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# WELCOME TO DISCIPLESHIP JR.!


**Discipleship Jr.** is a Bible-based, in-depth program that harnesses the power of *FUN* to build young disciples through interaction with Bible truth and with each other.

A complete, multiage children's ministry program, *Discipleship Jr.* is packed full of interactive stories and drama, Scripture memory, and themed snacks and activities that will engage every child! It's guaranteed effective because its principles and methods of instruction are *teacher-tested* and *kid-approved!*

Intensive student-teacher interaction within a learning community that is relational and supportive makes *Discipleship Jr.* an ideal program for including children with disabilities. Hands-on learning activities are easily adapted to include all students. For more ideas about inclusion, an excellent resource is *Let All the Children Come to Me* by MaLesia Breeding, EdD, Dana Hood, PhD, and Jerry Whitworth, EdD, (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2006).

## PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



**Get Set.** We know you're busy, so we provide a list of materials and what you'll need to prepare for your lesson. You'll also need a photocopy machine and some basic classroom supplies: whiteboard, dry erase markers and erasers, paper, pencils, markers, butcher paper, scissors, glue, and index cards. When you see this icon  allow a little extra prep time.

Kids love to dress up! Many of our Bible lessons use costume props from the "Bible time dress-up box." This can be as simple as a box of items you gather from around the house or purchase inexpensively from a secondhand store. It should include: old sheet with neck hole (angel), fake beards, swords, headcloths and browbands, bathrobes, fancy "princess" dress, crown, decorative chains and belts for temple priests, shepherd's crook or stick, wolf ears, wigs.



**Password, Please! (10 minutes)**—Each week begins with an activity option to involve children as everyone is filtering into the class.

- The *Welcome Time Activity* will excite children's interest and help them connect with the Bible Truth for the week.



**Climb In! (20 minutes)**—Whole-group, interactive Bible lessons invite students ages 6–9 to participate in the entire lesson. Whether it's role-playing a hailstorm or squeezing through an obstacle course, kids will be engaged in exciting, hands-on lessons.

- Pre- and post-lesson discussion times encourage children to talk about their own life experiences and tie their knowledge to the week's Bible Truth.



**Use the Clues!**—Practice is an important part of learning. This fall, children will assume the role of agents on a mission. Kids will have fun investigating the lives of Bible-time and modern-day missionaries to discover what makes a good missionary. For every new truth kids uncover, they will collect a Mission Passcard. In the weeks that follow, students are repeatedly challenged to remember the mission truth connected with each Passcard. These "memory hooks" help new information stick with kids for a long time to come.



**Hide 'n' Seek Bible Memory** (5 minutes)—Toe tappin' and finger snappin' ... there's nothing like the power of *FUN* to motivate children. Movement, rhythm, and role-play make it easy for kids to hide God's Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11).



**Prayer Hideaway** (15 minutes)—Small-group prayer time for children. Wow! What an idea! Children break into small groups of three to five with an adult helper—we call them Lookouts. Using reproducible instruction cards (found at the end of each lesson), adults guide children to explore and practice new prayer skills. Together they'll share concerns, praise God, and practice the four activities of prayer: praise, ask, confess, and thank.



(Optional) **Treetop Treats and Activities** (10 minutes)—You have options for snacks and activities tied to the theme of the lesson in which lesson truths are practiced and shared. Look for the activity-level icon, which shows the level of mess, energy, or noise required for the activity!

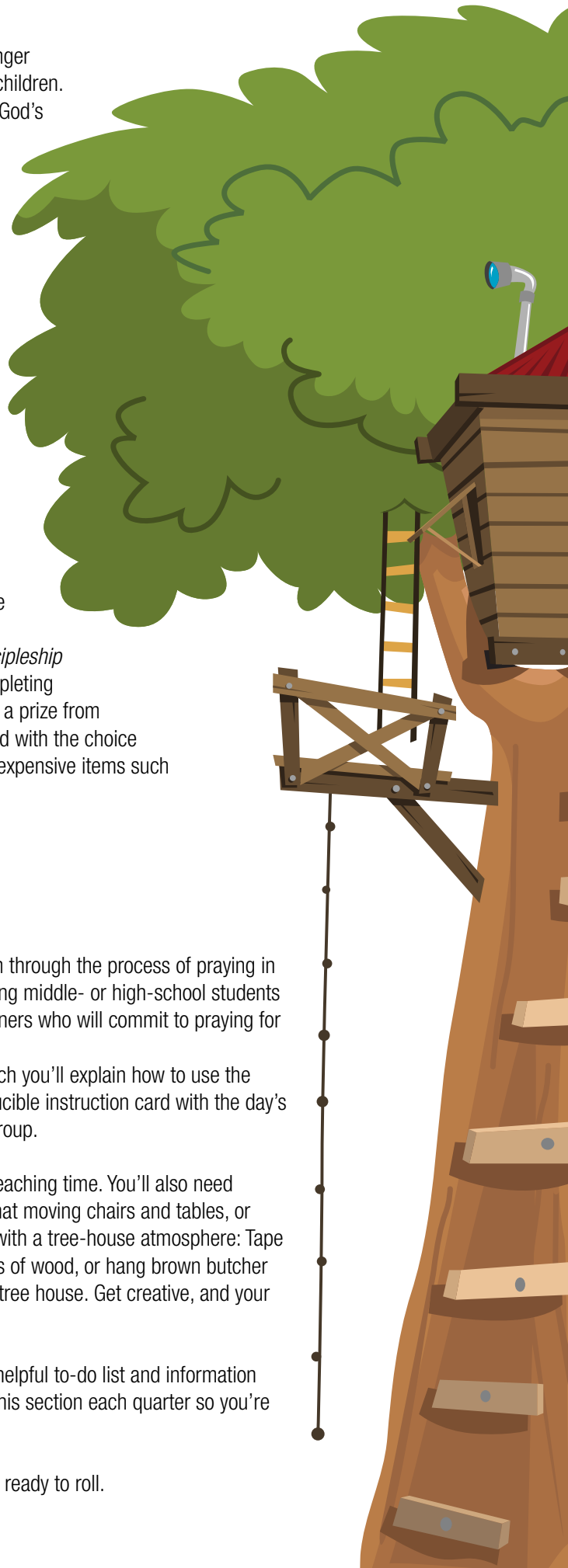


**Zipline**—Reproducible home-connection pages invite families to interact in and through fun activities and Bible memory. These pages can be found at the end of their corresponding lessons.

Are you looking for an additional way to motivate young learners? *Discipleship Jr.* includes an optional incentive program that rewards students for completing home-connection pages. Children return a signed *Club Pass* and choose a prize from the treasure box. If you have a new student, you might welcome that child with the choice of a treasure too! Simply cover and decorate a large shoebox. Fill with inexpensive items such as you might find at a party store.

## HOW TO GET STARTED

- 1. Begin by recruiting Lookouts**—adult helpers who will guide children through the process of praying in small groups. Don't have enough adult volunteers? How about recruiting middle- or high-school students to shepherd a group? Also consider enlisting a few faithful prayer partners who will commit to praying for your class weekly.  
Plan to have a brief training session with your new volunteers in which you'll explain how to use the imPACT model of prayer. Each week you'll give the Lookouts a reproducible instruction card with the day's prayer theme and prayer suggestions to use with children in a small group.
- 2. Set up your room.** You'll need a big area for your large-group Bible teaching time. You'll also need to identify spaces for each of your small prayer-groups. Don't forget that moving chairs and tables, or moving groups to a hallway is always an option. Make your room fun with a tree-house atmosphere: Tape homemade or store-bought leaves to the walls, add boards and planks of wood, or hang brown butcher paper and use black paint to create the look of the wooden walls of a tree house. Get creative, and your kids will love entering their very own "treetop" clubhouse every week!
- 3. Read This Quarter in Discipleship Jr. ...** (page 6). This page has a helpful to-do list and information specific to the current quarter of *Discipleship Jr.* Don't forget to read this section each quarter so you're prepared when kids arrive in your classroom.
- 4. Gather and prepare your materials,** set out your snacks, and you're ready to roll.



## Bible Basis:

Matthew 28:19; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18–20; Romans 10:13–15.

## Bible Truth:


Missionaries are followers of Jesus who tell others about him.



# What in the World Are Missionaries?

## You Will Need:




- 13 Mission Adventure Files (page 10) in a Mission Files portfolio
- cardstock or stiff paper
- 1 poster board
- Bibles
- butcher paper
- markers
- glue
- sequins, small beads, buttons, glitter
- tape
- pencils
- *ZipLine #1* home-connection page
- *Lookout Card #1*
- (optional) treasure box
- (optional) snack: apple slices, animal crackers, napkins
- (optional) Activity #1: camera, ink pad, wet wipes, hole punch, 1 ½" binder rings, copies of Mission Passcard #1 for each child (page 19)

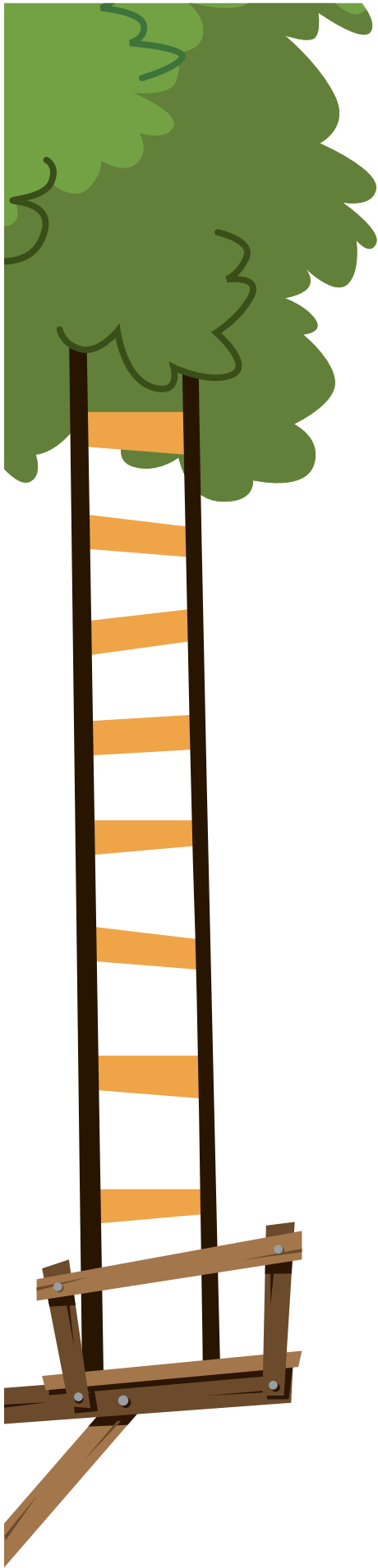
 When you see this icon, it means preparation will take more than five minutes.

**Memory Verse:** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).



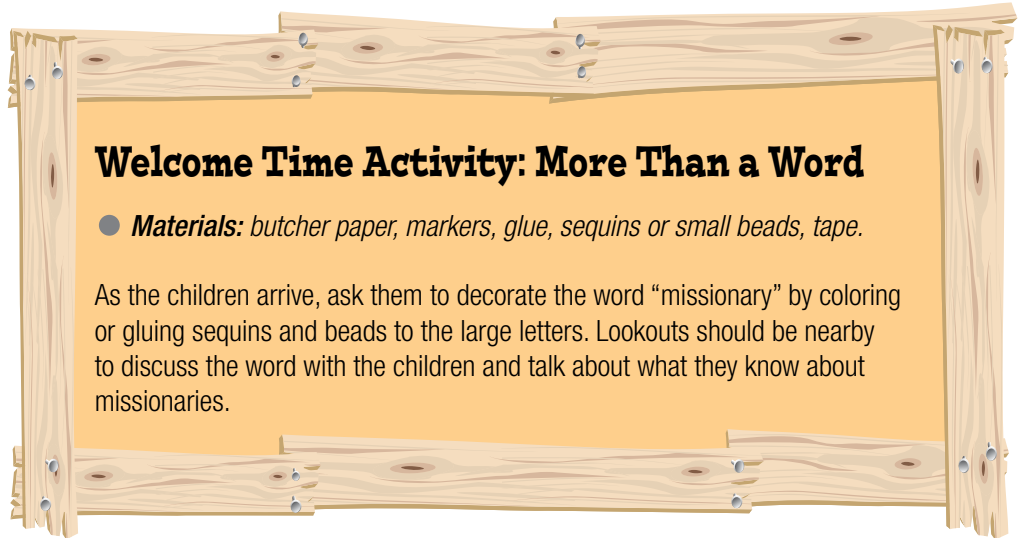
## GET SET! (Lesson Preparation)

- Print today's Bible memory verse on a poster board: **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)**. Hang the poster at the front of the classroom.
-  Copy the following questions and Bible references onto separate slips of paper:
  1. What is a missionary? Read John 20:21 and decide what it tells you.
  2. What is a missionary? Read Matthew 28:19 and decide what it tells you.
  3. What is a missionary? Read Acts 1:8 and decide what it tells you.
  4. What is a missionary? Read 2 Corinthians 5:18–20. What does verse 20 say we are?
  5. What is a missionary? Read Romans 10:13–15 and decide what it tells you.
-  Make a copy of the Mission Passcard #1 (ID card) on cardstock or stiff paper for each child. Cut them out.
- Make a copy of *ZipLine #1* for each child.
- Make a copy of *Lookout Card #1* for each helper.
- Set out the treasure box (optional).
- Print "Missionary" on a length of butcher paper in large outline block letters. Hang it at the front of the classroom for the Welcome Time Activity.
-  After class, print the photos (1 ½" x 1") and attach to each child's ID card in the upper right corner. When new children come to class, a helper can be responsible for putting their photos and fingerprints on ID cards so all will have a complete set of Mission Passcards by week 13.
- Set up snack and outside play activities if you include these items in your children's ministry.



## PASSWORD, PLEASE! (Welcome and Bible Connection)

- **Objective:** To excite children's interest and connect their life experiences with the Bible Truth, you will introduce the term "missionary" while children decorate the word on a wall mural.



### Welcome Time Activity: More Than a Word

- **Materials:** butcher paper, markers, glue, sequins or small beads, tape.

As the children arrive, ask them to decorate the word "missionary" by coloring or gluing sequins and beads to the large letters. Lookouts should be nearby to discuss the word with the children and talk about what they know about missionaries.

## Sharing Time and Bible Connection

Before beginning the class, give an adult helper the Mission Files and send him or her out of sight. When everyone has arrived, call the children to the lesson area. Build an atmosphere of excitement as you explain that you and the children are beginning a series of important missions together. These weekly missions will lead you to some new and important information. Signal the helper to hurry in urgently and hand you the Mission Files. The helper should say with drama: **You've been given a mission!**

Say to the children: **Wow! A mission! Let's see what it is. Have you ever done something like this before? Let's see what we're supposed to do.** Take out the Mission #1 sheet from the portfolio. Read it aloud. **Okay, here's our assignment. Today we must discover what the word "missionary" means.**

- **What do you think a missionary is?** Collect children's input and help them arrive at this definition: A follower of Jesus who tells others about him.
- **Does anyone know a missionary?** Let students share their experiences and information.
- **What does a missionary do?** (pray, tell others about Jesus, teach, care for others, etc.)

Help your students connect the discussion to the story they're about to hear from various passages: **God wants every single person on earth to know about him. In the Bible, we learn that missionaries are people who follow Jesus and tell others about him.**



## CLIMB IN! (Bible Discover and Learn Time)

### Various Scriptures

- **Objective:** Children will study John 20:21, Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, and Romans 10:13–15 to understand what it means to be a missionary.
- **Materials:** Bibles, pencils, "What is a missionary?" question slips

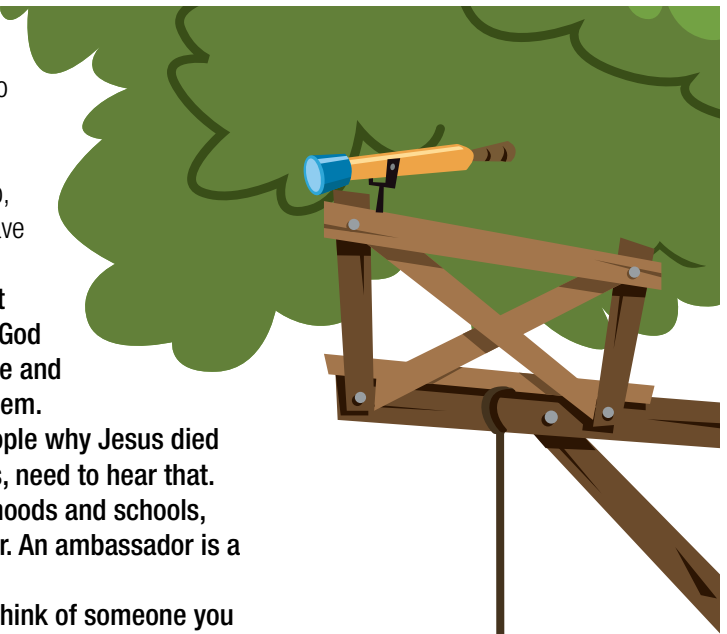
Divide the class into five groups (if you have a small class, make fewer groups, but give each group additional slips). Make sure there's at least one good reader/writer in each group. Hand out pencils and a different verse reference to each group. Then assign groups a place to work.

Groups should first choose someone to be speaker. The speaker will read the question aloud. All group members will look up the verse and read it. As a group, children should decide how the verse answers the question. When all groups have finished, call them together. Ask each speaker to share what the group found.

Summarize all the answers: **God sent Jesus to bring us the message that God loves us and will forgive our sin. Now that Jesus is back in heaven, God gives us the job of bringing this message to others. Many people at home and far away have never heard that Jesus died for them. It's our job to tell them.**

Those who go will make disciples. How do they do that? By telling people why Jesus died and how they can know him. And people all over the world, in all nations, need to hear that. Missionaries share God with people right around them in their neighborhoods and schools, and in faraway places too. Another name for doing this is an ambassador. An ambassador is a person sent to give a message or do a job.

Now that you know better what the word missionary means, can you think of someone you know who does this? Let children answer. **Have you ever told someone who Jesus is, and that he wants to forgive their sins and give them life in heaven that never ends? If you have, YOU'RE a missionary too!**



## USE THE CLUES! (Bible Review)

Every week, we'll be given a new mission to do. And we'll make a set of Mission Passcards to help us keep track of our missions. Later today we'll make our first one—an ID card!

Let's see what you remember about today's mission. Use these review questions to check children's understanding:

- **What is a missionary?** (Missionaries are people who follow Jesus and tell others about him.)
- **Where could a missionary go to tell others about Jesus?** (to any place in the world, but also to neighbors)
- **Why does Jesus send people out as missionaries?** (some people don't know him and need to hear that he loves them and died to forgive them their sins.)



## HIDE 'N' SEEK (Scripture Memory)

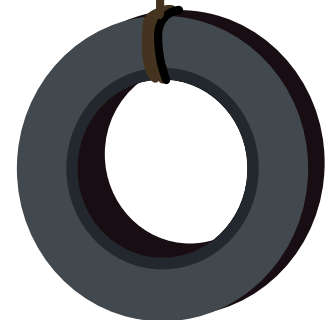
**Matthew 28:19**

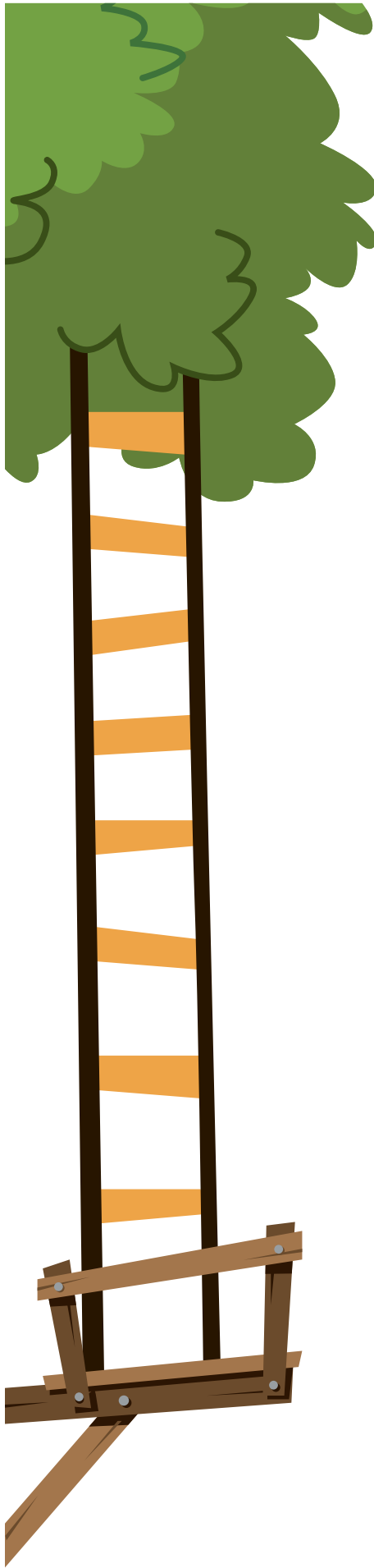
- **Objective:** Children will hide God's Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.

Read this week's memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it: **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).**

In this program, as you teach each week's verse you will also teach the American Sign Language signs for the underlined words. You can find the signs at these Web sites:

- <http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>
- <http://www.lifeprint.com>





People speak different languages all over the world. How would a missionary talk to the people in Africa or Nepal? Let children respond. Some missionaries must learn a new language to be able to share the truth of God's love in a way people can understand. We're also going to learn some words in a new language. This language is used by people who are deaf—**American Sign Language.**

Demonstrate the signs for the underlined words as you say them. Repeat the verse phrase by phrase until students are familiar with the verse.

*(Optional):* If you choose, you can delegate this Bible memory section to a helper who will learn the ASL signs and teach them weekly.



## PRAYER HIDEAWAY

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups.
- **Materials:** copies of Lookout Card #1 for each adult or teen helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of *Lookout Card #1* (page 18) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.



## TREETOP TREATS: Travel Energy Builders

**(Optional Snack)**

- **Materials:** apple slices, animal crackers, napkins

Hand out napkins and offer children apple slices and/or animal crackers. **Traveling can take lots of energy. In some places missionaries hike long trails. Crackers are easy to carry on a trip. Fruit gives you energy.**

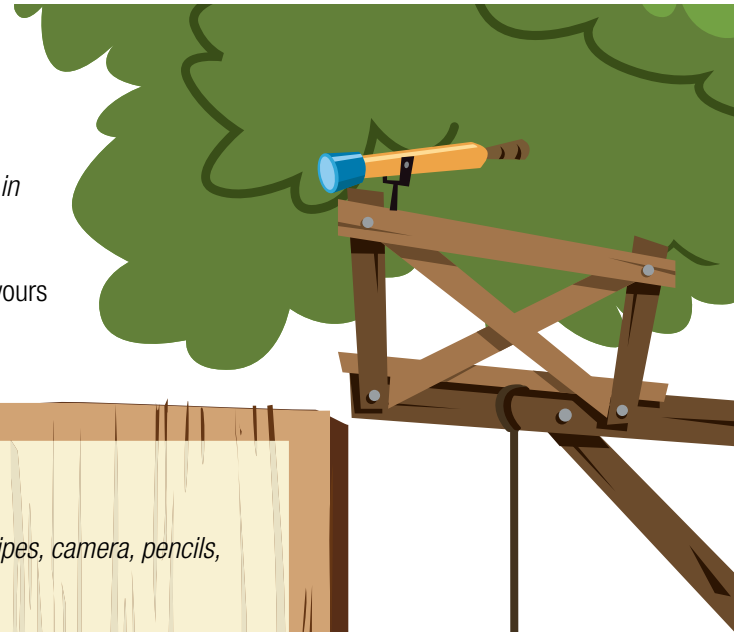
*Note:* Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.



# APPLICATION

- **Objective:** Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their lives through activities and home-connection pages.

Some children's ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.



## 1 2 3 Mission ID Card

- **Materials:** copies of Mission Passcard #1 (ID card), ink pad, wet wipes, camera, pencils, binder rings, hole punch

We recommend that you do this activity with your class so that every child has an ID card to use as a cover for a set of Mission Passcards. We've included an additional activity below in case you have extra time.

**Today when missionaries go to foreign lands, they need a picture passport. This ID card will be your passport for travel. Then, each week you'll receive a Mission Passcard to collect on a binder ring with your ID card.**

Help children roll their thumbs on the inkpad and then onto the back of their ID cards. Offer wet wipes to clean off the ink. Lookouts can help children fill in the form and sign their names at the bottom of the card. Then, hole punch the card and put a binder ring through it. Finally, photograph each child in front of a plain background, like a wall or door.

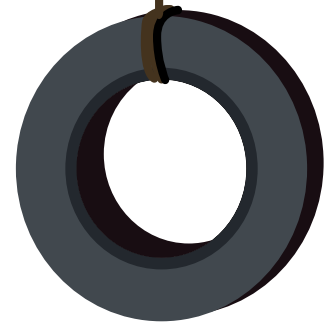
**Note:** After class you'll attach printed photos to ID cards. You can laminate the cards or cover them with sticky plastic sheets if you wish.

## 1 2 3 Missionary Shipshape Drill

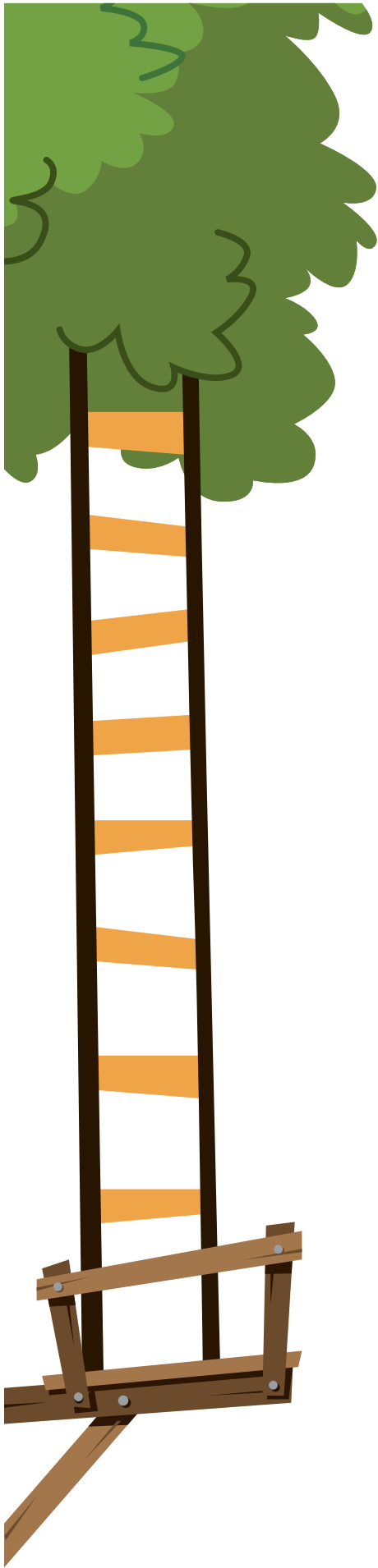
Explain that missionaries often have to cope with hardships, and it helps to be in good physical shape. To be prepared, they can do some exercises.

- 1st drill: Run 'n' drop. Have the children run in place for 10–15 seconds, drop to the floor on their tummies, then jump to their feet again and run in place. Repeat several times.
- 2nd drill: Jumping jacks. Do 10 jumping jacks together as you count.
- 3rd drill: Sit 'n' stretch. Have children sit on the floor and stretch out arms, legs, and back together.

Be encouraging, and allow children to do what they're able.







## **ZIPLINE**

**(Home-Connection Page)**

Let children who brought back a signed pass from last week's home-connection page choose a prize from the treasure box.

Each week you can take home a *ZipLine* paper and do the activities and practice the memory verse. When you've done those things, ask an adult to sign the *Club Pass* (point it out). Bring back the ticket, and you can visit the treasure box (hold up box). Now, who wants to take home a *ZipLine* page?

Distribute home-connection pages just before children leave.

# ZIPLINE – HOME CONNECTION #1

## What in the World Are Missionaries?



### Memory Verse

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

### Your Turn

Show God's compassion to others. With an adult, prepare a jug of a tasty drink. Take the drink and some cups and find some road workers, fire or police workers, or homeless people in your area. Offer them a drink and a smile.

### Coded Message

Write the first letter of the word of each picture on the line below to discover a secret message.



\_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**  
Please check off the items your child completed this week.

- Prayer Challenge
- Bible verse memorized and recited to an adult
- Your Turn
- Coded Message

Adult Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB PASS**



\_\_\_\_\_ !



### Prayer Challenge

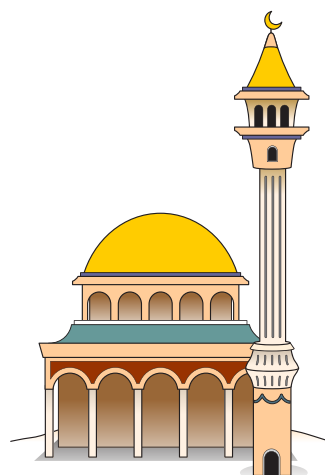
#### Arab World Missions (AWM)

In countries such as Morocco, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, missionaries with Arab World Missions are sharing Jesus with Muslims. AWM missionaries start churches and help churches grow. They use TV and radio to share Jesus too.

*Pray for these missionaries:*

- to be safe and not afraid.
- to keep on even when they don't see people following Jesus.
- to help new Christians to grow in trusting God.

You can visit their Web site at [www.awm.org](http://www.awm.org).



Answer: Jesus wants to know you!

# LOOKOUT CARD #1

This week children learned from various passages in the Bible that missionaries are followers of Jesus who tell others about him. You will now lead your group in prayer according to the imPACT model (praise, ask, confess, and thank). As your children engage in these four activities of prayer, you can further focus their thoughts on today's lesson:

- **Praise.** Do you have a voice and hands that can share Christ? Let's praise God for the abilities and knowledge he's given us to let people know about him.
- **Ask.** Jesus wanted his disciples to tell others that God sent him to die for their sins so they could live forever with God in heaven. If you've never accepted Jesus' gift for you and decided to follow him, you can do it now. Lead students who

acknowledge this desire in a prayer of confession and submission to Christ.

- **Confess.** Our natural way is to think of ourselves and not think about others. We all forget that many people don't know who Jesus is, and we don't think to tell them. Let's tell God we're sorry for thinking of ourselves and forgetting about others.
- **Thank.** God gave us Jesus, his good news, for everyone. Have students thank God for the good news that Jesus died for their sins so they can live with God in heaven.

Remember that no child should be forced to pray, but do encourage and invite each one. After praying, talk quietly with the children until the next activity.

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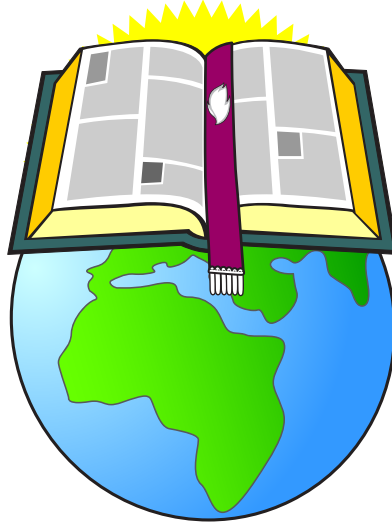
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God can lead me to be a missionary.  
I need to talk to him, so he can tell me what he  
wants me to do.  
I want everybody to  
know about God.

I can be a missionary!



\_\_\_\_\_ Color of eyes

\_\_\_\_\_ Color of hair

\_\_\_\_\_ Age

\_\_\_\_\_ Name