End with a time of prayer so that children can ask God to use them to help change the world.

**Pray:** Praise God that He chooses to use anyone who follows and obeys Him. Ask God to provide opportunities this week for the children to be used for His Glory.

#### Lesson 4—James Taylor

Most people only think about how their choices will affect themselves. Today we'll learn about a man whose choices greatly affected his descendants.

John Wesley and his brother Charles were from a family of preachers. They traveled the countryside of England and Wales telling people about Jesus. Thousands gathered to hear these preachers who founded the Methodist church.

One young man heard Charles, and the words of the message rang through his mind—"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." James Taylor was about to get married, but he didn't know Christ as his Savior. He decided to make sure that he and his future family would serve the Lord. So before his wedding, James knelt in prayer and asked Jesus to be his Lord. When he and his new wife began their family, the children were born into a home where they learned to love and serve God.

Who was James Taylor? You probably never heard of this man from the 1700s, but you have probably heard of his great, great, great, grandson, the famous missionary to China—Hudson Taylor. Imagine how different Hudson's family might have been if James Taylor had ignored the Gospel. James chose to follow Christ and led his family to serve God. Think about all of the people in China and around the world who said "Yes" to Jesus because of the ministry of Hudson Taylor. Let the children share what they know about Hudson Taylor.

You can choose right now to follow Christ and someday lead your family and grandchildren to serve God. Someday in heaven, you may meet many people who heard about Jesus through your children, grandchildren, and great, great, great grandchildren!

Ask your parents to help you trace your family tree back to discover who chose to follow Jesus. Can you find the first Christians in your family tree? Follow their descendants and see what kind of an influence for God is in your family history.

Now imagine what kind of influence you will have on your children and grandchildren. What are some ways you would like to influence them? Encourage responses. What can you do now to help that become a reality? Help the children recognize good habits that they can begin now.

**Pray:** Praise God for the Christians in your family and other people that had a positive Christian influence on you and your family. Ask God to show you ways you can begin to form good habits that will influence your family and friends to follow Jesus!

#### Lesson 5—Hattie May Wiatt

Imagine going to Sunday school next week and discovering there is no room for you because there are so many kids. Let children discuss the size of your Sunday school. In the late 1800s, a little girl named Hattie May Wiatt experienced an overcrowded children's program. The pastor saw her and compassionately picked her up to carry her through the crowd. Pastor Conwell told Hattie that someday, when the church had enough money, they would buy a place big enough for all the children to meet for Sunday school.

Not long after that, Hattie became sick and died. Her parents asked the pastor to perform her funeral. The mother handed Hattie's little purse to Pastor Conwell. Hattie had saved her money to help the church buy a bigger building. As Pastor Conwell opened the purse, he carefully counted the coins and realized this sweet child had saved \$.57.

Later, Pastor Conwell took 57 pennies representing Hattie's money and told the congregation her story. He held up the pennies and announced they were the first gift toward a larger Sunday school. The generosity of the little girl amazed people and touched their hearts. The pastor offered the pennies for sale to raise even more money. All of Hattie's pennies sold and the amount was enough to immediately buy the house beside the church. Most of the people returned the pennies to the pastor. He put them in a frame to remind everyone of Hattie's generosity and how her small gift became enough money to enlarge the Sunday school.

But little Hattie's actions continued to impact people for God. The church continued to grow, and soon they needed to build a larger church. Pastor Conwell found a piece of property, but the owner wanted \$30,000. The pastor explained that all the money they had was Hattie's original framed pennies. Miraculously, the owner was touched by Hattie's story and agreed to accept the pennies as a \$5,000 payment to secure a loan to purchase the property. So Hattie's original \$.57 provided encouragement and motivation for people to give generously and purchase both a house and property to build a large church building.

Never be embarrassed to give even the smallest gift to God. Don't let the size of your gift stop you from giving! Remember that Jesus took five little loaves of bread and two fishes that a little boy had and turned them into a feast for 5,000. Read John 6:1-15. God looks at your heart. When you give any amount for Him to use—He will use it! You may never know the full impact of your gift—Hattie probably never dreamed her little amount of money would be used in such an enormous way! Have you ever given something and God blessed your gift?

**Pray:** Thank God for the people who give generously and help God's work be done all around the world. Ask God to help you develop a generous attitude that gives and helps make an impact on the world.



## Lesson 6—Kelly Stewart—Travel the Road

God can speak to people through many different ways—even through television! Kelly Stewart thought she was just watching a cool new television show called *Travel the Road*. The series highlighted the real adventures of two young missionaries as they traveled around the world taking Jesus' message to places that hadn't heard about Him. Kelly loved the show and began to pray for Tim and Will, the two missionaries. As she prayed, God placed countries on her heart and she prayed for them. At first she refused to believe that she could ever be a missionary, but God continued to gently reveal His desire for all people to know and worship Him. The more she prayed; the more God spoke to her heart and began preparing her for His mission.

The first big step Kelly took was to apply for a passport. Everyone needs a passport to travel to other countries. Strangely, as she started to pursue opportunities to go overseas, the doors all closed. Later Kelly looked back at that time and thanked God for the way He provided more time for her to mature and really prepare for the challenges of being a missionary.

The next step was to actually go on a mission trip. Kelly found a trip to Zambia through a mission organization's website. As Kelly set off on her trip, she asked God to use the trip to confirm that He wanted her to be a missionary. At last Kelly saw dramatic change in her situation—all the doors to minister in Zambia flew wide open! During the trip people were encouraged, healed, and asked Jesus to be their Savior. Kelly had her answer—YES!

God uses creative ways to speak to us and guide us. For Kelly, God used a missionary television program. What ways might God be speaking to you? Let kids respond.

As Kelly spent time in prayer, she grew closer to the Lord and began to feel for the people who didn't know Him like she did. Now she shines her light in the places that are dark because they've never heard about Christ. How much time do you spend in prayer? Challenge yourself to pray more and look for what God wants to show and tell you!

Is there a special country or people group that you feel God is placing on your heart? Where can you imagine yourself going to shine for Jesus? What can you do to prepare?

You can learn more about Tim and Will and watch clips of Travel the Road online at [traveltheroad.com](http://traveltheroad.com)

**Pray:** Praise God for speaking to us and sharing His heart for the people who don't know Him yet. Ask God to meet the needs of missionaries so they can go to the places He has asked them to go. Pray that God will help you recognize opportunities to be a missionary in your home, school, neighborhood, and city.

## Lesson 7—Samuel Morris (Prince Kaboo)

**Supplies:** online pictures or a biography of Samuel Morris

An African prince should impact the lives of people in his village or kingdom, but it may surprise you to learn about the impact that Prince Kaboo's life also had on Americans. And his story continues to help God's kingdom.

More than 130 years ago, in a small Liberian village, Prince Kaboo, the oldest son of the village chief, was kidnapped and held for ransom. After he received a beating, he saw a bright light and heard a voice from heaven tell him to run away. He did. He ran through the jungle and eventually found himself in a city. He was invited to hear a missionary, Miss Knolls from Taylor University. As she explained Saul's conversion, Prince Kaboo recognized how similar his story was to Saul's. Prince Kaboo became a Christian and took a new name, Samuel Morris.

Samuel was encouraged to go to America. On the voyage across the ocean, Samuel's witness led to the captain and many crew members accepting Christ. He arrived at Taylor University ready to learn and prepare himself to return as a missionary to his own people—but only eighteen months later, Samuel became sick and died. But Samuel's death didn't stop his life's impact on others. Many students were inspired to become missionaries to Africa in Samuel's place.

Since his death, stories about his life have been written and translated into many languages. Several statues at the university campus remind students about Morris' life, following God's call, and desiring to be a strong Christian witness.

You can read several online stories written by people who have been impacted by the story of Samuel Morris' life ([taylor.edu/about/morris/stories.shtml](http://taylor.edu/about/morris/stories.shtml)).

Samuel Morris' death inspired many to take his unfulfilled place on the mission field. Who inspires you to serve God? Let kids respond. In what ways might you be an inspiration to others now? Give each child an opportunity to answer.

**Pray:** Thank God for Samuel Morris' short life that continues to inspire people to become missionaries. Ask God to stir the hearts of Christian college students to take missions trips and discover the impact they can make around the world.

## Lesson 8—Wess Stafford—Compassion International

Everyone can make a difference in the world by allowing God to work through them. Today we will learn about someone who chose to allow God to use his painful childhood situation to help suffering children.

Growing up in the little African village seemed very normal to little Wess. When he was old enough, his missionary parents sent him to live at a missionary boarding school so he could receive an education. Unfortunately, this experience wasn't what his parents expected or wanted for their son. The caretakers abused and treated Wess and the other children very harshly. They warned children not to tell their parents because it might make their parents stop telling people about Jesus. Many of the children grew up and rebelled against religion and even God for allowing what happened to them as children. Wess made a choice that would change his life and the lives of millions of children around the world. He chose to use the deep wounds of his childhood to help suffering children.

As an adult, Wess worked for an organization called Compassion International that helps children suffering from poverty. In 1993 he became the president of the huge ministry. Currently, over one million children around the world are sponsored and receive an education, food, clothing, and an opportunity to understand God's love for them. God used Wess' childhood pain to give him a personal understanding of suffering that helps him work more effectively to help stop the suffering of children around the world! God promises to use our problems and pain to do something good for His kingdom. Read Romans 8:28 together. We need to allow God to turn painful parts of life into something good that can impact others in a positive and eternal way. What "yucky parts" of your life could God use for good? Let children share.

**How do the 2,000 employees at Compassion International make an impact around the world by simply doing their jobs?** Discuss how valuable different jobs such as computer people are to helping the organization function and help change the world. **Think about the job you hope to have in the future. How could God use that to help change the world?** Allow each child to answer.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is a compassionate and loving God who can turn our suffering into something good for His kingdom. Ask God to help each child begin to see how God can use him or her to help change the world.

## Lesson 9—Hope Smith

Schoolwork hardly seems like something that could help change the world, but Hope Smith used a homeschool assignment to affect a country far away. Hope was nine years old when she needed to write a report about a country. The country of Mongolia interested her. As she researched the country, she discovered that there were very few Christians. She learned the Mongolian people put Buddhist altars in the tents where they lived. Her tender heart hurt for the people of Mongolia who had very little opportunity to learn about Jesus. So Hope began to pray consistently for the people of Mongolia to become Christians.

After about two years of praying, Hope received a very big surprise. Her church's denomination published a magazine. The cover story about Mongolia had a headline that caught her attention—"Hope for Mongolia." The story explained that 500 Mongolians had asked Jesus to be their Savior. Hope's name in the headline was a special blessing to her.

The amazing appearance of her name in connection with Mongolia didn't stop. The group of Christians in Mongolia built a church. Guess what the name was? Yes, Hope Assembly! Then two Christian orphanages were started and named Homes of Peace Enterprises. The long names were shortened to H.O.P.E. #1 and H.O.P.E. #2! God allowed Hope to see her name associated with the country she had grown to love because of her prayers for its people!

Hope doesn't know the full extent and power of her prayers for Mongolia. But those prayers continue to have an impact every time her story is told. Articles were written about her and her story continues to inspire many children to begin to pray consistently for a country.

**What country do you have a special interest or passion for? Why?** After the children answer, let each child pray for that country.

**Pray:** Thank God for hearing our prayers and responding in delightful ways like letting Hope see her name associated with Mongolian Christians. Ask God to place a passion for a country or people group in each child's heart and for them to faithfully pray for that country.

## Lesson 10—David Sutton

People don't have to go to a faraway place to make a big impact on someone's life. You can make a difference in someone's life by just being obedient to God each day. When you feel God leading you to go somewhere, speak to someone, or even pray for someone—do it! God uses kids, so be ready to be used!

Sixteen-year-old David Sutton had been looking forward to going to a Christian youth conference with a friend from school. When David's church decided to take a group of middle schoolers and high schoolers to the conference, David decided to look for opportunities to mentor middle school boys. He also wanted to spend time with his friend, but felt God wanted him to work with the middle schoolers. Little did David know that his decision was going to impact one of the boys in a very powerful way.

The church group enjoyed the three day conference. On the last day before the meal, some guys were playing basketball in the gym. David had gone to the gym to put something in his backpack when he saw a boy choking. When the boy called out for help, David immediately wondered how he could help—he didn't know CPR or any medical techniques. He raced over and did the only thing that came into his mind—pray! David laid his hand on the young man and began to pray for him. David prayed that the breath of life would fill up his lungs, and for the power of the cross to be evidenced, remembering that by Jesus' wounds we are healed. David prayed that God's power would be shown through this incident. As David prayed, the tenseness began to leave the boy's body, and he began to breathe normally.

The boy explained that nothing like that had ever happened to him before. He was very grateful that David showed up when he did and was willing to pray for him. David was thrilled—he could see how God had arranged for him to be with the middle schoolers and sent him to the gym at that precise moment. David could have chosen to spend time with his friend instead of the middle schoolers. Thankfully for the boy, David made himself available to be used by God. Some people might feel embarrassed to pray in front of others or respond like David did. The boy's family can be glad that David courageously responded as God led him that day. How would you respond to a situation like in the gym?

Have you seen God use someone to impact another person's life? Encourage responses. In what ways has God already used you to make an impact on someone's life? Let each child share.

**Pray:** Praise God for His healing power. Ask God to help each child be courageous enough to follow God at all times.

## Lesson 11—Gabriel Antonio Madrigal & Cherna Lopez

Many fifth graders are busy thinking only about themselves. Let's meet a fifth grader who made a big impact on his family. Nicaragua, the largest Central American country, is known for its poverty. Gabriel Antonio Madrigal woke up as usual and attended school. Little did he know the impact someone would have on his life and the life of his family members. As he listened to a presentation at his school, God was speaking to his young heart. The students then watched the film, "The Story of Jesus for Children." After the movie, Gabriel prayed and asked Jesus to be his Savior. Excitedly, he told his family and gave his parents the book he received that explained salvation.

Gabriel's family life was difficult. He was the oldest of four boys. His father drank and was abusive. About a month after his salvation, Gabriel's father read the book about Jesus and became a Christian. Gabriel's father stopped drinking and being abusive. The family saw the change that Jesus can make in a life and all the family members believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior!

In 2009, Gabriel met Cherna Lopez, the JESUS Film team leader who had showed the movie to Gabriel's class in 2002. Imagine the happy surprise when Cherna heard the result that a newly converted fifth grader had on his family. Cherna did his part by showing the movie and Gabriel did his part by telling his family. When Christians work together, they make more of an impact on the world!

You can read many encouraging stories about the impact of showing the JESUS film and the Story of JESUS for Children ([www.jesusfilm.org/stories](http://www.jesusfilm.org/stories)).

Gabriel didn't wait for someone in his family to ask him about Jesus. Gabriel told them and let the Holy Spirit work in their hearts. Why shouldn't you wait for someone to ask you about Jesus? Let kids respond. Who can you tell about Jesus?

**Pray:** Thank God that Christians can and do work together for God's glory. Ask God to open up opportunities for Christians to join with others to each do their own part in sharing the Gospel message so that people around the world will hear about Jesus.

## Lesson 12—Plan to Impact Others

**Supplies:** paper, pencils

**We've heard many stories about people who helped change the world for God. Which story impacted you the most?**

Encourage responses. Review the stories and the life lessons learned from each person's story.

Have the class turn to Hebrews 11 and scan through the list of names recorded in the "Faith Hall of Fame." **Each person listed there made an impact and helped change their world for God.** Let the children read a name and explain the impact that person made.

**Why is faith in God important if you want to help change your world?** Let kids share. **What are some ways you show that you have faith in God?** Encourage responses. **Now let's imagine what might be written about us, if we follow God and make an impact on others.** Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil. **On your paper write Hebrews 11:41 "By faith \_\_\_\_\_, ..." and fill in your name and the verse you'd like to be written about you.** Allow a few minutes for the children to write a verse and then let volunteers read their verses to the class.

**As we end this quarter, let's wrap-up with a verse to inspire us to persevere and make an impact on the world.** Have the class turn to 1 Corinthians 15:58. Read the verse together and discuss why a verse like this can help someone stay encouraged to do God's work. End the class by personalizing this verse and praying it for each child. Put your hands on the child's shoulder and substitute the child's name for "my dear brothers" in the verse. Continue until you have prayed over each child.

**Pray:** Praise God that He is faithful to take our words and actions and use them to bring glory to Him and change to the world. Ask God to bless each child as they seek to follow God by obeying Him each day. Also pray that the children will have an earnest desire to make a spiritual difference on the people with whom they come in contact.