

THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD: SPREAD THE WORD

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

What about those who have never heard the gospel?

BIG IDEA

We can trust that God is completely loving and completely just.

SCRIPTURE USED

Romans 3:23: *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*

Psalm 89:11-15:

*The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours;
everything in the world is yours—you created it all.
You created north and south.
Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon praise your name.
Powerful is your arm!
Strong is your hand!
Your right hand is lifted high in glorious strength.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants.
Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship,
for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD.*

2 Peter 3:8-9: *But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.*

Leader's Note: At the end of this lesson, in the *application* section, you will be asked to divide your students in half, sending each group to a "station". Then, the groups will switch (there are only two stations). The set-up for this portion of the lesson requires a little more time, so read ahead and plan accordingly. Also, the materials you'll need for this activity differ slightly based on which option you choose.

OPENER

For the opener you will need:

- Leaders, students, parents or other volunteers to act as:
 - a narrator
 - a missionary
 - a person from a remote “unnamed village”
 - a Bible for the “missionary”
 - a cloth or towel to serve as a head wrap / head scarf for the “unknown village member”
- A copy of the skit, “I Never Heard the Word,” for the narrator. It can be found on the second to last page of this lesson.
- A short rehearsal time for the skit. The format of the skit is for the actors to perform this small play while the narrator is reading. It is simple and short, but should be rehearsed at least one time before your group time, even if it is only in the few minutes before you begin. Try to have the “missionary” dress and act like a missionary might.

Open in prayer and introduce the skit. After the skit, spend some time discussing it together.

ASK

- **How would you answer the narrator’s question?**
- **Why do so many people find this question very upsetting and very important?**
- **What changes about this whole scenario or how you feel about it if you imagine yourself to have grown up in this remote village having never heard about Jesus or the one true God?**

LESSON

EXPLAIN

Ok, we are going to return to the “innocent villagers” in just a moment. Did you have any idea that based on multiple reliable sources currently there are an estimated minimum of 2 billion people who have never heard about the one true Triune God? Most of these people live in what is known as the 10/40 window in countries stretching from the North of Africa, through the Middle East, to India and China.