

The World's **GREATEST RESCUE MISSION**

PHILIPPINES • ARMENIA • UKRAINE • CAMBODIA • BULGARIA



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REACHAVILLAGE

B4·NB
BIBLES 4
NEW BELIEVERS

The World's
GREATEST RESCUE MISSION

By Reach A Village Team



PHILIPPINES • ARMENIA • UKRAINE • CAMBODIA • BULGARIA

DOING MISSIONS DIFFERENTLY

ReachAVillage.org



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INTRODUCTION

Around the world, over 3 billion people remain unreached by the Gospel. If nothing changes, it will take centuries for all of them to hear the Good News. How much longer must they wait? Here at Reach A Village, we believe they shouldn't have to wait any longer.

We exist to carry out the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28, to make disciples of all nations. At Reach A Village, we do missions a little differently. We also do missions effectively and efficiently. Our strategy is to partner with local Christian leaders in their own countries and empower them with resources to proclaim the Good News and make disciples of people in nearby villages. Now we want to invite children to partner with us in this mission. You're never too young to change the world!

This missions curriculum has been created by a team comprised of Reach A Village staff members, our international ministry leaders, and a children's ministry leader, all excited to contribute to a wonderful resource to educate and involve kids in the Great Commission. Through a special ministry of Reach A Village called Bibles 4 New Believers (B4NB), children can help provide Bibles for new believers in remote villages. We believe that children have an incredible capacity for love and compassion, and when presented with the urgent need for

Bibles around the world, their pure, child-like faith will compel them to action. We hope and pray it compels you as their teacher as well!

The World's Greatest Rescue Mission is a 5-part lesson series that can be used in a variety of settings, including as the missions segment of a VBS, as a Sunday School series, in a homeschool or co-op setting, or in a Christian school chapel, social studies, or missions class. Our purpose in creating this curriculum is to introduce children to the one true God, the God who reveals Himself through Scripture, and to His mission to save the world from the power and penalty of sin. We want to do more than simply tell the world about Jesus. We want to help them know and follow Jesus by reading, studying, and having their own Bible in their own language.

Reach A Village partners with Christian leaders in over 20 countries around the world. These are leaders who give their lives day in and out, sharing the Gospel village by village. As a result, we see ten of thousands of people put their trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord every year. That's incredibly exciting! That also means we need tens of thousands of Bibles year after year. We can't keep up with the demand on our own. May this small project inspire the next generation of Christian leaders to love Jesus and love people by helping provide Bibles 4 New Believers!



LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of using this curriculum, your students will:

- Examine the Gospel message and explore five essential aspects of it: God, man, Jesus, the cross, and faith.
- Examine the Great Commission, explore the meaning of its three main components, and articulate its application in daily life.
- Gain knowledge about evangelism efforts and needs in five countries: The Philippines, Armenia, Ukraine, Cambodia, and Bulgaria.
- Discover fun and interesting facts about five countries: The Philippines, Armenia, Ukraine, Cambodia, and Bulgaria.
- Explain the meaning and importance of five essential Biblical values: respect, kindness, honesty, forgiveness, and love.

This lesson series introduces children to the Good News of the Gospel, mission efforts taking place in five distinct countries, fun and cultural facts pertaining to those countries, and five essential Biblical values for developing Christ-like character. The easy-to-use lesson plans in this series are designed to be teacher-friendly and rich with Biblical truth and content that will educate and inspire children to participate in God's worldwide mission. God's Word is the reference for all teaching about the Gospel and establishes the importance of personal values such as respect, honesty, love, forgiveness, and kindness. Field experts from the countries emphasized in the curriculum have been consulted in developing the missional and cultural content.





LESSON PLANS

Each lesson plan begins with an introduction to provide an overview of the content presented in that lesson. The learning outcomes are listed next, and questions to spark conversation with students are provided. Asking questions invites participation and encourages students to engage in the learning process. The lesson content is often written in script form to make teaching fun and easy. This format helps reduce excessive preparation or study time needed for busy teachers!

Slides are included as an optional supplement for reinforcing the big ideas of the lesson. Video content also accompanies each lesson, highlighting the various countries and allowing children to see and hear from Christian leaders around the world. The videos contain discussion

about mission efforts in each country and culturally relevant information.

Performance tasks and activities are provided throughout the lessons to further engage students and enhance the learning process. Repetition of key points, ideas, or verses is highly encouraged throughout the series. Finally, review questions are included for optional large or small group use to help teachers assess progress toward achieving learning outcomes.

We kept in mind the words penned in Proverbs 22:6 to “train up a child in the way he should go ...” as we carried out this curriculum project. Our desire is to instill in children the very heart of God—a heart that beats with love and grace for all mankind. God’s mission to save the world is unsurprisingly also a very timely message that can bring people together and promote a sense of goodwill and unity at a time of increasing division. May we ever be more and more like Jesus and focused on our Father’s business, the business of sharing the Gospel and making disciples devoted to Jesus!

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

DAY	THEMES	COUNTRIES	SCRIPTURE
1	Gospel (God), Missions, Culture, Respect	Philippines	John 3:16; Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; 2 Kings 19:15; Matt. 28:19; Exodus 20:12
2	Gospel (Man), Missions, Culture, Kindness	Armenia	John 3:16; Rom. 3:23; Matt. 28:19; Matt. 7:12
3	Gospel (Jesus), Missions, Culture, Honesty	Ukraine	John 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Col. 3:9
4	Gospel (Cross), Missions, Culture, Forgiveness	Cambodia	John 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:32
5	Gospel (Faith), Missions, Culture, Love	Bulgaria	John 3:16; Rom. 10:9; Matt. 28:19; John 15:12

GOSPEL VERSES

Day 1	<i>"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:11</i>
Day 2	<i>"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23</i>
Day 3	<i>"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" 1 John 1:29</i>
Day 4	<i>"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the spirit." 1 Peter 3:18</i>
Day 5	<i>"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." Revelation 7:9a</i>

THE LORD REIGNS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Lesson 1 Plan

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Lesson 1

THE LORD REIGNS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Lesson 1 Introduction

Kids are incredibly smart. They learn from a young age that some people, such as their parents or caregivers, are in charge. They also learn that other people, like themselves, get in trouble if they don't listen. Learning this simple yet significant principle helps kids understand a much more important truth later—that someone even greater than their parents is even more in charge. That someone, of course, is God.

This lesson is designed to introduce kids to the Gospel and the Great Commission. Specifically, it focuses on the essential truth that the Lord our God is the Creator and King of the universe. This is vital because it establishes God's authority and supremacy over all people and His right to set the standards of right and wrong. As King, God gets to decide the rules for everything, including how we as His creation may approach Him.

Each lesson in this series of five presents the Gospel from a big picture perspective, but also focuses on one essential truth in more detail. Through intentional repetition, discussion, and reflection, the essential truths of the Gospel can be written in the hearts and minds of your students. We must remember the importance of training up children in the way they should go, so when they are older, they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

The presentation of the Great Commission follows a similar pattern. Each lesson introduces the meaning of the Great Commission, but then also focuses in on mission efforts taking place in specific countries served by Reach A Village. Reach A Village (RAV). This first lesson highlights the activities of RAV ministry partners in the Philippines, home to the Values Education Program (VEP)—one of RAV's largest children's ministry partnerships. Trained volunteer

teachers go into public school classrooms and teach children Christian values from the Bible. What a wonderful gift to have this open door!

Children will also learn some interesting and informative information about the culture of each country discussed. This will expand their understanding of God's wonderful world and teach them to love and appreciate the differences among us. Videos of Ate Jocelyn, the director of the VEP, allow students to see and hear from a real-life, Filipino Christian leader who is living out the Great Commission by making disciples throughout her nation!

Finally, in the spirit of the VEP, a values component is also included in each lesson. Kids need to be taught again and again about the characteristics and traits that God desires for His children to possess. Lesson 1 focuses on the meaning and importance of respect. I think we all agree that respect is lacking in our societies today, perhaps particularly so in the West with the increasingly post-modern and secular culture. The value of respect is needed in how we treat one another, and also in how we approach and relate to God.

We hope you enjoy teaching the truths these lessons. They contain activities, projects, videos, and worksheets to promote learning and engage your students along the way. Understanding and participating in God's great rescue mission is the most important lesson any of us will ever learn. Thank you for being willing to serve the Lord and your kids by teaching this curriculum. May you have the wisdom, love, and skills to connect with each student in a meaningful way!

Learning Outcomes

- Children will examine the Gospel message and identify God as Creator and King of the universe.
- Children will discover the meaning and importance of the Great Commission and articulate how it applies to their own lives.
- Children will gain knowledge about evangelism efforts and needs in the Philippines.
- Children will discover fun and interesting facts about the Philippines.
- Children will explain the meaning and importance of respect.

Warm-Up

(5–10 minutes)

Before class, print and fold up the Rescue Mission paper and hide it in the room.

During this activity, have your kids spread out and find it.

Say to the class: “Did you know that God has a special rescue mission? Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His followers a very special mission. This mission teaches us how we can know and follow Jesus, and how we are supposed to live our lives and tell others about Jesus. God’s special mission is written on a hidden paper in this room. Let’s see if you can find it.”

Allow time for your kids to search the classroom and find the secret message. Then have them gather in the center of the room to open it and read it. You may also show the slide of the Rescue Mission page or the Mission Verse poster. After you have read it, say: “Matthew 28:19 is our mission. It tells us that Jesus is amazing! He has a special plan for us to know Him, to follow Him and to be a part of His great rescue mission.”

Overview

Being a part of God’s rescue mission is so exciting! It is the most important mission that has ever taken place, and we get to be a part of it! We get to be a part of God’s rescue mission, not because we are the rescuers or the heroes, but because we are the people who have been rescued! Out of gratitude to God for His gift of salvation, we join His plan to see everyone come to know Jesus (our great rescuer). This rescue plan has five parts, and each day we are going to learn another part of God’s great plan. The five parts are God, man, Jesus, the cross, and faith. These parts make up something we call the Gospel, God’s great rescue plan.

RESCUE MISSION!

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, teaching
them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely,
I am with you always, to the
end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Daily Focus — Introduce students to one of five essential aspects of the Gospel in each lesson.

The Gospel: DAY 1 — God (10 minutes)

SAY: “Long before you or I were born, all the way back in the beginning, God promised that He would send a rescuer. You see, Genesis 1:1 tells us that, *‘In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,’* Genesis 1:31 says, *‘God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.’* God is the creator of all things; He is in charge of everything! He made everything, and it was good. It was perfect. The people He made (Adam and Eve) were able to know God and talk to God.

“The Gospel teaches us that in the beginning, people were able to know God and love God, and be in a relationship with God. God wants you to know Him, too, because He loves you very much! Let’s learn about God and His character by doing an activity together.”

Teachers: You have a set of cards that say, “Who Is God?” (Find “Who is God?” cards/slides.) These cards are to help you and your students get to know God’s character and aspects of who God is. Use the cards to discuss details about the characteristics of God with your students. This information is all a part of the doctrine of God. Go around the room and take turns reading each card. This will help students learn about the characteristics of God. Discuss each card together. After you discuss each card, you can display them in your classroom to remind students who God is. If desired, hang a string in your classroom to display the cards.

“In order to trust someone, you have to get to know them. God is trustworthy. We can trust everything He has ever said in His Word, the Bible. God cannot be wrong, and God always tells the truth.”

Get to Know God

Who is God? God is the creator of everything and everyone and is the ruler and king over all. (Hebrews 11:3)

Is God perfect? God is perfect in all things and in all ways. God does not sin. God does not make mistakes. God lacks nothing. (Matthew 5:38)

How does God talk to us? God speaks to us in many ways. He can speak through the Bible, through creation, through the Church, by the Holy Spirit, and in any other way He chooses. (Romans 1:20 & 2 Timothy 3:16)

Does God change? God does not change. His character does not change. His promises do not change. His purposes for His people do not change. His plans do not change. (Malachi 3:6)



What did God create? God created everyone and everything in the world. He created people, male and female, in His image! God's people are made in His image, and you are His creation. We are created to bring God glory! (Genesis 1:31)

What authority does God have? God is the King, has all authority, and is in charge of everything! No one is more powerful than God. No people exist outside of God's authority. (Psalm 135:6)

How does God show His love for us? God shows His incredible love for us by sending His perfect son Jesus to die for us, people who sin and are far away from God. God shows His love for us through the Gospel. (Matthew 20:28)

What is the Gospel? The Gospel is God's plan for us to know Him, His great rescue plan. It teaches us how God sent His son Jesus to live a perfect life, die on the cross, and come back to life so all people can be forgiven and God can rule in their hearts forever. (1 Timothy 2:5)

"In order to join God's rescue plan, first, you must hear and respond to the Gospel, the greatest story every told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We are going to learn more about what the Gospel is and how to respond to it throughout this week."



Gospel Verse

Students learn a key scripture verse emphasizing the Daily Focus of God's Rescue Mission.

SAY: "Today we have talked about the Gospel and who God is. Let's read **Revelation 4:11** together. (Show slide with the Gospel verse.)

"God is the Creator and rules over everything. He made you and loves you and wants to know you."

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:11

GOSPEL VERSE

MISSION POSSIBLE: OUR BIG ASSIGNMENT

Overview of Great Commission/Mission Verse (45–60 minutes)



OVERVIEW

We all have an innate desire for our lives to have meaning and purpose. Perhaps this is because we are made in the image of the one true God, the One who gives meaning and purpose to life and all creation. God graciously invites us to be His partners in the greatest mission of all, an essential part of what we have termed the World's Greatest Rescue Mission. Children will delight in knowing that they, too—young as they are and with seemingly little to offer—can participate in God's great rescue mission!

Before children can accept the mission, however, a couple of things must take place. 1) Kids must hear and respond to the Gospel, the greatest story ever told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We began that in the previous section by talking about the Gospel. We will continue to reinforce the Gospel message in the remaining lessons of this series. 2) Kids must be taught what the mission is and how they can help. This segment will take care of that part. So open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you lead children to the heart of God.

INTRODUCTION

To simplify the World's Greatest Rescue Mission, let's focus on the two big, extremely important parts. In reality there are so many more, but as we are bound by time and don't want to overwhelm our young students, we'll go with two for now. Those two parts are the Gospel and the Great Commission.

The Gospel makes it possible for us to be pardoned from the guilt and penalty of sin, and to be born again and adopted into God's family. What glorious and incomprehensibly joyous news that is! Children should be reminded again and again that this is the best news ever, the greatest story ever told, and given the opportunity to celebrate that amazing gift of grace.

The other part of the greatest rescue mission is the Great Commission. After Jesus completed the plan of the redemption of mankind, He stayed here on earth a little longer to further strengthen, encourage, and teach His disciples. As always, He did an outstanding job because He is inarguably the most influential person who has ever lived. Right before He left, He gave us one particular set of instructions that we call the Great Commission. Since then, these instructions have been followed and repeated to all generations. We commonly call these instructions the Great Commission.

MISSION VERSE

Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) to **“... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”** This directive from Jesus Himself has inspired millions of faithful disciples for thousands of years. Missionaries travel to distant lands to proclaim the Gospel and make new disciples. Church planters establish new churches and Bible studies to pass on the teachings of Christ to new believers. This is God’s plan to save the world from our sin, the great rescue mission.

It is so important to educate kids about both the Gospel and the Great Commission. Jesus gave His life to establish the Church and teach us about the Kingdom of God. We as teachers and mature Christian leaders must do all we can to pass that torch on and keep the flame burning bright. That is what keeps Reach A Village’s ministry partners and staff motivated and inspired to show up every day and do all we can to help finish the mission God has given us.

The Great Commission

DAY 1 (45 minutes)

OPTIONAL STARTER: To get kids thinking about the importance of following directions, play a couple of rounds of “Simon Says” (slide included in Lesson 1 slidedeck). The winner of the first round gets to be “Simon” in the second round. “Simon” gives simple commands such as “stand up,” “do jumping jacks,” or “spin in a circle.” Kids should only follow the command if “Simon” uses the phrase “Simon says” before giving the command. Kids who follow commands that did not begin with “Simon says” are out and should return to their seats or a designated area until the last child left is declared the winner. To prevent “Simon” from giving disruptive or dangerous commands, it is suggested that the teacher prepare “Command Cards” ahead of time so “Simon” always knows what to say.

Lesson Content

SAY: “How many of you have ever been given a very important job or responsibility? Maybe it was giving a presentation at school, setting the table for a special family meal, or taking care of a younger brother or sister. When a teacher, parent or caregiver trusts you to do a good job, how does that make you feel? It should make you feel really good to know that they have confidence in you to do your job well!”

“In the Bible, which is God’s love letter and instruction book to us, Jesus assigned all His followers a very important job or mission. We call it the Great Commission. What does commission mean? A special job that is given to a person or group of people. For example, if your History teacher puts you in a group with three other students and asks you to do a project on George Washington, you could say you have been given a commission for that project. Let’s open our Bibles (or take a look at some verses) to see what the Great Commission is all about.

“In Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV), we read some of the last words written in the Bible that Jesus said to His disciples. Sometimes we save the best or most important things we want to say for last, so people will remember. These words had instructions



Jesus wanted us to remember and follow. He said ‘... **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**’ (Note: Show the slide/poster with this verse. Read it once to the children. Then have the children read it together.)

“The Great Commission is a very important part of God’s great rescue mission, His plan to save the world from sin. Remember, because we all make mistakes and do things God tells us not to do, we are all sinners. God’s plan to save us from the power of sin was to send Jesus so we could be forgiven, and then have us as His followers teach other people about Him. This is the Great Commission. Our assignment from Jesus is to tell others the Gospel, the best news ever, and show them how to follow Jesus by living for Him.

“Reach A Village is a wonderful mission organization that is carrying out the Great Commission. Here in the United States, we have lots of churches. Most people here have heard about Jesus and at least have an idea of who He is. There are many countries around the world where that isn’t the case. Some countries have very few followers of Jesus and very few churches. Reach A Village helps train Christians in many countries so they can share the good news of the Gospel and teach people about the one true God!”

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: THE PHILIPPINES

This section provides information about Reach A Village's evangelism efforts and needs in the Philippines. Discuss B4NB (Bibles 4 New Believers).

Mission Video



▶ VIDEO 1

If time allows, play the mission video "Ate Jocelyn Shares About Ministry in the Filipino Classroom." *Ate* is the Filipino word for "sister". Timestamp 4:36-9:25 or as long as time permits. This video portion discusses the Values Education Program (VEP), which allows volunteer teachers to teach Christian values and the Gospel in many public schools in the Philippines. The video is included in the Lesson 1 slide deck.



TIME: 4:49 minutes

Teachers, share this information with your class. Play the video and show slides as time allows.

The Philippines is one of the 22 countries where RAV ministry partners share the Gospel. This southeastern Asian nation is made up of over 7,000 islands situated in the Pacific Ocean between the South China and Philippine Seas." (Show slide with a map.) "The Philippines is home to the largest children's ministry that RAV serves, called the Values Education Program" (show slide of VEP Program).

The Values Education Program, referred to as the VEP, trains an army of volunteer teachers to teach Christian values from the Bible to kids in public schools. Over 24,000 teachers have taught Christian values to over 1.2 million children since the program began in 2007. More than 11,000 schools have been a part of the VEP. RAV provides funds for children's Bibles, New Testaments, and Scripture portions. With RAV's help, ministry partners equip and mobilize the teachers to go into schools and teach kids about God's Word and share the Gospel.

Many children and their families have started attending church as a result of this program.

Bibles are rarely available for children in other countries. We have so many Bibles here in the U.S. you may not realize the great need. Since we give out thousands of Bibles to kids each year, it takes a lot of money to meet the needs of this ministry. The average cost of a children's Bible in the Philippines is only about two U.S. dollars. During the 2021–2022 school year, RAV helped provide nearly 9,000 Bibles to students! That would be close to \$18,000 just for Bibles.

To help raise the money to print these Bibles and also Bibles for new believers in other countries, Reach A Village started a special ministry called Bibles 4 New Believers (show the B4NB slide). Kids, families, and churches in the United States can give money to pay for Bibles that will bless children in the Philippines and many other places around the world. Before you go home today (or tonight) you will be given a little cardboard Bible bank (hold up a small Bible box to show kids what they will receive). The Bible bank has a slot just like a piggy bank so you can put money in it to save for these Bibles. This money won't be to saved up to buy a new bike or video game for you, but to help provide Bibles for new believers in places like the Philippines.

Does anyone know what the word generous means? (Call on one or two students.) Those are very good answers! One way of describing what



it means to be generous is to be kind and unselfish by sharing with others (show slide of definition). This week, you have the opportunity to be generous by sharing a little bit of what you have with some friends around the world. You will probably never meet these friends until we get to heaven, but just think how special it would be if they thank you for helping them know and follow Jesus when you do meet them in heaven! Even if you are not able to give money to help buy Bibles, you can be generous with your time. You can pray for kids in the Philippines to hear the Gospel and say yes to a relationship with Jesus! Pray also that God will provide the money needed to make sure they all get a copy of the Bible in their heart language. A heart language is the language one speaks and knows best, a language they know by heart.



MISSIONS AND ME:

Practical connections for kids, including B4NB (Bibles 4 New Believers)

Take a few moments to discuss with students how they can participate in God's great rescue mission. Remind them that before they can help with the mission, they need to first understand and respond to the Gospel. Ask for one or two volunteers to explain what the Gospel is and how they can respond to it.

Ideas for participating in the Great Commission include:

- Inviting their friends/family to church
- Telling their friends about Jesus and the Gospel
- Treating one another with respect
- Helping provide Bibles for new believers through the B4NB mission project

Discussion Questions (Show slide.)

1. What is God's Great Rescue Mission?

SHORT ANSWER: The Gospel and the Great Commission.

LONG ANSWER: His plan to save the world from sin. God did this by sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again, and then asks us as His followers to tell others the Good News.

2. What is the Great Commission?

ANSWER: The special job Jesus left for all His disciples to share the best news ever, the Gospel, and teach people how to follow Jesus and be baptized. We can read about the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, **"... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."**

3. How can kids take part in God's Great Rescue Mission?

ANSWER: Answers may vary, but could include:

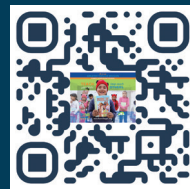
- By responding to the Gospel and following Jesus
- By telling their friends and family about Jesus and inviting them to church
- By giving to mission projects like B4NB so new believers can have their own Bible

CULTURE CLUB: LEARNING TO LOVE

Overview of world cultures. Teach students that God made all kinds of people and we can celebrate our differences. (25–30 minutes)

This is an optional portion of the lesson that allows children to learn a little bit about some of the cultural aspects of the Philippines. God's love and grace are for the whole world, for people of every nation, tribe, language, and race. Students can learn to celebrate the differences among us. After all, the world would be pretty boring if we were all the same. Kids can only assume that life for people all around the world is the same as it is for them until they are taught otherwise. This section will help kids begin to understand and appreciate the diversity of God's beautiful creation, and to see His image and fingerprints in it all!

Culture Video



▶ VIDEO 2

If time permits, play the video titled "The Importance of the Bible in the Local Language." Reach A Village ministry partner Ate Jocelyn, the leader of the Values Education Program, discusses the variety of languages and some other cultural issues. This video is included in the Lesson 1 slide deck.

TIME: 5:27 minutes

Focus: Present fun and interesting facts about culture and life in the Philippines.

The Philippines is one of 22 countries where Reach A Village's ministry partners are sharing the Gospel. This southeastern Asian nation is made up of over 7,000 islands situated in the Pacific Ocean between the South China and Philippine Seas. (Show slide with a map.)

There are about 111 million people who live in the Philippines. That is about one third of the U.S. population, but the U.S. is about 33 times bigger geographically than the Philippines (show slide with comparison map). This means the Philippines is much more densely populated, or crowded, than the U.S. Schools may have 50-60 students or more each in class.

Families often have grandparents living together in the same home as the parents and children. Houses may look different too, especially in the mountainous area (show slide of traditional Filipino house). They are built up on tall poles called stilts and have roofs made of grass. Most parts of the Philippines stay hot and rainy during much of the year.

There are many different languages, or dialects, in the Philippines—at least 170. Many people speak English, but it is still very important to provide Bibles in the local language, or dialect, so all members of the family have the chance to read it and learn about Jesus.



Mission Verse Video



▶ VIDEO 3

Matthew 28:19-20—
Reach A Village ministry partner Ate Jocelyn shares the mission verse in the English and Filipino languages. This video is included in the Lesson 1 slide deck.

TIME: 1:43 minutes



Interactive Project/Game

1. Tatsing—Tatsing is a favorite children's game in the Philippines traditionally played outside with rocks and bottle caps.

Rules: Form two teams of up to 5 players each. Each player has two bottlecaps (included), and all are placed in a designated space (may use chalk or tape to mark off a small square to lay all bottle caps in). A line should be marked about 8 feet away from the bottle caps. One person from each team throws the wooden rock (included), and the team whose rock lands closest to the

line goes first. Teams alternate tossing the rocks at the bottle caps, beginning at the line, trying to knock them out of the designated area. If one or more bottle caps are knocked out, play continues to the next player of that team until someone misses. At that time play switches to the other team. The team with the most bottle caps after all are knocked out wins!

2. Additional Activities:

Kids may color a Philippines flag (page 28) while rewatching the videos with Ate Jocelyn or you may play Filipino Bible Songs for the children from the video below.

Filipino Bible Songs Video



▶ VIDEO 4

If time allows, play the Filipino Bible song video for students. The video is also included in the Lesson 1 slide deck.

TIME: 2:36 minutes



CODE OF CONDUCT: RESPECT

Overview of developing Christ-like values and character/Values Verse (10–15 minutes)

Overview

SAY: “Once we respond to the Gospel, God’s great rescue plan, the Holy Spirit changes who we are, and we learn to live our lives more like Jesus. The Gospel changes what we value (the things that are most important to us). It changes how we live and how we treat people.

“When the Gospel changes us, the Holy Spirit begins to dwell in us. This is like a code is cracked and a new way of living is unlocked. You see, once we decide to know and follow Jesus, we are called to live in a

way that treats others the way Jesus did. We begin to see people as God sees them. We see that despite how people are talking or acting, they are also made in the image of God, and we should treat them that way.”

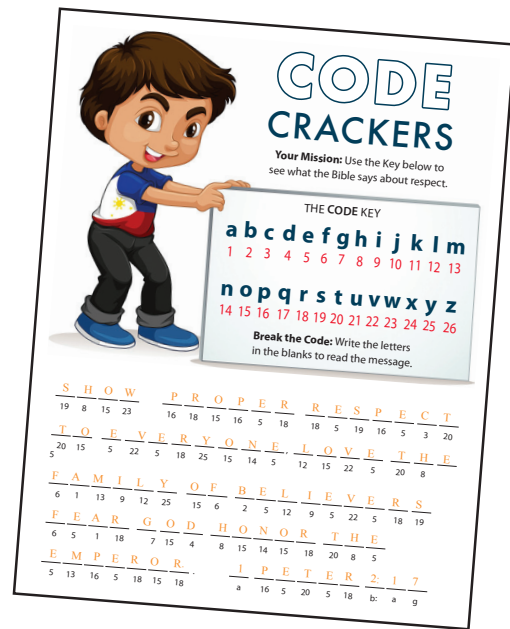
Values in View—Discuss one of the five Biblical values highlighted in this lesson series.

“The value we are learning about today is respect. We define respect as showing others that they are important to you by how you treat them and what you say (slide with definition). We show respect to

God because God is in authority over us and the entire earth. We also show respect to others because they are made in the image of God. Let's crack the code together and see what God's Word says about respect."

Values Verse

Pass out the **Code Crackers** handout (page 27), or show the slide and give each child a piece of paper to write the answer by using the code. (The answer is **1 Peter 2:17 NIV, "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."**) Show the slide of the verse when they are finished.



Review/Discussion

Discussion Questions

- 1. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?** We were created to be in relationship with God. God loves each person and desires for them to know Him!
- 2. How does the idea that all people are made in the image of God change the way you treat others?** We should treat others with the respect, patience, and care that God the Father shows them.
- 3. What does respect mean?** Respect is showing others that they are important to you by how you treat them and what you say.
- 4. What is one way you can show respect to a parent, caregiver, or teacher this week?**
- 5. What is one way you can show respect to a brother, sister, friend, or classmate this week?**

The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20, gives us our mission for our lives. How can you show respect for God's plans for you? This week, look for ways you can show respect for God and others. Do your best to live out the Great Commission so others will hear and know more about Jesus.



Closing

Review Key Points (5 minutes)

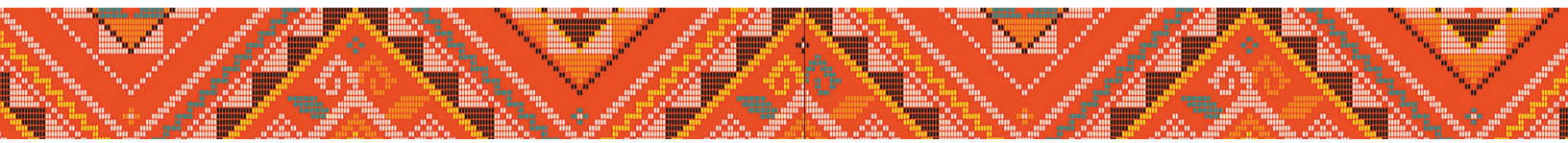
Following are the important points to focus on with the children as you conclude this lesson.

SAY, "I am so glad each of you came to class tonight/today to learn about the World's Greatest Rescue Mission! How many of you would say you love going on a big adventure? Well, when we join God's rescue mission and follow Jesus, everyday becomes a very special adventure."

“Let’s take just a moment to review some big ideas from today’s lesson.” (Show slide.)

- 1. Who is God?** God is the creator of everything and everyone. He is King over all.
- 2. What is the Gospel?** God’s rescue plan to save us from the power of sin by sending Jesus so we could be forgiven.
- 3. What is the Great Commission?** Our special assignment from Jesus to teach others the Gospel.
- 4. What is respect?** Respect is showing others that they are important to you by how you treat them and what you say.

“As you learn more about how great and powerful God is, I hope you always remember that He loves you so, so much. He doesn’t want you, your family, friends, or anyone to miss out on being with Him forever in heaven. By knowing the Gospel and taking part in the Great Commission, you get to help others meet Jesus so they can join us in the mission! I hope to see you again tomorrow (adjust as appropriate) so we can talk more about the Gospel and how to obey Jesus. Before we say good-bye, let’s stop for a moment and talk to God about what we’ve learned today. Let’s thank Him for being so good, and for making us and the beautiful world.” (Lead the children in prayer and dismiss them.)





CODE CRACKERS

Your Mission: Use the code key below to see what the Bible says about respect.

THE CODE KEY

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Break the Code: Write the letters in the blanks to read the message.

19 8 15 23 16 18 15 16 5 18 18 5 19 16 5 3 20

20 15 5 22 5 18 25 15 14 5 12 15 22 5 20 8 5

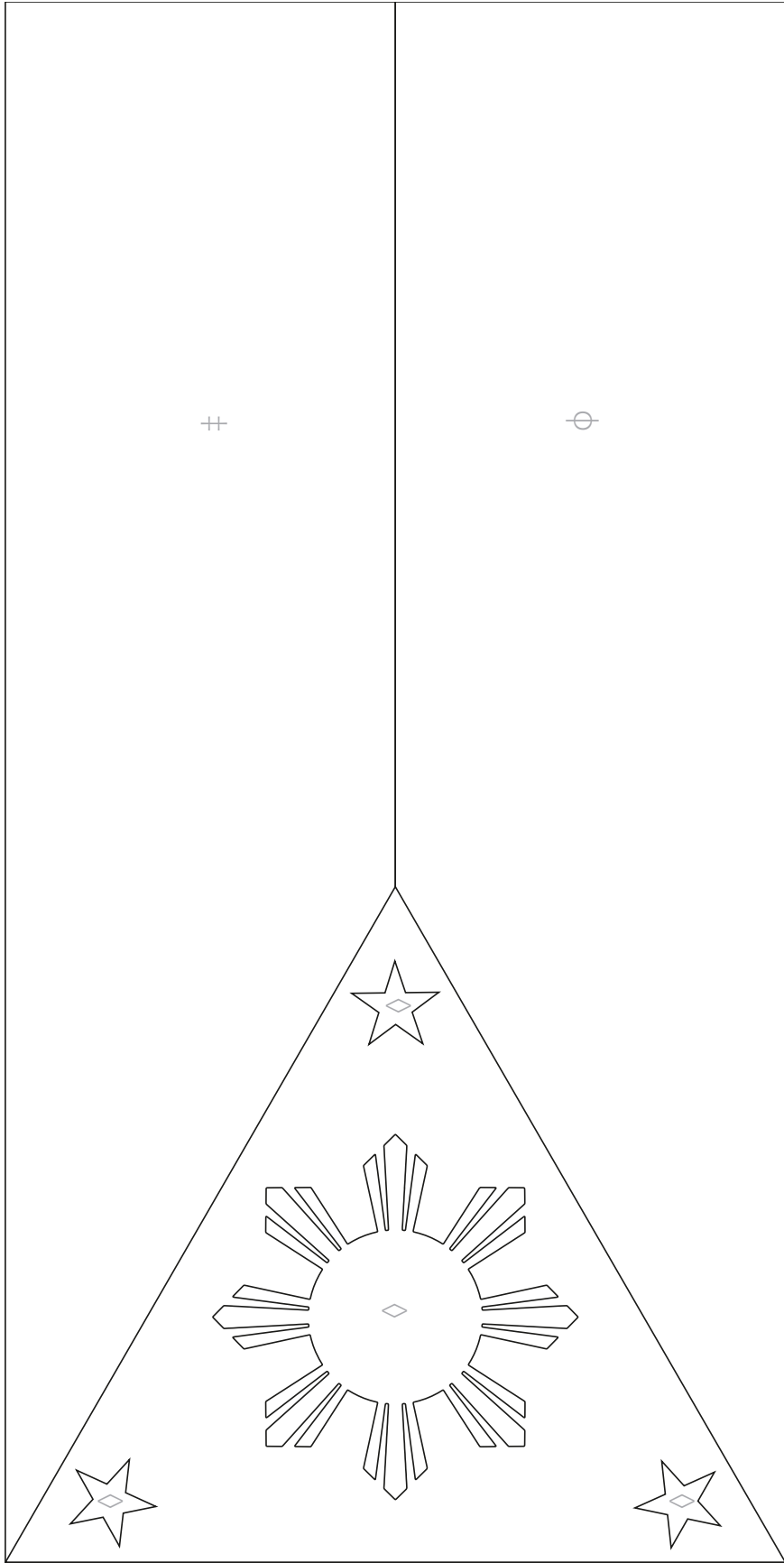
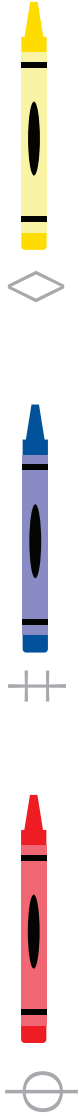
6 1 13 9 12 25 15 6 2 5 12 9 5 22 5 18 19

6 5 1 18 7 15 4 8 15 14 15 18 20 8 5

5 13 16 5 18 15 18 a 16 5 20 5 18 b: a g

SPOTLIGHT: THE PHILIPPINES

Your Mission: Use the color key below to color the flag of the Philippines.





Who is God?

God is the creator of everything and everyone and is the ruler and king over all.

Hebrews 11:3



“Is God perfect?”

God is perfect in all things and in all ways. God does not sin. God does not make mistakes. God lacks nothing.

Matthew 5:38



How does God talk to us?

God speaks to us in many ways. He can speak through the Bible, through creation, through the church, by the Holy Spirit, and in any other way He chooses.

Romans 1:20 & 2 Timothy 3:16



Does God change?

God does not change. His character does not change. His promises do not change. His purposes for His people do not change. His plans do not change.

Malachi 3:6



“ What did God create?”

God created everyone and everything in the world. He created people, male, and female, in His image! God’s people are made in His image, and you are His creation. We are created to bring God glory! Genesis 1:31 ”

“ What authority does God have?”

God is the King, has all authority, and is in charge of everything! No one is more powerful than God. No people exist outside of God’s authority. Psalm 135:6 ”

“ How does God show His love for us?”

God shows His incredible love for us by sending His perfect Son, Jesus, to die for us, people who sin and are far away from God. God shows His love for us through the Gospel.

Matthew 20:28 ”

“ What is the Gospel?”

The Gospel is God’s plan for us to know Him. It teaches us how God sent His son, Jesus, to live a perfect life, die on the cross and come back to life so all people can be forgiven and God can rule in their hearts forever. ”

1 Timothy 2:5



CODE CRACKERS

Your Mission: Use the Key below to see what the Bible says about respect.

THE CODE KEY

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Break the Code: Write the letters in the blanks to read the message.

S H O W

19 8 15 23

P R O P E R

16 18 15 16 5 18

R E S P E C T

18 5 19 16 5 3 20

T O E V E R Y O N E , L O V E T H E

20 15 5 22 5 18 25 15 14 5 12 15 22 5 20 8

5

F A M I L Y O F B E L I E V E R S

6 1 13 9 12 25 15 6 2 5 12 9 5 22 5 18 19

F E A R G O D H O N O R T H E

6 5 1 18 7 15 4 8 15 14 15 18 20 8 5

E M P E R O R .

5 13 16 5 18 15 18

1 P E T E R 2: 1 7

a 16 5 20 5 18 b: a g



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