

# *The World's* **GREATEST RESCUE MISSION**

PHILIPPINES • ARMENIA • UKRAINE • CAMBODIA • BULGARIA



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DOING MISSIONS DIFFERENTLY  
[ReachAVillage.org](http://ReachAVillage.org)





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*By Reach A Village Team*



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# INTRODUCTION

**A**round 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

<b>Day 1</b>	<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."</i> Revelation 4:11
<b>Day 2</b>	<i>"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."</i> Romans 3:23
<b>Day 3</b>	<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!'"</i> 1 John 1:29
<b>Day 4</b>	<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."</i> 1 Peter 3:18
<b>Day 5</b>	<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."</i> Revelation 7:9a



# Lesson 1 Plan

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## 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 every 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: 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



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.

## 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

## 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.”

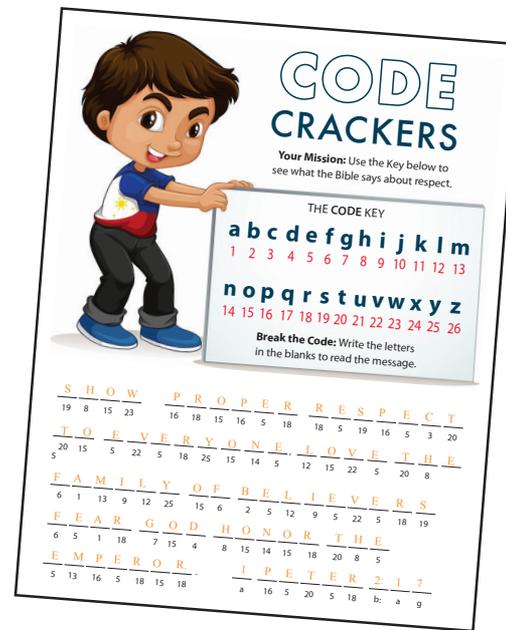
**Values in View**—Discuss one of the five Biblical values highlighted in this lesson series.

“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

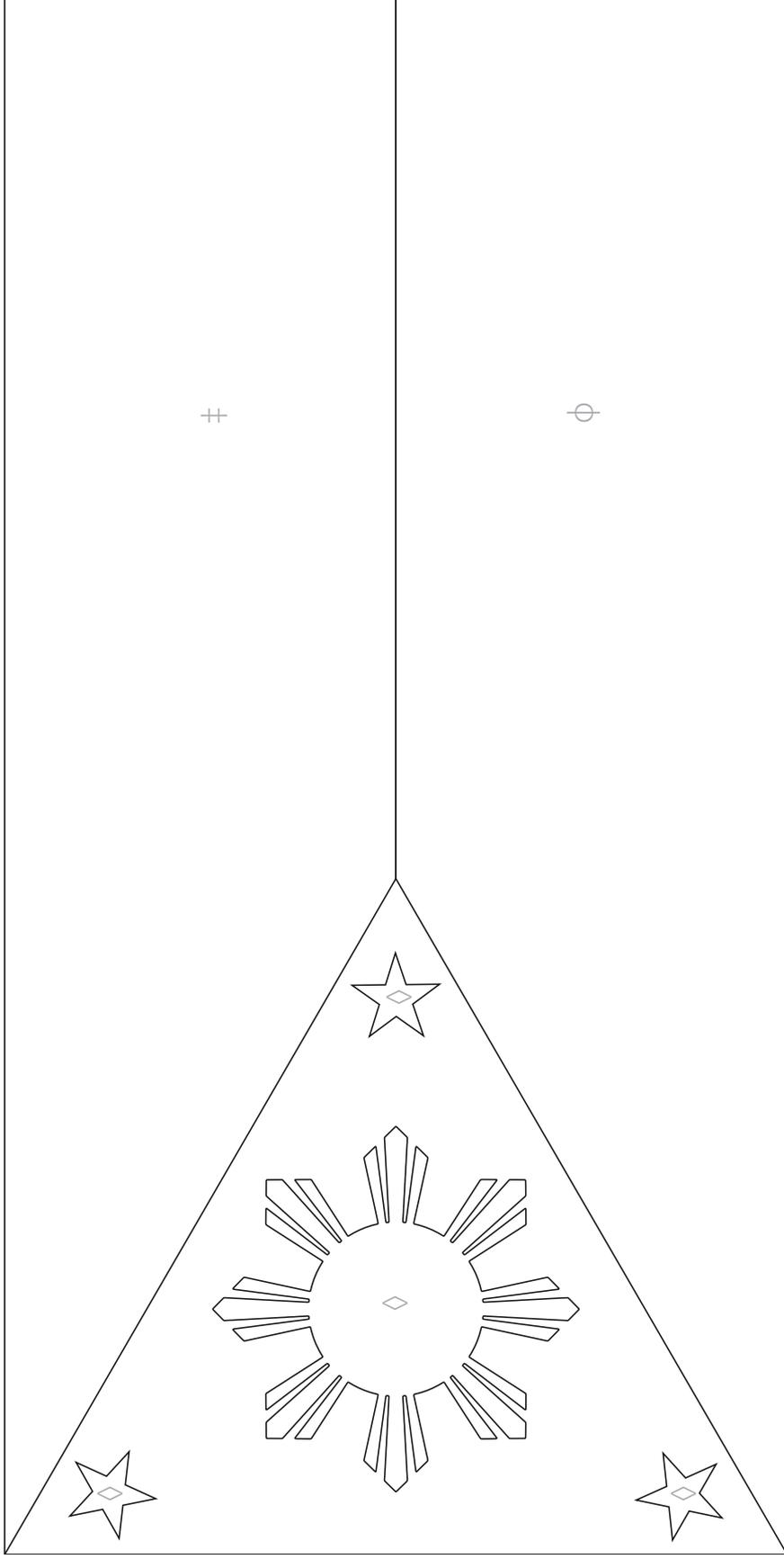
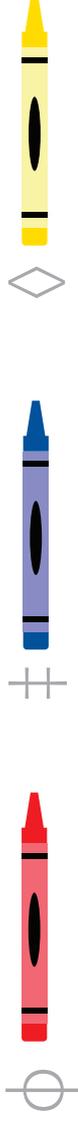
6 1 13 9 12 25      15 6 2 5 12 9 5 22 5 18 19

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 P R O P E R R E S P E C T**

19 8 15 23 16 18 15 16 5 18 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 . 1 P E T E R 2: 1 7**

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





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## Lesson 2 Introduction

Recognizing the presence and effects of sin our world today takes very little effort. Crime is increasing all around us, families are divided and broken, and the culture of most societies is plunging further and further away from the holy standards God established in His Word. Sin spreads like cancer across humanity, separating us from fellowship with our Creator. Thankfully, God intervened and did not abandon us in our hopeless state. He loves us too much to let that happen.

This lesson is designed to introduce kids once again to the Gospel and the Great Commission. Specifically, it focuses on the essential truth that we are all born into a world corrupted by sin and have a personal problem with sin ourselves. This truth is vital because it establishes people's desperate and hopeless state apart from the grace of God. Children will learn that because they have a sin problem, they need a Savior.

Each lesson in this short 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 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 and focuses on mission efforts taking place in specific countries served by Reach A Village. This second lesson highlights the activities of Reach A Village ministry partners in Armenia.

Even though Armenia was the first officially Christian country in history, many Armenians still need to

know the living God. The younger generations have a hunger to recognize the real Christ, having grown up with the traditions and customs of their culture. Children's ministry in Armenia is very strategic, important, and unique. Through ministry to children, it is also possible to reach their parents and other adults. Providing the ministry leaders with discipleship materials, trainings, and literature helps equip them to introduce children to Jesus and their need for Him to be their personal Savior. Then the kids can grow in the Christian faith. What a wonderful gift we have in this open door for ministry in Armenia!

Children will also learn some interesting and informative information about the culture of each country discussed. This knowledge will help expand their understanding of God's wonderful world and teach them to love and appreciate the differences among us. Videos of Armenian ministry leaders allow students to see and hear from real-life Christian leaders who are living out the Great Commission by making disciples throughout their nation!

Finally, 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 2 focuses on the meaning and importance of kindness. As children begin to understand the incredible kindness God has shown to them by sending Jesus to save them, they will more naturally want to treat others with kindness. Kindness demonstrates the care, concern, and understanding that we all need to feel a sense of worth and value. Kids should also learn that showing kindness makes them feel happier, too!

We hope you enjoy teaching the truths in these lessons. They contain activities, projects, videos, and worksheets to promote learning and engage your students. 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 skill to connect with each student meaningfully!

## Learning Outcomes

- Children will examine the Gospel message and learn that sin separates us from God and creates a problem we can't fix on our own.
- 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 Armenia.
- Children will discover fun and interesting facts about Armenia.
- Children will explain the meaning and importance of kindness.

## Warm-Up

(5–10 minutes)

**Before class, cut apart and hide the Great Commission puzzle pieces (12 in total) in various places around the room. Have your kids spread out and find them** (*Puzzle, Page 37*).

**Say to the class:** "Did you know that God has a special rescue mission? Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His followers an extraordinary mission. This mission teaches us how to know and follow Jesus, and how we should live our lives and tell others about Jesus. God's special mission is written on 12 puzzle pieces hidden around this room. Let's see if you can find them and then put them together."

**Allow time for your kids to search the classroom and find the hidden pieces. Then have them gather in the center of the room to assemble the puzzle and read its message. (You may also show the slide or poster of the mission verse) 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, 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 ever, 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. Each day we will learn another element 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.

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

Matthew 28:19

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

## The Gospel: DAY 2 — *Man* (10 minutes)

SAY: “Yesterday we learned that God made everything, and it was good and perfect, and the people He made (Adam and Eve) could know God and talk to Him. Today we are learning more about the first people God created, what their relationship with God was like, and what our relationship with God is like because of something called sin.

“What is sin? James 4:17 says, ‘Anyone... who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.’ Sin is anything we do that displeases God or puts us first rather than Him and how He wants us to live.

“The Bible teaches us that in the beginning, people could know and love God and have a relationship with Him. When the first people God created sinned, all people were separated from God, not just Adam and Eve. Let’s do an activity together to learn who man is, what sin is, and what sin does to us.”

**Teachers:** You have a set of cards that say, “Who Is Man?” (*cards and/or slides titled Who Is Man?*). These cards are to help you and your students understand who we are and how we relate to God. Use the cards to discuss details about the characteristics of man and what sin is with your students. This information is all a part of the doctrine of man (man refers to men and women, all people God created). Go around the room and take turns reading each card. Discuss each card together. After you discuss each card, you can display them in your classroom as a reminder of who man is and what sin is. Hang the cards by a string in your classroom if desired. There will be a new set of cards each day.

“To understand who we are and our identity in Christ, we must understand who man is and what sin is.”

## Get to Know Man

**Who did God create first?** God created Adam first and then created Eve. He called them very good. (Genesis 2:18-23)

**How did God create them?** God formed Adam from dust and breathed life into him. God created Eve from Adam’s rib. (Genesis 2:23)

**How is man different from the rest of creation?** Unlike the rest of creation, Adam and Eve (and all people) have a spirit. Because of that, they (and we) can know God. (Zechariah 12:1)

**What was the condition of Adam and Eve’s hearts at creation?** Adam and Eve had happy, innocent, and perfect hearts at creation. (Genesis 3:7)



**Did Adam and Eve stay that way?** No, they did not. They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobeyed God. This is when sin entered the world. (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

**What is sin?** Sin is anything we do that displeases God or puts us first rather than Him and the way He wants us to live. (James 4:17)

**What is the condition of all people's hearts?** All people since Adam and Eve have been born with sinful hearts. No one who is sinful can know and have a relationship with God. (Romans 3:23)

**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)

"Because of our sins, we are separated from God and need to be rescued. To join God's rescue plan, you must first hear and respond to the Gospel, the greatest story every told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We will learn more about the Gospel and how to respond to it throughout the week."



## GOSPEL VERSE

**"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."**

*Romans 3:23*

## Gospel Verse

Teach students a key scripture verse emphasizing the Daily Focus of God's Rescue Mission.

SAY: "Today we discussed the Gospel, who man is, and how sin breaks our relationship with God. Let's read Romans 3:23 together (show slide).

"God is the creator and ruler over everything. He made you and loves you and wants to know you. Even though we are people who sin, God has a plan to forgive us through Jesus."

# MISSION POSSIBLE: OUR BIG ASSIGNMENT

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



## OVERVIEW

Isn't it a wonderful feeling when someone entrusts us with an important job to do? Knowing that someone places their trust and confidence in us to do a job well helps build self-worth and provides a sense of purpose for our lives. God graciously invites us to be His partners in the most important job of all, sharing the good news of the Gospel with unreached people. This job is an essential part of what Reach A Village calls *the World's Greatest Rescue Mission*. Children will delight in knowing they have a significant role in *the World's Greatest Rescue Mission*!

Before children can accept the mission, two things must occur. 1) Kids must hear and respond to the Gospel. They need to experience what it means to be in a personal relationship with Jesus before they can attempt to help others enter into one. For this reason, we begin each lesson with the Gospel and will continue to teach and reinforce the Gospel message in the remaining lessons of this series. 2) Kids need to learn what the mission is and how they can be part of it. This segment of the lesson will address that topic. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you endeavor to teach your young students one of the greatest truths they will ever learn—God wants their help reaching unreached people with the Good News about Jesus.

## INTRODUCTION

From the very beginning of creation, God always knew mankind would need a Savior, someone who could rescue the world from sin. He also had a plan to spread the truth about the Savior to all people through all time until His Kingdom comes. We can think of these two components, sending a Savior and spreading the message about the Savior, as *the World's Greatest Rescue Mission*.

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are essentially the Gospel. The Gospel makes it possible for us to be pardoned from the punishment we deserve as sinners and be born again so we can become part of God's family. What a marvelous and wondrous truth this is! We must remind children again and again that this is the best news ever and that Jesus loves them so much.

The other part of *the World's Greatest Rescue Mission* is the Great Commission. Before He left this world and returned to Heaven, Jesus gave His disciples some critical instructions. These instructions reflect the depth of love and concern Jesus has for the world since it was the very last thing He talked about before leaving. The Great Commission calls on all believers, young and old, to proclaim the truth and power of the Gospel to all people!

## 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 mankind from our sins, *the World’s Greatest Rescue Mission*.

Educating kids about the Gospel and the Great Commission is vital. 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 on that torch and keep the flame burning bright. This is what inspires and motivates Reach A Village to continue working to help finish God’s mission.

## The Great Commission

### DAY 2 (45 minutes)

**OPTIONAL STARTER:** To get kids thinking about the importance of following directions, play a couple of rounds of “Copy the Rhythm” (show slide). Children can sit or stand in a large circle. The theme of this variation is nations, specifically RAV partner nations (see List of RAV Countries, page 54).

The leader will say the name of a nation, then clap and say the syllables of the word one at a time. Students then repeat and copy the actions of the leader. If desired, allow students to take turns leading by having the teacher whisper the name of the next country to the student leader. Leaders can use a variety of actions to emphasize syllables, such as clapping, finger snapping, stomping, jumping, spinning, squatting, or any other action deemed appropriate and safe. At the end of the game, mention that just as players followed the leader’s lead, we must follow Jesus’ instructions in the Great Commission to share the Gospel with others.

## Lesson Content

Say, “Does anyone remember what we discussed during our last class about the Great Commission? What is the Great Commission? (Give kids a chance to answer and call on a couple of students until someone gets it right.) Yes—that is correct—the Great Commission is the special job Jesus assigned to all His disciples, including us! The Great Commission is part of God’s great rescue mission for the world. It is so amazing to think that from the beginning of creation, God planned on wanting our help to share the Good News about Jesus—the Gospel!

“Let’s open our Bibles (or look at some verses) and review what the Great Commission is all about. Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) are some of Jesus’ last words to his disciples that we find written in the Bible. Have you ever heard of saving the best for last? Perhaps that is why Jesus waited until the end of His time on Earth to share the Great Commission. These words have instructions Jesus wants 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.”**

(Show the slide/poster with this verse and have children read it together after you read it once.)

“The Great Commission is a crucial part of God’s Great Rescue Mission—His plan to save the world from sin. Remember, we are all sinners because we all make mistakes and do things God tells us not to do. God’s plan to save us from the effects of sin was to send Jesus so we could receive forgiveness, and then 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 ministry dedicated to carrying out the Great Commission by helping unreached people learn about the Gospel. Has anyone ever heard the term ‘unreached people’? What do you think an unreached person or group of people is? (Allow for a couple of responses.) An unreached person is someone who has never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They don’t know they have a problem with sin, that there is one true God who loves them, and they have no idea who Jesus is. Here in America, we have many churches, and most people have heard about Jesus and at least have an idea of who He is. There are many countries around the world, though, where that isn’t the case—some countries have very few followers of Jesus and very few churches. As a result, they have many, maybe millions, of unreached people. Reach A Village helps make disciples of Jesus in countries like that so they can share the good news of the Gospel and teach unreached people about the one true God!”

## NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ARMENIA

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

## Mission Video

### ▶ VIDEO 1

If time allows, play the mission video "Armenia Ministry Video." This video is included in the Lesson 2 slide deck. This video portion shows real children's ministry in action, which introduces children to God's Word and Jesus Christ.

TIME: 1:20 minutes



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

Armenia is one of the 22 nations Reach A Village partners with in sharing the Gospel. Armenia used to be part of the former Soviet Union and is located in the mountainous region between Europe and Asia (show slide with a map). Ministry efforts in Armenia focus on church planting, discipleship, and children's camps (slide of

Armenia summer camp). Reach A Village ministry partners train about 30 church planters annually in Armenia.

Although Armenia is an ancient country that can proudly claim to be the first officially Christian nation (this happened around 300 AD), only about 9.7% of the Armenian population are Evangelical Christians. Most Armenians practice an orthodox form of Christianity based on ritual and tradition and probably don't understand what it means to truly know and follow Jesus. Church planters work hard to share the Gospel with villagers and start small group Bible studies that can develop into house or community churches. Children's ministry is also essential to evangelism and discipleship efforts in Armenia.

Since Reach A Village provides thousands of Bibles, New Testaments, and Scripture portions to kids and adults in Armenia each year, it takes a lot of money to meet the needs of this ministry. The average cost of a children's Bible in Armenia is only about \$2. The average worldwide cost for an adult Bible is \$7. During the 2021–2022 fiscal year,



Reach A Village helped provide over 19,000 Bibles and scripture portions to students and adults in Armenia! That would be over \$20,000/year just for Bibles. (\*Note: scripture portions are less expensive than full children's Bibles or New Testaments.)

To help raise the money to print these Bibles and Bibles for new believers in other countries, Reach A Village started a special ministry called Bibles 4 New Believers (show B4NB slide). Kids, families, and churches in America can give money to help provide Bibles that will bless children in Armenia and many other places around the world. You should have received a small cardboard Bible bank if you were here for our last class. Try to add a little money to it each day to help provide Bibles for new believers in places like Armenia.

Does anyone know what the word steward means? (Call on one or two students.) Those are very good guesses! We don't hear this word very often, so it's kind of a tough one. A steward is put in charge of someone else's money or property, like a manager (show slide of definition). Did you

know that everything you have actually belongs to God? The Bible says in Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and EVERYTHING in it ..." (emphasis added). That means that we are stewards of God's money and stuff—it's all His, and we just manage or take care of it for Him.

This week you have the opportunity to be a good and faithful steward by giving a little bit of what God has given you to help some friends around the world. You will probably only meet these friends when we get 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 cannot give money to help buy Bibles, you can be a good steward of your time. You can pray for kids in Armenia 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.

## 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 must first understand and respond to the Gospel. Ask one or two volunteers to explain the Gospel and how they can respond to it.

Ideas for participating in the great rescue mission include:

- Making new friends and telling them about Jesus
- Going on a mission trip when they are old enough
- Treating one another with kindness, which students will learn more about later in the lesson

- 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, rise again, and asking 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, making new friends and telling them about Jesus, going on a mission trip when they are old enough, and 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 optional portion of the lesson allows children to learn about some of the cultural aspects of Armenia. God’s love and grace are for the whole world, for people of every nation, tribe, language, and race. Students can be taught to celebrate the differences among us; the rich diversity in the world makes life interesting and beautiful. Exploring what life is like for people in other parts of the world will expand kids’ worldviews. This section will help kids understand and appreciate the diversity of God’s marvelous creation and that His image and fingerprints are in it all!

### Culture Video



#### ▶ VIDEO 2

If time permits, play the video titled “*Armenian Culture*.” This video is included in the Lesson 2 slide deck. A Reach A Village ministry partner from Armenia shares some interesting information about Armenia and its rich culture and history.

TIME: 2:50 minutes

**Focus:** Present fun and interesting facts about culture and life in Armenia.

Armenia is one of the 22 nations Reach A Village partners with in sharing the Gospel. Armenia was part of the former Soviet Union and is located in the mountainous region between Europe and Asia (show slide with a map). Relatively small in size, Armenia is smaller than the U.S. state of Maryland (the 9th smallest state) (show slide). About 3 million people live in Armenia, which is nearly half the population of Maryland and almost the same as Mississippi or Kansas. Armenia is the first country in the world to adopt Christianity as the official religion. This happened all the way back in the very beginning of the 4th century AD, around the year 300.

Armenia has many beautiful natural and architectural features. Lake Sevan in Eastern Armenia is the largest body of water in the country and one of the largest alpine lakes in the world. It is over 6,000 feet above sea level, with two ancient monasteries overlooking it. One very famous site in Armenia is the Wings of Tatev, the world’s longest aerial tramway (cable car). The tramway is 18,871 feet long, which is over 3.5 miles. The Wings of Tatev takes visitors to the Tatev Monastery, a 9th-century historical monument and one of the oldest monasteries in Armenia.

The alphabet in Armenia was developed in part so the Bible could be written for the Armenian people and for the spread of Christianity. The first letter in this alphabet is the first letter of the Armenian word for God, and the last letter is the first letter of their word for Christ. The Armenian alphabet is displayed in giant stone carvings near the resting place of the man who created the alphabet. This site is called Alphabet Alley.

The qanun is an ancient instrument in use in Armenia. The qanun is a stringed instrument built on a flat, trapezoid-shaped board. A series of levers allows the player to change the scale of the notes. The qanun is usually placed upon the musician's lap or laid on a table in front of them when playing.

Performing and observing traditional folk dances is an important part of Armenian culture. Dancing can take place during holidays, festivals, family ceremonies, and other special events. The dances can bring



communities together and serve as a reminder of shared identity and cultural and historical heritage. To signify the importance of preserving this aspect of Armenian culture, a folk song and dance course is part of the curriculum in Armenian schools.

## Mission Verse Video



### ▶ VIDEO 3

Matthew 28:19-20 spoken in English and in Armenian from one of our ministry partners in Armenia. This video is included in the Lesson 2 slide deck.

TIME: 48 seconds

### Mission 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

**Matthew 28:19-20**



## Interactive Project/Game

**1. Ala Peshdig**—Introduce the traditional Armenian game Ala Peshdig.

Rules: All players sit on the floor forming a circle. One player (the runner) holds a knotted handkerchief in their hand and walks around the circle. The runner secretly drops the handkerchief behind one of the seated players. The runner keeps going around until reaching the same player behind whom they dropped the handkerchief (included). If the player is unaware, the runner takes the handkerchief and hits the player on the back until that player makes a full circle and sits back in their seat.

Variation: An optional variation is for the runner to take off running around the circle after hitting the other player on the back with the handkerchief. If the runner makes it back to the other player's seat without being tagged, the other player is out. If not, the runner is out.

**2. Additional Activities**—Kids may color an Armenian flag (page 50) as they rewatch the videos with Armenian Christian leaders or you may play *Armenian Kids Bible Songs* for the children (Video 4, below).

## Armenian Kids Bible Songs Video



### ▶ VIDEO 4

If time permits play, *Armenian Kids Bible Songs* for the children. This video is included in the Lesson 2 slide deck. Begin at timestamp 2:00.

TIME: 6:22 minutes



# CODE OF CONDUCT: KINDNESS

## 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 begins to change who we are, and we learn to live more like Jesus. The Gospel changes what we value (the most important things to us); it changes how we live and treat people.

“When the Gospel changes us, the Holy Spirit dwells in us, and it is like a code cracks and a new way of living is unlocked. You see, once we decide to know and follow Jesus, God calls us to live in a way that treats others like Jesus did. We begin to see people as God does. We see that despite how people are talking or acting, they, too, are 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.

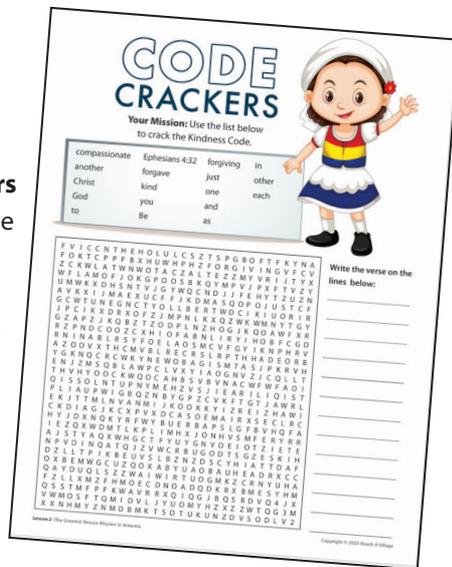
“The value we are learning about today is kindness. The Lord shows such kindness to us. Even though we are sinners, He offers us the gift of salvation through His son Jesus! What a kind gift! Once we become Christians and follow Jesus, God calls us to live out the Great Commission by going and telling others of this great kindness God has shown us. We define kindness as putting others first, showing them you care, and treating them like Jesus would.

“Kindness is a fruit of the spirit. When you show kindness to others, you show them what God’s character and kingdom are like. You are treating them like God would want you to. God showed us the ultimate kindness when He gave us Jesus.

“Let’s crack the kindness code by treating people with great love and mercy because when we do that, we reflect the heart of God!”

## Values Verse

Pass out the **Code Crackers** handout (page 49) to unlock Ephesians 4:32. You may also show the slide and give each child a piece of paper to write the answer by unscrambling the words of the verse. (The answer is Ephesians 4:32 NIV, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.") Show the slide of the verse when they are finished or as needed.



The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20, gives us our mission for our lives. How can you show God's kindness this week by living out the Great Commission so that others can hear 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 to learn about the World's Greatest Rescue Mission! Even though the presence of sin damaged God's perfect world, God has a beautiful plan to fix it. Part of that plan is for each of us to share the Gospel with others!

"Let's take just a moment to review some big ideas from today's class. (show slide)

- 1. What is sin?** Sin is anything we do that displeases God or puts us first rather than Him.
- 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 kindness?** Kindness is putting others first, showing them you care, and treating them like Jesus would.

"Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about Jesus and His Word. Some of you may never have known that God has an extraordinary mission that He wants your help with. It is the most important mission ever created, and you and I can be a part of it! I hope to see you again tomorrow (adjust as appropriate) so we can talk more about the Gospel and how to obey Jesus' instructions to make disciples of all nations. Before we say goodbye, let's stop for a moment and talk to God about what we've learned today. And let's thank Him for being so good and kind." Then lead the children in prayer and dismiss them.

## Review/Discussion

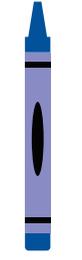
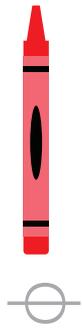
### Discussion Questions

- 1. How did God show the ultimate kindness to us?** God showed the ultimate kindness to us in that while we were sinners, Jesus died for us!
- 2. How does the idea that showing kindness reflects the heart of God change how you treat others?** We should treat others with the kindness, mercy, and tenderness that God the Father would show them and that God the Father shows us.
- 3. What does kindness mean?** We define kindness as putting others first, showing them you care, and treating them like Jesus would.
- 4. What is one way you can show kindness to someone you care about this week?**
- 5. What is one way to show kindness to someone you may not know yet this week?**



# SPOTLIGHT: ARMENIA FLAG

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



		
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““ **Who did God create first?**

God created Adam first and then created Eve. He called them very good.

Genesis 2:18-23



““ **How did God create them?**

God formed Adam from dust and breathed life into him. God created Eve from Adam's rib.

Genesis 2:23



““ **How is man different from the rest of creation?**

Unlike the rest of creation, Adam and Eve (and all people) have a spirit. Because of that, they (and we) can know God.

Zechariah 12:1



““ **What was the condition of Adam and Eve's hearts at creation?**

Adam and Eve had happy, innocent, and perfect hearts at creation.

Genesis 3:7



## “ Did Adam and Eve stay that way? ”

No, they did not. They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobeyed God. This is when sin entered the world.

Ecclesiastes 7:29

## “ What is sin? ”

Sin is anything we do that displeases God or puts us first rather than Him and the way He wants us to live.

James 4:17

## “ What is the condition of all people’s hearts? ”

All people since Adam and Eve have been born with sinful hearts. No one who is sinful can know and have a relationship with God.

Romans 3:23

## “ 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

# CODE CRACKERS

**Your Mission:** Use the list below  
to crack the Kindness Code.



compassionate	Ephesians 4:32	forgiving	in
another	forgave	just	other
Christ	kind	one	each
God	you	and	
to	Be	as	

## Answer Box

F V I C C N T H E H O L U L C S Z T S P G B O F T F K Y N A  
 F O K T C P P F B X H U W H P H Z **F O R G I V I N G** V F C V  
 Z C K W L A T W N W O T A C Z A L T E Z Z M Y V R I J T Y X  
 W F L A M O F J O K G P O O S B K Q Y M P V J P X F T V Z Y  
 U M W K X D H S N T V J G Y W Q C N D J J F E H Y T Z U Z N  
 A V K X I J M A E X U C F F J K D M A S Q O P O **J U S T** C F  
 G C W T U N E G N C T Y O L L B E R T W D C I K I U O R I R  
 J P C I K X D R X O F Z J M P N L K X Q Z W K W M N Y T G Y  
 G Z A P Z J K Q B Z T Z O D P L N Z H O G J K Q O A W F X R  
 R Z P N D C O O Z C X H I O F A B N L I R Y I H O B F C G D  
 R N I N A B L R S Y F O E L A O S M C V F G Y I K N P H R V  
 A Z O D V X T H C M V B L R E C R S L R P T H H A D E O R B  
 Y G K N Q C R C W K Y N E W O B A G I S M T A S J P K R V H  
 E N J Z M S Q B L A W P C L V X Y I A O G N V Z J C Q L L T  
 T H V H Y O O C K W Q O C A H B S V B V N A C W F W F A O I  
 Q I S S O L N T U P N Y M E H Z V S J I E A R I L I Q I S T  
 P L I A U P W I G B Q Z N B Y G P Z C V K F T G T J A W R L  
 E K J T T M L N V A N M I J K O O K K Y I Z R E I Z H A W I  
 C K D I A G J K C X P V X D C **A S** O E M A I R X S E C L R C  
 H Y J D X N Q K Y R F W Y B U E R B A P S L G F B V H Q F A  
 I E Z Q X W D E T L K P L I M H X J O N H V S M F E R Y R R  
**A** J S T Y A Q X A H G C T F Y U Y G N V O E I O T Z I E T E  
 N P V D I N Q A T C J Z V W C R B U **G O D** T S G Z E S K I H  
 D Z L L T P I K B E H V S L B Z N Z D S C Y H I A T T D A F  
 O X **B E** M W G C U Z Q O X A B Y U A O B A U H E A D R X C C  
 Q A Y D U Q L S Z Z W A I W I R T U O G M K Z C R N Y U H A  
 F Z L L X M Z F H M O E C D N O A D Q D K R X B M E S Y H M  
 Q S S T M F P F K W A V R R X Q I Q G J B Q S R D V Q 4 J X  
 V W M O S F T Q M I D V L J Y U O M Y H Z X Z Z W T Q G 3 M  
 X X N H M Y Z N M D B M K T S O T U K U N Z D V S O D L V 2

Write the verse on the  
lines below:

Ephesians 4:32  
“Be kind and  
compassionate  
to one another,  
forgiving each  
other, just as  
in Christ God  
forgave you.”  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



REACHAVILLAGE

# PARTNER *Countries*

DOING MISSIONS DIFFERENTLY

1. Armenia
2. Belarus
3. Bulgaria
4. Cambodia
5. China
6. Georgia
7. Indonesia
8. Laos
9. Latvia
10. Lithuania
11. Moldova
12. Mongolia
13. Myanmar
14. North Macedonia
15. Philippines
16. Poland
17. Romania
18. Russia
19. Serbia
20. Thailand
21. Ukraine
22. Vietnam

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . .*



Lesson 3

THE LORD REIGNS IN  
**UKRAINE**

## Lesson 3 Plan

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## Lesson 3 Introduction

No doubt about it, the world loves the idea of a hero. Whether it's Superman or Luke Skywalker, we like to celebrate the good guys who take the moral high ground and save the day. We want to see good triumph over evil, and justice and peace established and maintained. Perhaps this is because deep down inside, we know a real battle of good vs. evil is happening all around us. We long for a true superhero to come and fix things and make the world right. There actually is such a hero, and His name is Jesus.

This lesson introduces kids to the Gospel and the Great Commission. Specifically, it focuses on the essential truth that Jesus is the only one who can forgive our sins and save the world. This is vital because it introduces kids to Jesus Christ as our perfect Savior, and the one and only way to a relationship with God the Father. Jesus is the hero in the World's Greatest Rescue Mission.

Each lesson in this short 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 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 and focuses on mission efforts in specific countries where Reach A Village serves. This third lesson highlights the activities of Reach A Village ministry partners in Ukraine. Since the war with Russia broke out in 2022, Ukraine has been a land filled with suffering and heartache for

so many. Yet despite their struggles, Reach A Village ministry partners continue to carry on with the work of the Gospel faithfully. They share the true message of hope in Jesus, start Bible studies, share God's Word, care for the hurting, and do all they can to pour out God's love, in the darkest hours.

Children will also learn some interesting and informative information about the culture of each country discussed. This knowledge will help expand kids' understanding of God's wonderful world, and teach them to love and appreciate the differences among us. In this lesson, videos of Niki, Reach A Village's National Ministry Director for Eurasia, allow students to see and hear from a real-life Christian leader living out the Great Commission by making disciples throughout his region!

Finally, in the spirit of the Values Education Program, 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 3 focuses on the meaning and importance of honesty. It may not always be easy to tell the truth and act with integrity, but kids will learn that God is always honest and expects the same of His children. Being honest helps others know they can trust and rely on us. If we want to be disciples of Jesus, we should always try to do what is right and be like Jesus as much as possible.

We hope you enjoy teaching the truths in the lessons we have put together. The lessons contain activities, projects, videos, and worksheets to promote learning and engage your students. Understanding and participating in God's great rescue mission is the most important lesson we 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 skill to connect with each student meaningfully!

## Learning Outcomes

- Children will examine the Gospel message and learn that God sent Jesus to save the world from sin.
- 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 Ukraine.
- Children will discover fun and interesting facts about Ukraine.
- Children will explain the meaning and importance of honesty.

## Warm-Up

(5–10 minutes)

**As children enter the classroom, give them the “Getting to Know You Bingo” sheet and a pencil (Getting to Know You Bingo handout/slide). As they enter, they are to go around the room and ask classmates to sign their name in the boxes of things that describe them. The goal is to get a bingo.**

**Say to the class:** “Did you know that you are very special to God? He knows everything about you. Today we got to have some fun getting to know things about our classmates. Yesterday we learned that God knows we sin, and He knows how we sin, which are things other people may not know about us. Today we are going to get to know God’s Son, Jesus. Jesus came to Earth to live, die, and rise again so we can know God and receive forgiveness for our sins. This truth is part of God’s special rescue mission. Let’s reread the mission verse, Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV), ‘... **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.**”

(Show slide/poster with the Mission Verse.)

## Overview

Being a part of God’s rescue mission is so exciting! It is the most important mission ever, 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. Each day we are going to learn another element of God’s great plan. The five parts are God, man, Jesus, the cross, and faith. These parts make up the Gospel, God’s great rescue plan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Getting to know you BINGO



**Your Mission:** Find a classmate who fits each description.  
Write their name in the box. The first person to fill five boxes in any direction wins!

Someone who is good at dancing	Someone who is good at telling jokes	Someone who hates spiders	Someone who has a dog as a pet	Someone who is an only child
Someone who loves traveling	Someone who loves cake	Someone who loves reading	Someone who loves music	Someone who likes cycling
Someone who plays the guitar	Someone who speaks two languages	Someone who plays video games at night	Someone who can skateboard	Someone whose favorite color is pink
Someone who likes sports	Someone who likes broccoli	Someone who likes chicken	Someone who rides the bus to school	Someone who loves summer
Someone who is left-handed	Someone who has one brother	Someone who knows how to whistle	Someone who has curly hair	Someone who likes cooking

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

## The Gospel: DAY 3 — *Jesus* (10 minutes)

SAY: “Yesterday we learned that people are sinful. The things we do that displease God, our sins, also separate us from God. Today we are learning about God’s son Jesus who came so that we can have a way back to God. Because He came, we can be forgiven of our sin and live a life on mission, as a part of God’s rescue plan.

“The Gospel teaches us that because of our sin, we need a rescuer. This rescuer cannot be just anyone; He must be perfect and without sin. Yesterday we learned that all people sin and are far from God, so who is perfect? Who can be our rescuer? Only Jesus, God’s Son, can be a rescuer. He came to Earth and lived a perfect life. He never sinned! He was both fully God and fully man, and He felt the same discomfort and temptations we do but never sinned. He lived a perfect life to make a way for us to know God. Let’s get to know Jesus.”

**Teachers:** You have a set of cards that say, “Who is Jesus?” (Find “Who Is Jesus?” cards and/or slides). These cards are to help you and your students get to know who Jesus is and how He changed everything. Hang a string in your classroom and discuss with your students the characteristics of who Jesus is. These facts are all a part of the doctrine of Christ. Go around the room and take turns reading each card. This will help students learn about who Jesus is. Discuss each card together. After you discuss each card, you can display them in your classroom to remind students who Jesus is and why He is so special. If desired, hang a string in your classroom to display the cards. There will be a set of cards every day.

“To understand who we are and our identity in Christ, we need to understand who Jesus is and that He is absolutely perfect!”

## Get to Know who Jesus Is

**Is Jesus a man or is He God?** Jesus is both fully God and fully man. (Colossians 2:9, 2 John 7)

**Why did Jesus come to Earth?** To save people from sin and to follow God’s plan. (Philippians 2:5-8)

**Did Jesus do anything to deserve to die?** No! Jesus is perfect. He never sinned or did anything wrong. He did not do anything to deserve to die, but He chose to be the perfect sacrifice. (1 Peter 2:22)



**How can Jesus save people from sin?** Only through faith in Jesus can sin be forgiven. When a person asks Jesus to forgive them, He saves them, and they receive eternal life with God. (John 3:16)

**Where is Jesus today?** Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. (Hebrews 1:3)

**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)

"Because of our sins, we are separated from God; we need rescue. To join God's rescue plan, you must first hear and respond to the Gospel, the most incredible story ever told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We can know God and be forgiven of our sins because of Jesus. We are changed forever when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and be the Lord of our lives. We will learn more about the Gospel and how to respond to it throughout the week."



## Gospel Verse

Teach students a key scripture verse emphasizing the Daily Focus of God's Rescue Mission.

SAY: "Today we have talked about the Gospel and who Jesus is. Let's read John 1:29 together." (Show slide.)

"God is the creator and ruler over everything. He made you and loves you, and wants to know you. Even though we sin, God has a plan through Jesus to forgive us. Jesus truly is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins!"

**"The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"**

*John 1:29*

**GOSPEL VERSE**

# MISSION POSSIBLE: OUR BIG ASSIGNMENT

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



## OVERVIEW

Becoming a Christian was never just supposed to be about us. We may sometimes think only of our salvation, our peace and joy, and our relationship with Jesus. Of course, those things matter a lot to God. The Bible is filled with reminders that God cares about our needs deeply. Psalm 23 is perhaps one of the best examples of God telling us He watches over and takes care of us. But as we learn to follow Jesus and become His disciples, we must care genuinely for others just like He does. What about all the people who haven't yet heard the name of Jesus? This is where the Great Commission comes into focus.

This series of lessons very intentionally teaches children about *the World's Greatest Rescue Mission*. This bigger mission is the story woven through Scripture of God's plan to save us from our helpless, sinful condition. Even as early as Genesis 3, we learn of God's plan to one day send a rescuer to defeat the powers of darkness so we could be saved. Students must understand the Gospel to begin a personal journey with God and learn about the Great Commission. Then, they can help others do the same. This segment of the lesson addresses that topic. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you endeavor to teach your young students one of the greatest truths they will ever learn—God wants their help reaching unreached people with the Good News.

## INTRODUCTION

As we discussed in previous lessons, the Great Commission is the special mission Jesus assigned us just before returning to His heavenly kingdom. The gifts of forgiveness of sins and eternal life were not just for the Jews or disciples in the Bible—they are for all people for all time. Yet the world has so many people, and the population keeps increasing. How can this message of truth be shared with everyone? God's answer is: Through each of us, His faithful followers, and the Church, which is the organization

He established to help us be effective witnesses for Him.

The Gospel message has always been shared and spread through the power of multiplication. One person trusts in Jesus and becomes a disciple, and they tell two friends, who each tell two friends, and on and on it goes until there are billions of Christ-followers worldwide. Jesus presented this idea and recorded it in Scripture at the end of the book of Matthew.

## 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. When we hear good news, we naturally want to share it with others. This is the best news we could ever share, and there is a world around us aching to hear it. God’s plan to save humanity from our sins is *the World’s Greatest Rescue Mission*.

Educating kids about the Gospel and the Great Commission is so important. 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 the torch and keep the flame burning brightly. For Reach A Village’s ministry partners, the truth of God’s Word is what motivates and inspires them to do all they can to help finish God’s mission.

# The Great Commission

## DAY 3 (45 minutes)

**OPTIONAL STARTER:** To get kids thinking about the importance of their actions, play a few rounds of charades (show slide). Teams that may work well are boys vs. girls. Share that a predetermined number of volunteers from each team will be called upon as actors. The remaining team members shout out guesses until the correct answer is given. If no one answers correctly, the other team gets one chance to guess.

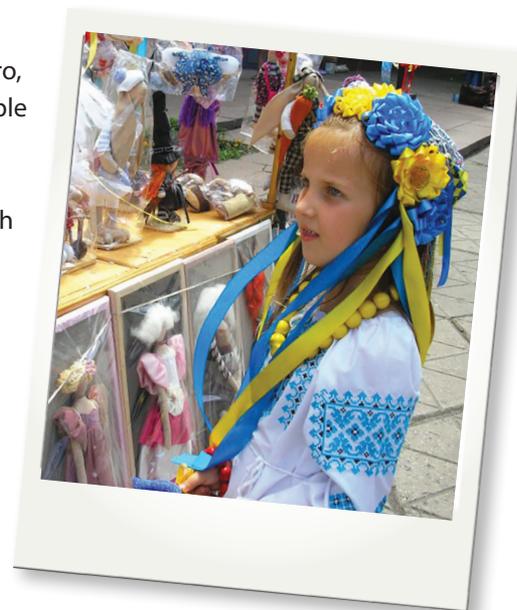
You can use a Bible theme if you wish. Example words/phrases could be a serpent, angel, king, baby Jesus, lion, parting the Red Sea, Noah’s Ark, David and Goliath, blind man healed, the lame man can walk, the resurrection, Jesus walks on water, etc. *Suggestion: Have action cards prepared ahead of time to make the game flow more efficiently.* Remind kids after the game that our actions are very important so other people will know we are Christians who show God’s love.

## Lesson Content

SAY “Welcome back to VBS (adjust as appropriate)! I am so happy to see your smiling faces here each night. This is a very special time we have set apart to think about Jesus and learn what the Bible teaches us about being in a relationship with Him. Does anyone know why Jesus came into the world? (Call on one or two students.) Yes, that is right—Jesus is the rescuer God sent to save the world from our sin. He’s a real-life superhero!”

“Have any of you ever watched the superhero movie called *The Incredibles*? A character named Buddy looked up to Mr. Incredible and wanted to help him and be just like him. At one point in the movie, Mr. Incredible turns to Buddy (who wanted to be known as Incrediboy) and says, ‘Fly home Buddy. ‘I work alone.’ While clearly Mr. Incredible wanted to be a one-man show, our real life superhero, Jesus, isn’t like that at all. The Bible tells us that we are co-workers with Jesus, meaning we work together with Him to accomplish His mission. Jesus stated His mission openly in Luke 19:10 when He said, **‘The Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and save the lost.’ Remember, Jesus is the rescuer who saves us from sin.**”

“In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells us what He wants us to



do to help in His mission. He says ‘... **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.**’ (Show the slide/poster with this verse and have children read it together after you read it once.) This is the Great Commission—the very important job Jesus wants us to help Him with.”

“Let’s take a few minutes to talk about what Jesus is saying here. He begins by telling His disciples and us to ‘*go and make disciples of all nations.*’ To go means to move from one place to another, to get up and move somewhere else. It does not necessarily mean to move addresses, like a new house or city or country, but finding people who are not where you are and helping them become disciples. Some places you might go are your school, a friend’s house, the park, your neighborhood, even a birthday party. I bet you go lots of places all the time. So wherever you go, you should start looking for opportunities to do the Great Commission—to help make disciples for Jesus. A disciple is a student or a follower. We become disciples when we put our trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins. Jesus wants people in every nation to be His disciples, and He wants our help to reach them and tell them the Good News about Jesus.”

“This week, you are hearing about a ministry called Reach A Village. This is a ministry that focuses on doing the Great Commission. They help train Christians in many countries to share the Good News of the Gospel and teach people about the one true God! Helping ministries like Reach A Village is one way to work with Jesus on carrying out the Great Commission.”



# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: UKRAINE

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

## Mission Video



### ▶ VIDEO 1

If time allows, play the mission video **"Ukraine Ministry Video."** Reach A Village National Ministry Director for Eurasia, Niki, shares about ministry efforts in Ukraine. Video is included in the Lesson 3 slide deck.

TIME: 2:29 minutes

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

Ukraine is one of the 22 nations Reach A Village partners with in sharing the Gospel. This country is located in Eastern Europe and is second in size only to Russia among European nations. *(Show slide with a map.)* Ukraine is home to a strong church planting network that provides evangelism and discipleship for new believers, and is active in carrying out children's ministry through camps and Bible studies.

These ministries have remained strong during 2022 and to the present day, despite the active war taking place. Reach A Village ministry partners have risked their lives by entering war zones to deliver humanitarian aid or rescue citizens stranded in occupied territories. Reach A Village generally does not provide in-kind assistance such as food, medical supplies, or clothing. Given the unprecedented crisis and resulting needs created by the war, RAV made an exception and raised funds to help our ministry partners care for the refugees (show slide).

Russia began its invasion and attack of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The day prior, Reach A Village's International Ministry Director for Eurasia, Niki, had



### ▶ BONUS VIDEO 2

If time allows, play the testimony video **"Escaping the War in Ukraine."** National Ministry Director for Eurasia, Niki, shares his experience of being in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Feb. 24, 2022, the day Russia began its invasion of Ukraine. He also discusses ministry activities in Ukraine. This video is included in the Lesson 3 slide deck.

TIME: 4:49 minutes

just arrived in Kyiv, Ukraine, from Bulgaria. He came to meet with the national ministry director and his team. They were awakened very early on the morning of the 24th by the sound of loud bangs from the bombings taking place. Since martial law was immediately declared and the airspace was closed, they began a terrifying road trip to flee the country and try to return home to Bulgaria the next day. It took over 24 hours of traffic jams, checkpoints, and barricades, but the Lord protected them. They finally crossed the border into Romania, and eventually made it back to Bulgaria.

In the meantime, Ukraine ministry director Mikhail "Misha" Igorevich remained in his country in the capital city of Kyiv. He watched over and protected



the ministry office and supplies of Bibles and other resources. Over the next nine months, Misha continued to work endlessly, serving and ministering to others around him. Sadly, Misha suffered a heart attack on November 23, 2022. He had emergency surgery during the Russian attack on the power infrastructure of Ukraine, which impacted the hospital where he was being treated. He passed away on November 27, 2022, and entered into his heavenly reward with Jesus. He will always be remembered as a hero in the faith who served the Lord with all his strength until his final days.

To help raise the money to print Bibles for new believers in Ukraine and many other countries, Reach A Village started the special ministry we're discussing this week called Bibles 4 New Believers (*show the B4NB slide*). Kids, families, and churches in America can give money to pay for Bibles that will bless children and adults in Ukraine and many other countries around the world. (*Hold up a small Bible box for the children to see.*) You should have received a small cardboard Bible bank if you have been coming to VBS this week. Remember to try and add a little money to it each day to help provide Bibles for new believers in places like Ukraine.

## 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 must 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:

- Doing a mission outreach project with their family or church
- Showing love and care to others around them
- Always being honest and truthful, which students will learn more about later in the lesson
- 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, rise again, and then telling us as His followers to share the Good News with others.

#### 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 possibilities include responding to the Gospel and following Jesus, doing a mission outreach project with their family or church, showing love and care to others around them, and 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 optional portion of the lesson allows children to learn more about Ukraine’s culture. God’s love and grace are for the whole world, for people of every nation, tribe, language, and race. Students have a natural curiosity about the world around them. Exploring some of the differences among world cultures can be an enriching experience for kids. This section will help kids begin to understand and appreciate the diversity of God’s incredible creation and see His image and fingerprints in it all!

## Culture Video



### ▶ VIDEO 3

If time permits, play the video titled “*Let’s Learn About Ukraine Part 1.*” Students will learn interesting facts about Ukraine and its people. This video is included in the Lesson 3 slide deck.

**TIME:** 2:48 minutes



**Focus:** Present fun and interesting facts about culture and life in Ukraine.

Ukraine is one of the 22 nations where Reach A Village’s ministry partners are sharing the Gospel. Ukraine has come into the spotlight since Russia launched the war against it in February 2022. This country is located in Eastern Europe and is second in size only to Russia among European nations. (*Show slide with a map.*) By comparison, Ukraine is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Texas (show slide). The capital of Ukraine is Kyiv, which is also the largest city in the country. Before the war, the population of Ukraine was around 43 million people. At the time of this writing (2023), nearly 8 million refugees have fled their homeland. Almost that many more people are internally displaced, meaning they had to leave their homes and seek safe shelter elsewhere in the country. The long-term impact of the war on the population of Ukraine is unknown.

In Ukraine, the official language is Ukrainian. Many Ukrainian people also speak Russian. Other languages commonly spoken are Romanian, Polish, and Hungarian. The Ukrainian alphabet

consists of 33 letters, with some letters looking similar to the English alphabet and others entirely different, almost like symbols or icons.

The predominant religion in Ukraine is Eastern Orthodox, a form of Christianity practiced predominantly in Central and Eastern Europe. Pew Research reports that many people who identify as part of the Orthodox faith don’t see religion as an important part of their lives. They may not even believe in God. Being Orthodox is a part of their cultural identity more than part of a spiritual belief system.

Children in Ukraine have a similar educational experience as kids in America, although school grade levels are divided slightly differently. Students in Ukraine have 12 years of schooling, divided into primary school for 1st–4th grade, secondary school for 5th–9th grade, and upper secondary school for 10th–12th grade. Children attend school Monday–Friday, usually beginning around 9:00 a.m. and finishing by 3:30 p.m.

## Mission Verse Video



### ▶ VIDEO 4

Matthew 28:19-20 (slide). Reach A Village National Ministry Director for Eurasia, Niki, along with ministry leader Sergei, share the mission verse in the English and Ukrainian languages. This video is included in the Lesson 3 slide deck.

TIME: 1:45 minutes



also be repeated by all following children. For example, Sally could say, “My name is Sally and I love Jesus.” Or James could say, “My name is James and I want to tell others about Jesus.”

### 2. Additional Activities

Kids may color a Ukrainian flag (page 73) as they rewatch the videos with Niki, or you may play the video below which features a song called “A Prayer: Ukrainian Christian Song”. Remind them that though the Ukrainians are suffering greatly because of the war with Russia, God is still with them and loves them. War is the result of sin in the world. One day, Jesus will deliver all of us from sin.

## Interactive Project/Game

**1. Imest**—Introduce the traditional Ukrainian children’s game Imest (show slide). Children stand in a circle (up to 8 per circle is best). One of them gives their name and at the same time makes a gesture (raises both arms, jumps up, two thumbs up, etc.). The other children repeat names and gestures of players that came before them. For an added challenge and bonus, ask each child to make a statement about Jesus or missions after stating their name. This would



### ▶ VIDEO 5

If time allows, you may play “*A Prayer: Ukrainian Christian Song*” for the children. This video is included in the Lesson 3 slide deck.

TIME: 4:31 minutes



# CODE OF CONDUCT: HONESTY

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 more like Jesus. The Gospel changes what we value (the most important things) and how we live and treat people.

When the Gospel changes us, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. It 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 treat others like Jesus did. We begin to see people as God does. We see that despite how people are talking or acting, they, too, are 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 honesty. God is true, and everything He says is true. The Lord is honest and shows honesty in everything He does. Honesty is making sure you are truthful in your words and actions (show slide). Once we become Christians and follow Jesus, everything changes. How we live changes, how we treat people changes, and how we talk changes. We are called to live out the Great Commission by going and telling others the Gospel and teaching them about Jesus. Everything the Bible says is true, and God always shows honesty.

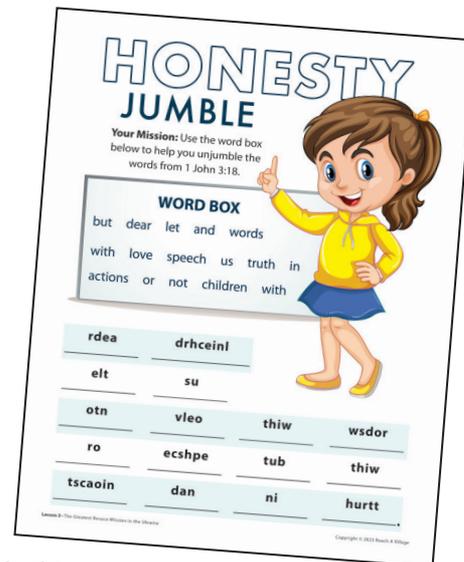
“When Jesus changes us, we reflect His character. Honesty reflects Jesus’ character. When Jesus was a human on earth, He was honest in everything He said and did. He could always be trusted then, and He can always be trusted now.

“Let’s crack the honesty code by being truthful in what we say and do. When we do that, we reflect the heart of God! When we are not honest and lie, things can get so jumbled up! Let’s unscramble the letters to learn what the Bible says about honesty.”

## Values Verse

Pass out the **Honesty Jumble** **handout**, (page 71), or show the slide and give each child a piece of paper to write the answer

by unscrambling the words. (The answer is **1 John 3:18 NIV, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”**) Show the slide of the verse when they are finished.



## Review/Discussion Discussion Questions

- 1. What does honesty mean?** Honesty is making sure you are truthful in your words and actions.
- 2. Is God honest?** Yes. God the Father is honest in all His words and actions. But, He is not only truthful; He is truth.
- 3. Is Jesus honest?** Jesus is without sin, so He has never lied and is always honest.
- 4. What is one way you can show honesty this week?**

We can live out the Great Commission by telling others the ultimate truth, the Gospel! Who can you share the Gospel with this week?

## Closing

### Review Key Points (5 minutes)

SAY: "I am so glad each of you came to VBS (adjust as appropriate) to learn about *the World's Greatest Rescue Mission!* It makes me feel so happy and loved to remember that Jesus was willing to leave His perfect home in Heaven to come into this sinful world to save us! By joining in God's great rescue mission, we do our part to make sure others hear the Gospel and feel as happy and loved as we do.

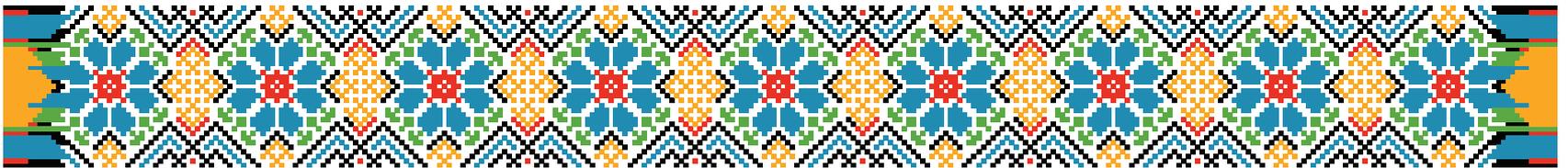
"Let's take just a moment to review some big ideas from today's lesson (show slide).

- 1. Why did Jesus come to earth?** To save people from sin and to follow God's plan.
- 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 honesty?** Honesty is making sure you are truthful in your words and actions.

"I have some homework for you tonight. When you get home, take a minute and talk to someone you love about what you learned so far this week (adjust as appropriate). Share what the Gospel means and why God has a mission He wants your help with. Can you do that? Awesome! I hope to see you again tomorrow (adjust as appropriate) so we can talk more about the Gospel and how to obey Jesus' instructions to make disciples of all nations. 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 always telling the truth. *Lead the children in prayer and then dismiss them.*



# HONESTY

## JUMBLE

**Your Mission:** Use the word box below to help you unjumble the words from 1 John 3:18.

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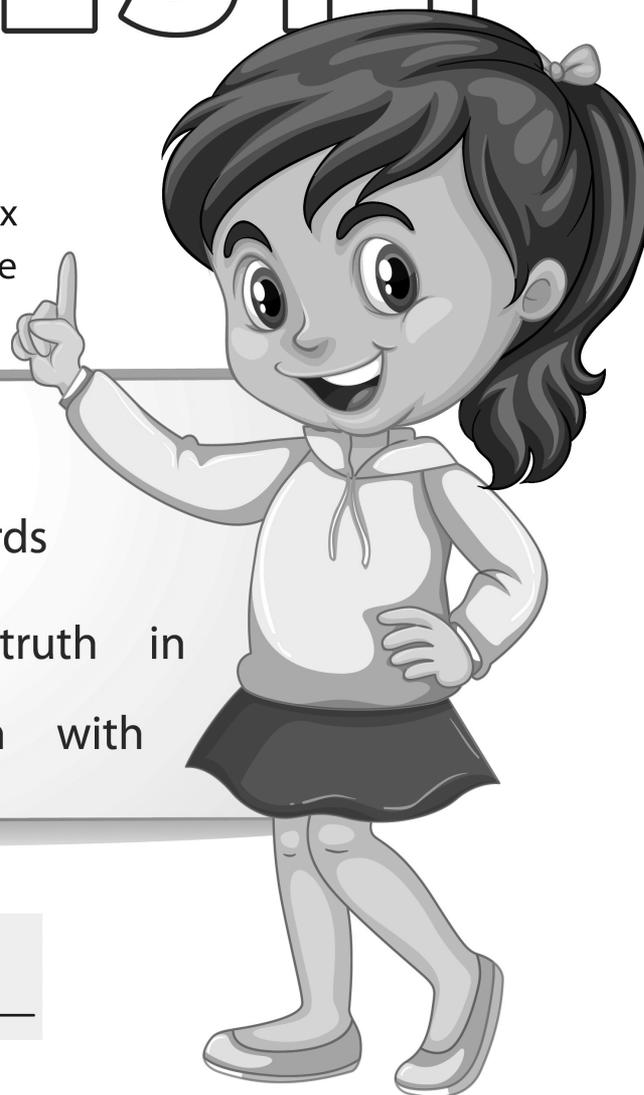
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# HONESTY

## JUMBLE

**Your Mission:** Use the word box below to help you unjumble the words from 1 John 3:18.



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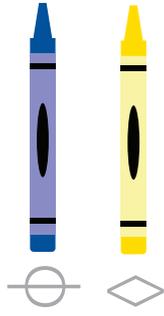
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# SPOTLIGHT: UKRAINE

**Your Mission:** Use the color key to color the flag of Ukraine.



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“ Is Jesus a man or is He God?

Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

Colossians 2:9,  
2 John 7

“ Why did Jesus come to Earth?

To save people from sin and to follow God's plan.

Philippians 2:5-8

”

“ Did Jesus do anything to deserve to die?

No! Jesus is perfect. He never sinned or did anything wrong. He did not do anything to deserve to die, but He chose to be the perfect sacrifice.

1 Peter 2:22

”

“ How can Jesus save people from sin?

Only through faith in Jesus can sin be forgiven. When a person asks Jesus to forgive them, He saves them, and they receive eternal life with God.

John 3:16

”

“ **Where is  
Jesus  
today?**

Jesus is in heaven at  
the right hand of God  
the Father. ”

Hebrews 1:3

“ **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







# Lesson 4 Plan

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## Lesson 4 Introduction

The Bible tells us the wisdom of the world is foolishness in God's sight. We also know that what may appear foolish about God from a human perspective is "wiser than man's wisdom" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Take the universal phenomenon of death, for example. From an earthly point of view, death can represent separation, guilt, and permanence. Everything about death is reversed, however, when looking at it through the lens of God's Word. When Jesus died on the cross, we were no longer separated from God but instead able to have that relationship restored. Any guilt we experience because of our sinful actions can be released when we accept the mercy and forgiveness made possible by Jesus' death on the cross. Death may seem like a permanent ending of life. But for believers in Christ, we know it is only the beginning of true, eternal life in God's kingdom. Jesus's work on the cross flipped the script on death, guilt, and so many other aspects of our existence. What marvelous news this is for each of your students and all of us!

This lesson continues to introduce kids to the truth of the Gospel and the importance of the Great Commission. Specifically, it focuses on the essential truth that the death of Jesus on the cross makes it possible for us to be forgiven and have an eternal relationship with God. This truth is vital for two reasons. 1) It presents students with the seriousness of the penalty for sin, and the truth that only the death of God's perfect and beloved Son could pay that price. 2) This lesson teaches children that God created us to live with Him forever. Death in this life ushers us into the eternal life God intends for us to enjoy with Him.

Each lesson in this short 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 children in the way they should go so that 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 and focuses on mission efforts in specific countries Reach A Village serves. Lesson 4 highlights the activities of Reach A Village ministry partners in Cambodia. Ministry in Cambodia stretches across all of the 24 provinces in the nation. Reach A Village prints needed evangelism, discipleship, and church planting training materials. With support from Reach A Village, ministry partners train and mobilize local believers. Thousand of churches have been planted in unreached villages across Cambodia!

Children will also learn some exciting and interesting information about the culture of Cambodia. This knowledge will help expand kids' understanding of God's wonderful world, and teach them to love and appreciate our differences. Videos of John, a leading ministry partner in Cambodia, allow students to see and hear from a real-life Cambodian Christian leader who is living out the Great Commission by making disciples throughout his nation!

Finally, in the spirit of the Values Education Program, a values component is also included in each lesson. Kids need to be taught again and again about the characteristics and traits God

desires for His children to possess. Lesson 4 focuses on the meaning and importance of forgiveness. Because we live in this sinful, fallen world, we all make mistakes that sometimes cause us to do and say the wrong things. As a result, we hurt other people, and they hurt us. Practicing forgiveness does not make the offender right, but it does allow us to let go of the pain and the burden of that offense. Forgiveness also helps us follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who so generously and graciously forgives us.

We hope you enjoy teaching the truths in these lessons. They contain activities, projects, videos, and worksheets to promote learning and engage your students. Understanding and participating in God's great rescue mission is the most important lesson we 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 meaningful ways!

## Learning Outcomes

- Children will examine the Gospel message and learn we can receive forgiveness since Jesus died on the cross.
- 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 Cambodia.
- Children will discover fun and interesting facts about Cambodia.
- Children will explain the meaning and importance of forgiveness.



## 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.



## Warm-Up

(5–10 minutes)

**After children enter the classroom, divide them into small groups of 4 or 5. When kids are divided and sitting in their groups, say to the class,** “I am going to set a timer for one minute, and I want you to talk to your group and find something you all have in common. Maybe you all have a sibling, or you all like pancakes, or you are all allergic to cats. Take a minute and talk about it.”

**After one minute, bring the kids back together in one big group. Ask,** “What is something you found out about your group?” **Let each group share. Then say,** “We all have many things in common, but one thing we know everyone on Earth has in common is that we are all sinners in

need of a savior! This week we have learned that God is the Creator of the universe. God knows that we sin and how we sin, which are things other people may not know about us. Our sin separates us from God. But God’s son Jesus came to earth to live, die, and rise again so that we can receive forgiveness.

“Today we will learn why Jesus’ death on the cross is so important. This event is part of God’s special rescue mission. Let’s read the mission verse, 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.’” (Show slide or poster of mission verse.)

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

## The Gospel: DAY 4 — *The Cross* (10 minutes)

SAY: “Yesterday we learned that Jesus is like no one else. He is God’s son. We do things that displease God, called sin, and this separates us from God. Jesus never did anything like that. Jesus lived a sinless life and never did anything wrong. Today we are learning about what God’s son Jesus did for us so that we can have a way back to God. Because He came, we can receive forgiveness of our sins and live on mission as a part of God’s rescue plan. Jesus did this by dying on the cross.

“The Bible teaches us that because of our sins, we need a rescuer. This rescuer cannot be just anyone. He has to be perfect and without sin. Yesterday we learned that only Jesus, God’s Son, can be a rescuer. He came to Earth and lived a perfect life. Jesus never sinned! He did this to make a way for us to know God. Let’s learn more about how and why Jesus died for us.”

**Teachers:** Find the set of cards that say, “Why Is the Cross So Important?” (*cards and/or slides titled Why Is the Cross So Important?*). These cards are to help you and your students get to know how Jesus changed everything. Use the cards to discuss details about Jesus’ death on the cross with your students. This information is all a part of the doctrine of salvation. Go around the room and take turns reading each card. This will help students learn about why the cross changes everything. Discuss each card together. After you discuss each card, you can display them in your classroom to remind students why the cross is so important. If desired, hang a string in your classroom to display the cards.

“To understand how we can be saved and know Jesus, we need to understand what Jesus did on the cross and that He is absolutely perfect!”

## Get to Know Why the Cross is so Important

**Did Jesus die on the cross because He did something wrong?** No, Jesus never did anything wrong. He died on the cross so that sinful people could receive forgiveness. He died as the perfect sacrifice for sin. (1 Peter 2:22)

**What happened after Jesus died on the cross?** After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb! (Mark 16:6)



### How can people be saved from their sins?

People can be saved by repenting of their sins and believing in Jesus. You can have faith in Him, believe He was the perfect sacrifice, and follow Him. (Romans 10:9)

**What does repent mean?** Repent means being sad and sorry for your sin, turning from it, and living differently. (Matthew 4:17)

**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 receive forgiveness and God can rule in their hearts forever. (1 Timothy 2:5)

"Our sin separates us from God, and we need to be rescued. To join God's rescue plan, you must first hear and respond to the Gospel, the most incredible story ever told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We can know God and receive forgiveness for our sins because of Jesus. We are changed forever when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and be the Lord of our lives. We will learn more about the Gospel and how to respond to it throughout the week."



## Gospel Verse

Teach students a key scripture verse emphasizing the Daily Focus of God's Rescue Mission.

Say: "Today we talked about the Gospel and how Jesus' death on the cross changed everything! Let's read 1 Peter 3:18 together." (Show slide of verse.)

Say: "God is the Creator and Ruler over everything. He made you, loves you, and wants to know you. Even though we sin, God has a plan through Jesus for us to receive forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Because of His death and resurrection, we can be forgiven and brought back to God!"

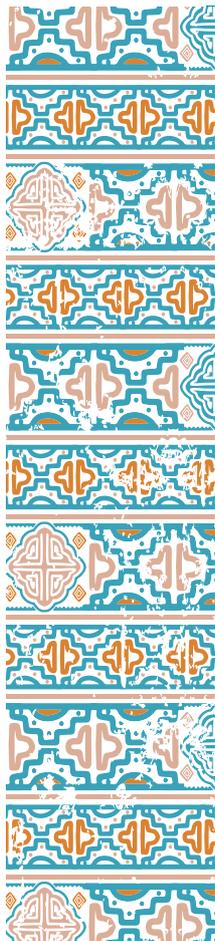
**"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the spirit."**

*1 Peter 3:18*

**GOSPEL VERSE**

# MISSION POSSIBLE: OUR BIG ASSIGNMENT

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



## OVERVIEW

A common question we ask kids is, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Sometimes even we as adults struggle to find our passion and true purpose in life. We all want to do something that we love and will hopefully make life better for others. Thankfully, God knew that we would be searching for answers to life’s big questions, and He provided the answers through Jesus and His Word. He wants all of us to be devoted to making disciples of Jesus! This task is part of God’s great rescue mission, and He left us with a crucial role to play in that mission.

Before children can accept the mission, two things must occur. 1) Kids must hear and respond to the Gospel, the greatest story ever told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We have taken care of that in the previous section by beginning with the Gospel and will continue to teach and reinforce the Gospel message in the remaining lesson in this series. 2) Kids must learn about God’s rescue mission and how they can join in and help. This segment will focus on that part. Open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you lead children to the heart of God.

## INTRODUCTION

God’s rescue mission began long before Jesus was born into this world. Almost immediately after completing the wondrous, perfect work of creation, the curse of sin was brought upon it by the disobedience of Adam and Eve. On that very day, an innocent animal shed its blood to provide a covering for them. Thousands of years later, God’s innocent Son Jesus would shed His blood by dying on a criminal’s cross to “cover” our sins. His death on the cross allows us to renew our relationship with God. What was broken by the curse of sin is now restored. The fellowship God desired to have with us from the beginning is now available.

This truth is part of the Gospel message that Jesus came into the world to save us. He completed God’s

plan of redemption by laying down His holy and pure life for us. With our sins forgiven as we trust in Jesus, He invites us to spend eternity with God in His place of unflawed perfection and beauty, Heaven. We must remind children again and again that this is the best news ever and allow them to celebrate that amazing gift of grace!

The other part of the greatest rescue mission is the Great Commission. Such exciting and transformative news is much too good to keep to ourselves. It is designed to be shared—not just with our loved ones, but also with the entire world. This is what we call the Great Commission. Right before Jesus left this world, He made sure to give all His followers a job to do. He wants us all to be His partners in the World’s Greatest Rescue Mission!

## 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. The great rescue mission is God’s plan to save the world from our sins.

Educating kids about the Gospel and the Great Commission is so important. Jesus gave His life to establish the Church and teach us about the Kingdom of God. As teachers and mature Christian leaders, we must do all we can to pass on that torch and keep the flame burning brightly. Reach A Village’s ministry partners are motivated and inspired every day by the Great Commission. Together, let’s do all we can to help finish God’s mission.

# The Great Commission

## DAY 4 (45 minutes)

**OPTIONAL STARTER:** To get kids thinking about the importance of following directions, play Balloon Grab (show slide). This game requires four balloons each in red, blue, yellow, and green, and one orange balloon. (Note to teacher: You want fewer balloons than students, so adjust your numbers accordingly.) Before class, inflate the balloons. Place all the balloons—except the orange one—in the middle of the room. Keep the orange balloon near you.

SAY: “I’m going to name a color. If you see a balloon in that color on the ground, grab it and hop around with it. If you can’t get one, keep hopping and follow someone who has that color balloon. Then, when I name another color, everyone will drop the balloons and grab the color balloon I called. Again, if you can’t get one, follow someone with that color balloon.”

Start by naming yellow. Then after a minute or so, call a different color. Repeat the activity five times. On the fifth round, name all the colors.

Then say, “Orange! Grab the orange balloon and hold it high. Now follow me as we go back to our lesson!” (Since there is only one orange balloon, children form a line behind the child with that balloon, and you can direct them back to their seats.) Tell the kids that just as only one student had the orange balloon, we must follow only one true God. His truth and His directions are important for our lives.

## Lesson Content

SAY: “This week, we have been talking about a special mission given to us by Jesus. Sometimes when we think about being on a mission, we might think of spies and secrets. Our government uses the CIA or Central Intelligence Agency to send spies on missions for our country. (Show spy slide.) These missions must be kept secret so the spies, also called agents, are safe. Do you think the mission Jesus gave us is like that? Not usually. Most of the time, Jesus wants us to be open and bold as we tell others about Him. Do you know that there are some places in the world where Christians can get in a lot of trouble or face danger because of their faith in Jesus?”



“When others mistreat Christians because they are disciples or followers of Jesus, that is called persecution. Sometimes the bad and unfair treatment comes from the government of the country or area. Sometimes it comes from neighbors who don’t like Christians. Today we will learn about mission efforts in Cambodia, a country in Southeast Asia. There used to be a lot of persecution of Christians in Cambodia. Today it is much better, and Christians there are free to share the good news of the Gospel!

“The mission that Jesus gave us is found in Matthew 28:19-20. This is what we call the Great Commission, and it is part of God’s great mission to rescue the world from sin. In these verses, Jesus says, ‘**... 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.**’ (Show the slide/poster with this verse. Read the verse aloud once. Then have the children read it together with you.)

“Last night/week we talked about what it means to ‘*go and make disciples of all nations.*’ Today let’s focus on the part of the mission in which Jesus tells us to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Can someone tell me what baptism is all about? (Call on 1 or 2 students to offer an answer). Very good! Baptism is a way to let everyone know you have decided to follow Jesus. Going under the water reminds us of how Jesus died and was buried. Coming up from the water reminds us that Jesus rose again from the grave. Baptism also reminds us that we left behind our old way of life without Jesus and started a brand new life of following Him! Jesus tells us to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The one true God exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus gives us the authority to baptize in His name. That makes it very official and extra important!

“One way to live out the Great Commission is by supporting mission ministries like Reach A Village. The goal of Reach A Village is to share the Gospel and help new believers learn more about Jesus and God’s Word. Reach A Village wants to make sure that all new believers can have a copy of the Bible in their own language. You can help send those Bibles this week by giving money for B4NB, Bibles 4 New Believers!”

## NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: CAMBODIA

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

## Mission Video



### ▶ VIDEO 1

If time allows, play the mission video "Cambodia Ministry Video." This video features Reach A Village ministry partner, John of Cambodia, discussing ministry efforts in his country. The video is included in the Lesson 4 slide deck.



TIME: 2:45 minutes

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

Cambodia is one of the 22 nations where Reach A Village's ministry partners are sharing the Gospel. This southeastern Asian nation is located between Thailand and Vietnam, south of China (show slide with a map.) Ministry leaders in Cambodia focus on evangelism (sharing the Gospel), discipleship (teaching new believers to follow Jesus), starting new churches, and children's ministry (slide of Cambodia ministry).

Reach A Village is different from some mission organizations. When we think of missions, we often think of people traveling across the world to share the Gospel. That is one way to do it. With Reach A Village, local Christians living in the country are trained and given the necessary supplies so they can share the Gospel where they live. This approach allows them to work on God's great rescue mission in their own villages and nearby unreached villages. Doing mission work

this way is much less expensive and very effective because local Christian leaders already know the language and culture of their country. Plus, local Christians already live in the country, so there are no housing or worldwide travel expenses.

In Cambodia, this approach is very is producing incredible results! In 2022, Reach A Village ministry partners in Cambodia reported over 24,000 new believers; 9,000 people baptized; and 176 new churches started! In addition, 8,917 Bibles were given out; almost 91,000 people heard the Gospel; and leaders trained nearly 11,000 new church planters. Support from Reach A Village helps provide the funds to keep this fantastic Great Commission work going!

Since Reach A Village helps make sure that thousands of Bibles are given out to kids and adults each year, it takes a lot of money to meet the needs of this ministry. The average cost of a children's Bible in Cambodia is only about \$2 U.S. In 2022, Reach A Village helped provide nearly 9,000 Bibles to kids and adults! That would be close to \$18,000 just for Bibles.

Reach A Village started a special ministry called Bibles 4 New Believers (B4NB) (show a B4NB slide). B4NB helps raise money to print these Bibles and Bibles for new believers in other countries. Kids, families, and churches in America can give money to pay for Bibles that will bless children and adults in Cambodia and many other places around the world. If you can, please set aside a little money this week to help provide Bibles for new believers in places like Cambodia. Many people there are eager to learn about the one true God and need their own Bible to learn in their own language!

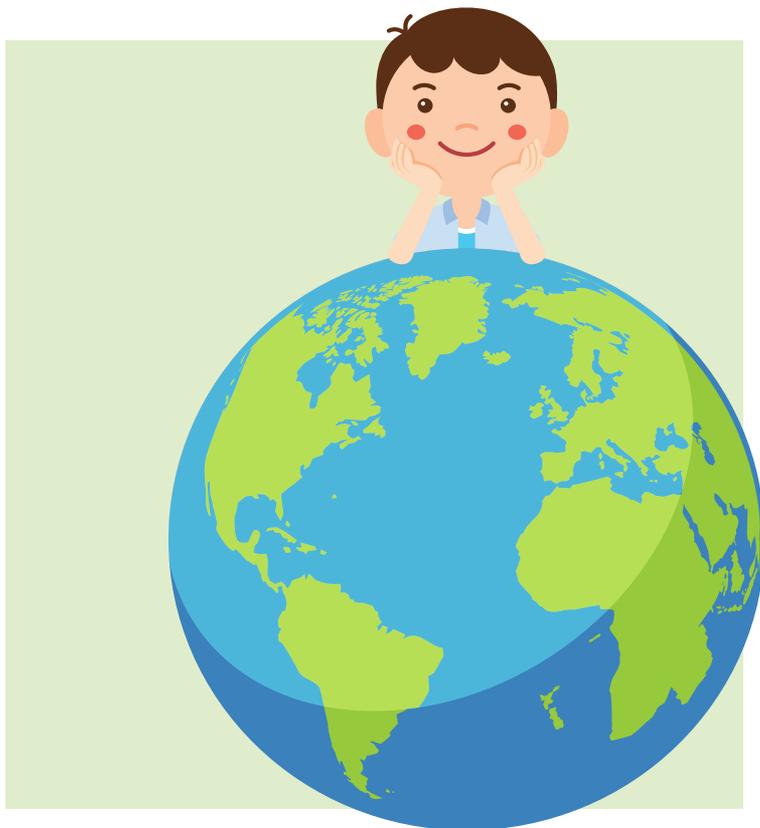
# MISSIONS AND ME:

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 must first understand and respond to the Gospel. Ask one or two volunteers to explain the Gospel and how they can respond to it.

Ideas for participating in the Great Commission include:

- Praying for unreached people
- Praying for missionaries and Christian workers
- Forgiving when someone hurts or offends them
- 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, rise again, and asking us as His followers to tell others the Good News.

### 2. What is the Great Commission?

ANSWER: The special job Jesus gave to 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 responding to the Gospel and following Jesus, praying for unreached people, praying for missionaries and Christian workers, and 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 optional portion of the lesson allows children to learn more about Cambodia's culture. God's love and grace are for the whole world, for people of every nation, tribe, language, and race. Students benefit from learning to recognize and respect cultural differences. This section will help kids better understand what life is like for their Christian brothers and sisters in Cambodia.

## Culture Video



### ▶ VIDEO 2

If time permits, play the video titled *"Cambodia Culture Video."* Reach A Village ministry partner John, the leader of ministry efforts in Cambodia, shares about culture and life in Cambodia. The video is included in the Lesson 4 slide deck.

**TIME:** 5:27 minutes

**Focus:** Present fun and interesting facts about culture and life in Cambodia.

Cambodia is one of the 22 nations where Reach A Village's ministry partners are sharing the Gospel. This southeastern Asian nation is located between Thailand and Vietnam, south of China (show slide with a map). There are over 17 million people who live in Cambodia. That is about the same as the combined populations of Illinois and Alabama. Cambodia is just a little bigger than North Dakota (show slide with comparison map).

A mix of native animist, Buddhist, and Hindu traditions influence Cambodian culture and beliefs. Religion strongly impacts the culture and way of life in Cambodia. Today, most Cambodians are Buddhist. Eighty percent of the population is Buddhist, one percent is Christian, and most of the rest follow Islam, Atheism, or Animism. Animism is the belief that creatures and objects in nature, such as plants, rocks, animals, or bodies of water, have spirits and can influence world affairs.

Children in Cambodia are expected to help care for younger siblings and help with chores or the family business or farm. Tasks could include caring for animals, working on the farm, or assisting with household chores. Cambodian kids enjoy various sports and traditional games, such as soccer (which they call football), volleyball, martial arts, dragon boat racing, and a local form of chess called Ouk Chatrang. Games allow kids to make new friends and demonstrate skills while having fun.

A traditional Cambodian belief is that the soul is in one's head, so Cambodians consider it rude to touch the head or point one's feet at it. Like many Asian cultures, Cambodians place great importance on expressing honor and gratitude. The sampeah gesture is used in Cambodia as a greeting or expression of gratitude. Sampeah is performed by placing the palms of the hands together at chest level and bowing slightly.

Food in Cambodia is similar to food commonly enjoyed in other Southeast Asian countries. Rice, including Jasmine and sticky rice, is a staple in the Cambodian diet. A long history of art, literature, film, music, and dance also characterizes Cambodian culture.

## Mission Verse Video



### ▶ VIDEO 3

Mission Verse in Local Language: Matthew 28:19-20. This video features John, a Reach A Village ministry partner from Cambodia, sharing the Mission Verse in the Cambodian language Khmer and in English. This video is in the Lesson 4 slide deck.

TIME: 2:15 minutes



## Interactive Project/Game

**1. Tres Jong Kers**—Introduce the traditional Cambodian game Tres Jong Kers. (Show slide)

Supplies: 1 small lemon or lime, 6 chopsticks (provided), and 1 prop, such as a large stick or book, to prop the chopsticks up against.

Set-up: Lay the chopsticks on a table or flat surface with one end propped up against a large stick or book.

Rules: This game is usually played with two players but can be modified in a large group setting to use small teams if desired. In the two-player version, the players use “rock-paper-scissors” to determine who will go first. The winning player begins by throwing the lemon into the air while simultaneously picking up one chopstick. The player must use the same hand for throwing and picking up but transfers the chopstick to the other hand after catching the lemon. If the player can pick up all six sticks without dropping the lemon, the player lays all the sticks back down and starts over, this time picking up two sticks at a time. If successful, they attempt to repeat the process picking up three sticks at a time. Have a scorekeeper tally

the total number of sticks they picked up without dropping the lemon. Play then passes on to the other player. The player/team with the most points wins. The winning player may be offered a chance to taste the lemon for a sour treat! (Or, as punishment, have the losing player do it!) Here is a video demonstrating how Tres Jong Kers works.

## Game Instructions Video



### ▶ VIDEO 4

This video demonstrates how Tres Jong Kers works. It is included in the Lesson 4 slide deck.

TIME: 1:00 minutes



### 2. Additional Activities:

Kids may color a Cambodian flag (page 93) as they rewatch the videos with John, or you may play a Cambodian Bible song for the children. This video is in the Lesson 4 slide deck.

## Cambodia Kids Bible Song Video



### ▶ VIDEO 5

If time permits, play the Cambodia Kid's Bible Song video for children. The video is in the Lesson 4 slide deck.

TIME: 3:00 minutes



# CODE OF CONDUCT: FORGIVENESS

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 more like Jesus. The Gospel changes what we value (the most important things) and how we live and treat people. When the Gospel changes us, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. It is like a code is cracked and a new way of living is unlocked. Once we decide to know and follow Jesus, God calls us to live in a way that treats others like Jesus did. We begin to see people as God does. We see that despite how people are talking or acting, they, too, are 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.

SAY: “The value we are learning about today is forgiveness. When Jesus died on the cross, He was the sacrifice for our sins. Everyone who repents of their sins and believes in Jesus can receive



forgiveness. Forgiveness is letting go and wiping the slate clean. It is releasing someone who has wronged you and no longer holding on to negative feelings toward them (Show slide.)

“Once we become Christians and follow Jesus, everything changes. How we live changes, how we treat people changes, and how we talk changes. God calls us to live out the Great Commission by going and telling others the Gospel and teaching them about Jesus. Jesus made a way for us to receive great forgiveness. We also need to forgive others.

“When Jesus changes us, we reflect His character. Forgiveness reflects Jesus’ character. Jesus came to earth, lived, died, and rose again so that we could receive forgiveness for our sins. We learned from God’s Word today that we have wronged God because of our sins. Because of Jesus’ death on the cross, we can receive forgiveness, even though we don’t deserve it. What an incredible gift forgiveness is!

“Let’s do an experiment to crack the forgiveness code.” **Teachers, before class, you will need to gather a whiteboard (small), a black permanent marker, and a red dry-erase marker (any colors will do if these are not available).** When you and the children are together, use the black permanent marker to write the word **SIN** on the whiteboard. Ask the kids to try and wipe it away. As they will see, **SIN** cannot be wiped away; it is stuck.

Talk to your class about forgiveness. Go over the definition again: Forgiveness is letting go and wiping the slate clean. It is releasing someone who has wronged you and no longer holding on to negative feelings toward them. Talk to them about the Values Verse.

## Values Verse

**“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”** Colossians 3:13  
(Show slide.)

SAY: “We can receive forgiveness for our sins, but we cannot forgive ourselves or earn forgiveness. God gives it because of Jesus.”

Take the red dry-erase marker and write **FORGIVEN** over **SIN** in thick letters. Talk to your class about how forgiveness of sin can only be found in Jesus. Because Jesus forgives us, we should also be quick to forgive others.

## Review/Discussion

### Discussion Questions

- 1. What does forgiveness mean?** Forgiveness is letting go and wiping the slate clean. It is releasing someone who has wronged you and no longer holding on to negative feelings toward them.
- 2. Can we earn God’s forgiveness?** No, forgiveness cannot be earned. It is a gift from God through Jesus.
- 3. What is one way you can show forgiveness this week?** (Answers will vary.)

## Closing

### Review Key Points (5 minutes)

SAY: “I am so glad each of you came to VBS (adjust as appropriate) to learn about the World’s Greatest

Rescue Mission! It’s incredible to think that God’s love for you and me is so strong and deep that He would send Jesus to face the death and punishment we deserve. Jesus is worthy of all our love and faithfulness forever!

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

- 1. What happened after Jesus died on the cross?** After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb! (Mark 16:6)
- 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 forgiveness?** Forgiveness is letting go and wiping the slate clean. It is releasing someone who has wronged you and no longer holding on to negative feelings toward them.

“As you learn more about what it means to be on mission with Jesus, I encourage you to look for ways to carry out the Great Commission. Ask Jesus to show you who you can reach out to with His love and truth. I hope to see you again tomorrow (adjust as appropriate) to talk more about the Gospel and how to obey Jesus’ instructions to make disciples of all nations. 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 forgiving us when we make mistakes. (Lead the children in prayer, and then dismiss them.)



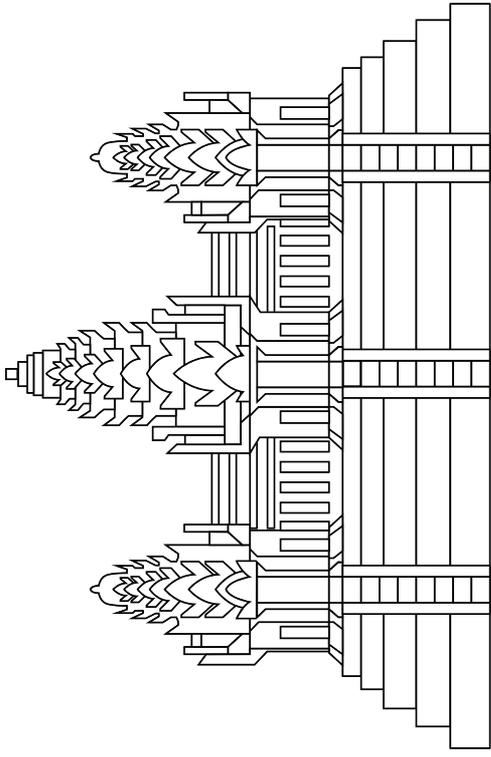


# SPOTLIGHT: CAMBODIA



**Your Mission:** Use the color key to color the flag of Cambodia.



“ **Did Jesus die on the cross because He did something wrong?**

No, Jesus never did anything wrong. He died on the cross so that sinful people could receive forgiveness. He died as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

1 Peter 2:22



“ **What happened after Jesus died on the cross?**

After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb!

Mark 16:6



“ **How can people be saved from their sins?**

People can be saved by repenting of their sins and believing in Jesus. You can have faith in Him, believe He was the perfect sacrifice, and follow Him.

Romans 10:9



“ **What does repent mean?**

Repent means being sad and sorry for your sin, then turning from it and living a different way.

Matthew 4:17



## “ 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. Now all people can be forgiven and God can rule in their hearts forever.

1 Timothy 2:5





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## Lesson 5 Introduction

Everyone wants to believe in something greater than themselves. Experts believe there may be as many as 10,000 different religions worldwide. Even those who profess to have no religion put their faith in a universe they believe has the power to create itself. A recognition of the need for faith is expressed in pop culture through songs like “You Gotta Have Faith” and “Give Me Something to Believe In.” People undoubtedly have an incredible capacity and desire for faith; it is just so often misdirected. As teachers, we can gently lead children to the one and only Savior and Creator of the universe who is worthy of our faith—Jesus Christ.

This lesson is designed to continue the discussion about the Gospel and the Great Commission. Specifically, it focuses on the essential truth that faith in Jesus is necessary to be born again and truly forgiven. Simply knowing or believing in God’s existence is not enough to receive salvation. Pure faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the response needed to become a child of God (John 1:12).

Each lesson in this short 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 children in the way they should go so that 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 and focuses on mission efforts in specific countries Reach A Village serves. This fifth and final lesson highlights the activities

of Reach A Village ministry partners in Bulgaria. Ministry in Bulgaria emphasizes small Bible study groups for children of all ages and provides Bible study materials and children’s Bibles for the participants. The goal is to help Bulgarian children learn about God and know Him personally. Reach A Village ministry partners have also developed Christian Ethics textbooks which are studied by first through fourth graders in the schools.

Children will also learn some interesting and informative information about the culture of Bulgaria. This knowledge will help expand kids’ understanding of God’s wonderful world, and teach them to love and appreciate the differences among us. Videos of Deni, Reach A Village’s International Ministry Co-Director for Eurasia and a citizen of Bulgaria, allow students to see and hear from a real-life Bulgarian Christian leader who is living out the Great Commission by making disciples throughout her nation and beyond!

Finally, in the spirit of the Filipino Values Education Program (VEP), a values component is also included in each lesson. Kids need to be taught repeatedly about the characteristics and traits God desires for His children to possess. Lesson 5 focuses on the meaning and importance of love, which the Bible calls the greatest virtue of all (1 Cor. 13:13). The English language has many definitions for love, even classifying it as both a noun and a verb. In our modern culture, the essence of true love taught by God through the Bible may be a new concept for your students. In this lesson, children will learn that the kind of love God asks us to give away requires action. Jesus even teaches us to love our enemies.

We hope you enjoy teaching the truths in this lesson. Activities, projects, videos, and worksheets are designed to promote learning and engage your students. Understanding and participating in God's great rescue mission is the most important lesson we 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 meaningful ways!

## Learning Outcomes

- Children will examine the Gospel message and learn that we follow Jesus and carry out His mission by faith.
- 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 Bulgaria.
- Children will discover fun and interesting facts about Bulgaria.
- Children will explain the meaning and importance of respect.

## Warm-Up

(5–10 minutes)

**Before your class arrives, cut apart the Jesus Changes Everything sheet (page 102) into three pieces. Put each piece of paper in a deflated balloon (1 in each balloon), blow the balloons up, and hide all three around the room.**

**After the children arrive, have them sit in a circle. Explain that you will play a game to uncover a secret message. Choose a volunteer to go and bring one balloon back to the circle. Pop the balloon as a group and read the message in it aloud. Next, have a second volunteer go and find another balloon. Pop it and ask a student to read the note inside.**

## Overview

Being a part of God's rescue mission is so exciting! It is the most important mission ever, 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; each day, we have learned another element of God's great plan. The five parts are God, man, Jesus, the cross, and faith. These parts make up the Gospel, God's great rescue plan.

**Finally, have a third volunteer go and get the last balloon, pop it, and read the message. Arrange the three pieces around to reveal the secret message: Jesus Changes everything!**

SAY: "What an exciting message we discovered! Jesus really does change everything! Today we are talking about how Jesus changed everything, and then gave us a mission to go and tell the world! This week we have learned that God is the Creator of the universe. God knows that we sin and how we sin, which are things other people may not know about us. Our sin separates us from God, but God's son Jesus came to earth to live, die, and rise again so that we can receive forgiveness for our sins.

"We learned why Jesus' death on the cross was so important and how we can repent and believe. Today we are learning to have faith in Jesus and how He changes everything! This truth is part of God's special rescue mission. Let's read the mission verse, "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.'**" (Show slide/poster with the Mission Verse.)



**JESUS**

**CHANGES**

**EVERYTHING**

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

## The Gospel: DAY 5 — *Faith in Jesus* (10 minutes)

SAY: “Yesterday we learned that Jesus’ death on the cross made a way for us to know God. Jesus is so incredible, and He is God’s son. The things we do that displease God, our sins, separate us from God. Jesus never did anything like that. Jesus lived a sinless life and never did anything wrong. We have learned that God’s son Jesus came so that we can have a way back to God. Because He came, we can receive forgiveness for our sins and live on mission as a part of God’s rescue plan. Jesus did this by dying on the cross. We put our faith in Jesus, and Jesus changes everything!”

“The Bible teaches us that because of our sins, we need a rescuer. This rescuer cannot be just anyone. He has to be perfect and without sin. All people sin and are far from God, so who is perfect? Who can be our rescuer? Only Jesus, God’s Son, can be our rescuer. He came to Earth and lived a perfect life. Jesus was both fully God and fully man. Jesus died on the cross so that we can know God. When we choose to believe in and follow Jesus, it changes everything. Following Jesus leads to a life on mission, lived by faith and sharing the news of Jesus

with everyone. To follow Jesus, we must have faith that He lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose again.”

**Teachers:** Find the set of cards that say, “Get to Know Our Mission” (cards and/or slides titled “Get to Know Our Mission”). These cards are to help you and your students get to know about the mission Jesus gave us. This information is a part of the doctrine of discipleship and growing and sharing our faith. Go around the room and take turns reading each card. This will help students learn about the mission God gives us. Discuss each card together. After you discuss each card, you can display them in your classroom to remind students of our mission and how we can grow in our faith. If desired, hang a string in your classroom to display the cards. This is the fifth and final set of cards.

“To understand how we can be saved and know Jesus, we need to understand what Jesus did on the cross and that He is absolutely perfect! Once we begin following Him, everything changes. We live a life on a mission!”

### Get to Know Our Mission

**What is our mission after we put our faith in Jesus?** Our mission is to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Why should we go and tell others about Jesus?** Our responsibility is to go and tell about Jesus so others can experience the joy of knowing Jesus and salvation through him! (Romans 1:14-16)

**How do we go and tell?** We can tell about Jesus by sharing the Gospel and showing Jesus’ love to others through our actions. (Romans 10:14-15)



**Where in the world do people need to hear about Jesus?** The whole world needs to hear about Jesus—people from every tribe, tongue, nation, group, and language. (Revelation 7:9-10)

**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 receive forgiveness and God can rule in their hearts forever. (1 Timothy 2:5)

“Our sins separate us from God; we need to be rescued. To join God’s rescue plan, you must first hear and respond to the Gospel, the most incredible story ever told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We can know God and receive forgiveness for our sins because of Jesus. We are changed forever when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and be the Lord of our lives. When we place our faith in Jesus, everything changes! We then get to live on a mission—the Greatest Rescue Mission, which is the Great Commission!”



**GOSPEL VERSE**

**“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*

## Gospel Verse

Teach students a key scripture verse emphasizing the Daily Focus of God’s Rescue Mission.

SAY: “Today we talked about the Gospel and how Jesus is for everyone. When we put our faith in Jesus, everything changes, and we live on mission! Let’s read Revelation 7:9a together. (Show slide with the Gospel verse.)

“God is the Creator and Ruler over everything. He made you and loves you, and wants to know you. Even though we sin, God has a plan through Jesus for us to receive forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and because of his death and resurrection, we can be forgiven and brought back to God! Our mission is to share the Gospel with everyone so that the whole world can know God through faith in Jesus!”

# MISSION POSSIBLE: OUR BIG ASSIGNMENT

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



## OVERVIEW

During this lesson series, kids have been presented with some incredible information. They learned about the one true God, the God of the Bible, who created the heavens and the earth. They discovered that God loves them even though they have failed at keeping His perfect standards. God loves them so much that He established a plan before creation to save them! The plan God devised seems almost unthinkable. How could God send His very own Son, fully God Himself, perfect and without sin, to die for corrupt and wicked people? But it was the only way, and Jesus willingly submitted Himself to His Father's plan. Once children place their faith in Jesus, He also gives them an extraordinary mission for their lives: the Great Commission.

Before children can accept the mission, two things must occur. 1) Kids must hear and respond to the Gospel, the most remarkable story ever told (and thankfully one that is absolutely true!). We will continue to teach and reinforce the Gospel message through the remainder of this final lesson. 2) Kids must learn what the mission is and how they can help. So open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you lead children to the heart of God.

## INTRODUCTION

God's rescue mission is by far the greatest love story ever. It teaches the true meaning and is a perfect example of pure, Godly love. The kind of love God desires from His children puts others ahead of self. This lesson will help children see the connection between the Gospel and the Great Commission and how they can live their lives in light of God's rescue mission.

Faith begins with simple trust. Faith must then be expressed over and over again throughout life by actions demonstrating obedience to the teachings of Jesus. Help your students start to understand that just as God sent Jesus because He loves us, Jesus now sends us because He loves others. With the help of the Holy Spirit, God entrusts us with finishing the mission Jesus started!

## 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.**” Following Jesus involves obeying His commandments, and the Great Commission can be one of the most exciting commands to follow. Helping other people meet the God who loves and made them is about the best feeling ever. This is God’s plan to save the world from our sins, the Greatest Rescue Mission.

Learning early on about the Gospel and the Great Commission can impact a child’s life for eternity. Reach A Village hears testimonies from all over the world of lives changed because someone faithfully shared the Gospel with an unreached person. In your students’ circles of influence, how many people are waiting to hear this fantastic news? During this final lesson, remind your students once again that God has called them to be part of the World’s Greatest Rescue Mission!

# The Great Commission

## DAY 5 (45 minutes)

**OPTIONAL STARTER:** To get kids thinking about the importance of sharing the Gospel message with others, play Telephone (show slide). If you have a large group, you could make this work in a couple of ways. Play it game-show style by calling about 7 volunteers to the front. To allow everyone to participate, divide the kids into groups of 8-10 students each, assigning an adult helper to each group.

To play Telephone, tell students to stand in a straight line or a circle. Whisper a message to one student. Tell them to listen carefully, as you cannot repeat it. They turn to the next student and whisper the message, and it continues until the last student receives the message. That player says the message aloud, and you find out how well the message was preserved. State the original message for the group. *To make this more interesting, have very unusual messages prepared beforehand. For example, the message could be, “Last night, I dreamed I had blue and green gummy worms stuck in my nostrils.” Or “My Mom told me to feed two tiny tadpoles fat flying flies.”*

## Lesson Content

SAY, “Tonight, I feel a little sad but also excited at the same time. I feel sad because this is the last night we’ll get together for VBS (modify as appropriate). Studying God’s Word with you and learning about God’s Great Rescue Mission has been so much fun. Can anyone guess why I also feel excited? (Call on 1 or 2 students.) I feel excited because you know everything you need to know to respond in faith to the Gospel and join Jesus in the Great Commission! That means after tonight, no matter what path you choose for your life, you can spend every day on a mission with Jesus!

“Earlier today, you learned that you must trust and believe in Jesus to become God’s child. God’s plan to save us is motivated by His love, and our desire to be on a mission with Jesus should also be motivated by our love—first for God and then for unreached people. Faith and love work together to help us live for Jesus and follow His plan.

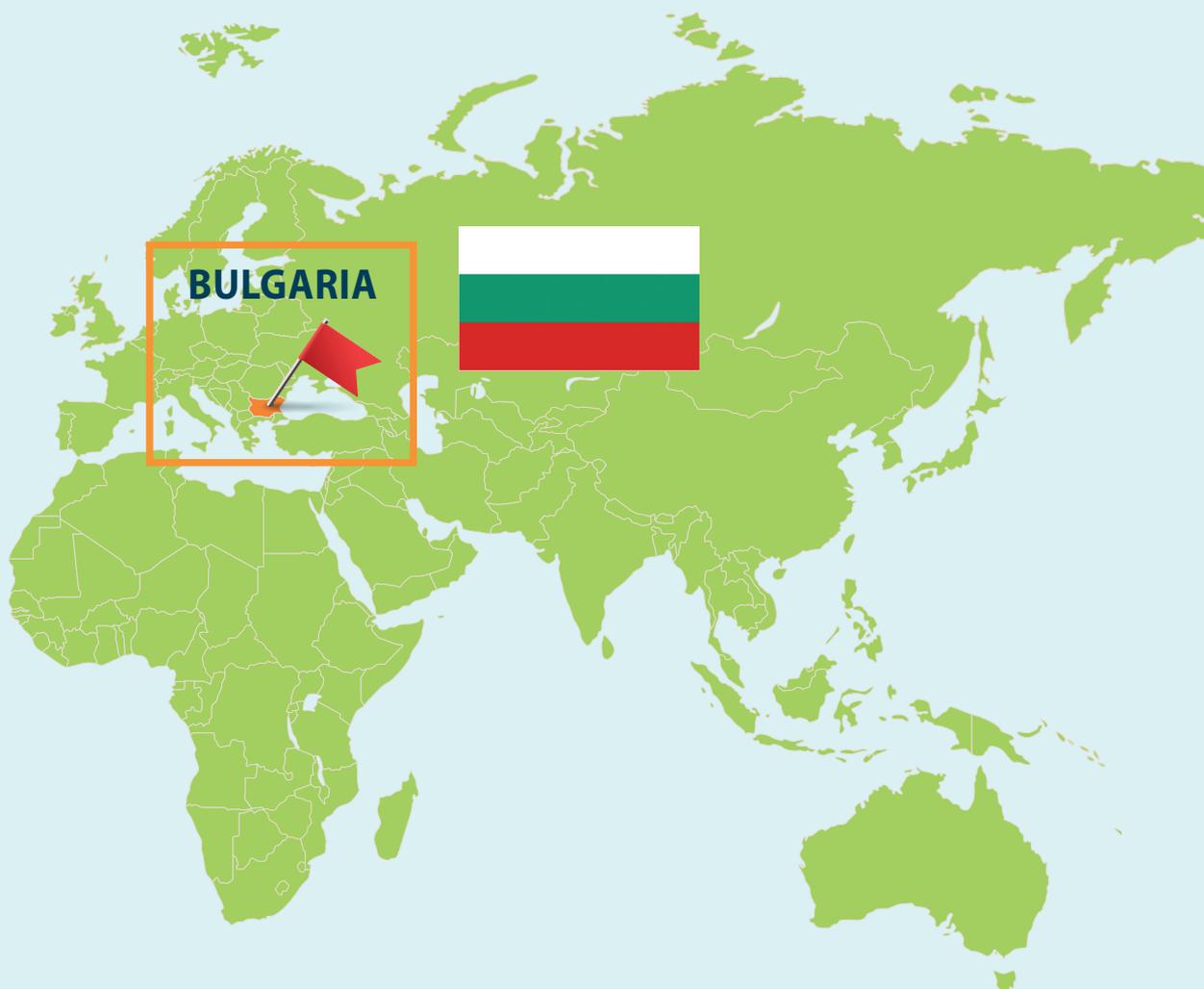
“The mission that Jesus left us is found in Matthew 28:19-20. This mission is what we call the Great Commission and part of God’s great mission to rescue the world from sin. In these verses, Jesus says, ‘**go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**’ (Show the slide/poster with this verse. Read it aloud once. Then have the children read it together with you.)

“Earlier this week, we talked about what it means to go and make disciples

of all nations and to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Today let's focus on the last part of the mission in which Jesus tells us to teach others to obey everything He has commanded.

"What are some of the commandments Jesus gave us in the Bible? (Call on 1 or 2 students to offer an answer). Very good! Jesus taught us many important lessons in the Bible. He teaches us to repent of our sins, honor our parents, treat others how we want to be treated, be honest, and so much more. There is so much to remember, in fact, that Jesus tried to make it really easy for us by summing it all up in two simple commandments. Someone came to Jesus one day and asked Him what the greatest commandment was. He responded with this answer in Matthew 22:37-40, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' Jesus says that if we follow those two commandments, we will keep all the others in the process. That makes following Jesus and teaching others to obey His commandments much easier!

"One way to obey Jesus and work on the Great Commission is through mission ministries like Reach A Village. The goal of Reach A Village is to share the Gospel and help new believers learn more about Jesus and His plans. Reach A Village does this by training and sending local Christians who already live in the countries they serve in. Reach A Village wants to make sure that all new believers can have a copy of the Bible in their language. This week you are helping to send those Bibles by giving money for B4NB (Bibles 4 New Believers)!"



**NATIONAL  
SPOTLIGHT**

# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: BULGARIA

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

## Mission Video



### ▶ VIDEO 1

If time allows, play the mission video **"Bulgaria Ministry Video."** This video features Deni, a Reach A Village ministry leader in Bulgaria, discussing ministry efforts in her country. It is included in the Lesson 5 slide deck.

TIME: 35 seconds

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

Reach A Village partners with 22 nations in sharing the Gospel. Bulgaria is one of those nations. It is located in Eastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula. (Show slide with a map.) Ministry leaders in Bulgaria focus on evangelism, discipleship, starting new churches, and children's ministry. (Show slide of Bulgaria ministry.)

Bulgaria is similar to Armenia in that most of the population identifies as Christian. Bulgaria has an Orthodox Church rich with traditions, rules, and sacraments. Many people in Bulgaria believe they are saved by following church traditions rather than having personal faith and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Reach A Village ministry partners work hard to share the true Gospel of saving faith in Jesus. Only about 2% of the Bulgarian population is estimated to be Evangelical, born-again Christians.

Though progress is happening slowly, Reach A Village ministry partners are thankful for the lives they see changed every day. In 2022, Reach A Village ministry partners in Bulgaria reported over

1,000 new believers, 258 people baptized, and 3 new churches started! In addition, RAV helped provide 4,676 Bibles; over 6,600 people heard the Gospel; and 163 new church planters were trained. Support from Reach A Village helps provide the funds to keep this outstanding Great Commission work going!

Since Reach A Village provides thousands of Bibles to kids and adults each year, it takes a lot of money to meet the needs of this ministry. The average cost of a children's Bible in Bulgaria is about \$5 U.S. In 2022, Reach A Village helped provide almost 5,700 Bibles to kids and adults in Bulgaria! That would be over \$28,000 per year just for Bibles.

This week you have learned that Reach A Village started a unique ministry called Bibles 4 New Believers (B4NB) (show B4NB slide). B4NB helps raise the money to print these Bibles and Bibles for new believers in other countries. Kids, families, and churches in America can give money to pay for Bibles that will bless children and adults in Bulgaria and many other places around the world. If possible, please set aside a little money this week to help provide Bibles for new believers in places like Bulgaria. Many people are very eager to learn about the one true God and need their own Bible to learn best!



# 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 must first understand and respond to the Gospel. Ask one or two volunteers to explain the Gospel and how they can respond to it.

Ideas for participating in the Great Commission include:

- Sharing Jesus with people they meet
- Getting involved in Christian outreach in the community
- Demonstrating love to everyone around them
- Providing 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, rise again, and then asking us as His followers to tell others the Good News.

#### 2. What is the Great Commission?

ANSWER: The important 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 responding to the Gospel and following Jesus, sharing Jesus with people they meet, showing love to others, and 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 optional portion of the lesson allows children to learn more about Bulgaria's culture. God's love and grace are for the whole world, for people of every nation, tribe, language, and race. Students benefit from learning to recognize and respect cultural differences. This section will help kids better understand what life is like for their Christian brothers and sisters in Bulgaria.

## Culture Video



### ▶ VIDEO 2

If time permits, play the video titled **"Bulgaria Culture Video."** Reach A Village Bulgarian ministry partner Deni discusses historical and other cultural issues about her country. This video is included in the Lesson 5 slide deck.

TIME: 4:06 minutes

**Focus:** Present fun and interesting facts about culture and life in Bulgaria.

One of the 22 nations where Reach A Village ministry partners are sharing the Gospel, Bulgaria is located in Eastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula (show slide with a map). There are over 8.8 million people who live in Bulgaria. That is about the same as the population of Virginia. Bulgaria is just a little smaller than the U.S. state of Louisiana (show slide with comparison map).

Long before Bulgaria became a Christian nation, some people there worshiped the sun. They did not know about the Bible or Jesus Christ. In the 9th century, brothers named Cyril and Methodius were born to a Christian family in ancient Greece. They became missionaries when they grew up and went to Bulgaria to teach about Jesus and the Bible (slide).

Cyril and Methodius realized they needed to develop an alphabet to translate the Bible into the language of the Bulgarian people. Since this was such a big task, they found students who could help them. This was so great a task, however, that the brothers died before seeing it completed. Even the students began to get discouraged and

eventually quit. They faced too much opposition. Some people even wanted to kill them.

Around this time, a king named Boris became a Christian and invited the students back to finish their mission. He offered to provide them with support and assistance so they could complete their job. They finally finished creating the new alphabet and called it the Cyrillic alphabet in honor of their teacher, Cyril. Bulgaria, then, is the homeland of the Cyrillic alphabet and the center of the spread of Christianity among the Slavic people (people from many countries in Eastern Europe).

The Cyrillic alphabet originally had 43 letters, but it has been modified in modern times to various smaller numbers of letters, depending on the country. Russia, for example, uses 32 letters, while Bulgaria uses 30. More than 50 languages use the Cyrillic alphabet. Some letters, such as A, look similar to the English alphabet, while others look much different or do not even exist in our alphabet. The English alphabet has 26 letters and is based on Latin.

## Mission Verse Video



### ▶ VIDEO 3

In this video, Matthew 28:19-20 is spoken in English and Bulgarian by Deni, a Reach A Village ministry partner in Bulgaria. This video is included in the Lesson 5 slide deck. Click here to view.

TIME: 57 seconds

## Interactive Project/Game

**1. Friends** (*usually called Presents*)—Introduce the traditional Bulgarian game Friends (modified version).

Supplies: pencils and small slips of paper for each child to write their name on, a basket or bowl to draw names out of.

Rules: The game is played with at least five players, but it's more interesting with more players. Have all players write their names on a slip of paper. Put names in the bowl (you may wish to do this in small groups if you have a large group of students). All players line up, and only one player stands in front of them (for a large group, have kids stand in a circle with one player in the center). Each kid draws a name from the basket. The name must be of a kid who is in their group. The person whose name they draw is their "friend." Next, the player in front of the line/center of the circle says to everyone, "Go to your friend and tell him or her Jesus loves you very much and wants your help with the great rescue mission." Then the kid must go to the player whose name has

been drawn and deliver the message. Repeat a couple of times with a different student selected to be the leader.

### 2. Additional Activities:

Kids may color a Bulgarian flag (page 114) as they rewatch the videos with Deni, or you may play a Bulgarian Bible song video for the children (Video 4, below).

## Bulgarian Bible Song Video



### ▶ VIDEO 4

If time allows, you may play part of the Bulgarian Bible Songs video for the children. This video is included in the Lesson 5 slide deck.

TIME: 48:00 minutes



# CODE OF CONDUCT: LOVE

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 more like Jesus. The Gospel changes what we value (the most important things) and how we live and treat people. When the Gospel changes us, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. It is like a code cracks, and a new way of living is unlocked. Once we decide to know and follow Jesus, God calls us to live in a way that treats others like Jesus did. We begin to see people as God does. We see that despite how people are talking or acting, they, too, are 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 love. Everything in the Bible hinges on love. God loves us no matter what. His plan to send Jesus to be our rescuer is the ultimate act of love. Love is showing others how much they mean to you. We can do this by putting others first, showing them we care, and treating them like Jesus would. (Show slide.) Once we become Christians and follow Jesus, everything changes. How we live changes, how we treat people changes, and how we talk changes. God calls us to live out the Great Commission by going and telling others the Gospel and teaching them about Jesus. Sharing Jesus is the best way we can show love to others!

“When Jesus changes us, we reflect His character. Showing love reflects Jesus’ character. Jesus showed the ultimate form of love by becoming a human on earth, living a sinless life, dying on the cross, and rising again so we can know God.

“Let’s crack the love code by treating others like Jesus would and sharing the good news of Jesus. When we do that, we reflect the heart of God!”

## Values Verse

Pass out the **Crack the Love Code** handout (page 117) to unlock 1 John 4:10. You may also show the slide from the Lesson 5 slide deck



and give each child a piece of paper to write the answer on, using the code. **The answer is 1 John 4:10 NIV, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”** Show the slide of the Values Verse when they are finished.

## Review/Discussion Discussion Questions

- 1. What is love?** Love is showing others how much they mean to you. This can be done by putting others first, showing them you care, and treating them like Jesus would.
- 2. How did God show love to us?** By sending His Son Jesus to earth to live, die, and rise again.
- 3. What is one way you can show love this week?** Answers may vary.
- 4. Who can you share the gospel with this week?** Answers may vary.

“We can live out the Great Commission by telling others the ultimate truth, the Gospel! So I challenge you to look for ways to show God’s love this week, including sharing the Gospel and treating others like Jesus does!”

## Closing

### Review Key Points (5 minutes)

SAY: “I am so glad each of you came to VBS (adjust as appropriate) to learn about the World’s Greatest Rescue Mission! Remember, the first step in this mission is to respond to Jesus by putting your faith and trust in Him! He loves you and wants to share this life with you and be with you forever in Heaven.

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

- 1. What does it mean to have faith in God?** Faith is believing that Jesus lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose again. We trust that God loves and cares for us.

- 2. What is the Gospel?** God’s rescue plan to save us from sin’s power by sending Jesus so we can receive forgiveness.

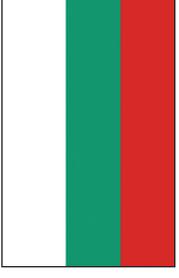
- 3. What is the Great Commission?** Our special assignment from Jesus to teach others the Gospel.

- 4. What is love?** Love is showing others how much they mean to you. You do this by putting others first, showing them you care, and treating them like Jesus would.

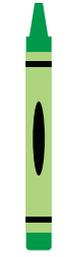
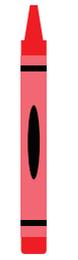
“This week has been the most amazing week ever! I can’t think of a better way to spend our time than having fun together as we learn about who Jesus is and His incredible plan to save us and the world. Always remember that you are loved deeply by Jesus, and He is always there for you, no matter what! 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 having a plan to save us and others.” (Lead the children in prayer and then dismiss them.).



# SPOTLIGHT: BULGARIA



**Your Mission:** Use the color key to color the flag of Bulgaria.



△	+	φ
△	+	φ
△	+	φ

“ **What is our mission after we put our faith in Jesus?**

Our mission is to make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 28:19-20

”

“ **Why should we go and tell others about Jesus?**

Our responsibility is to go and tell others about Jesus so they can experience the joy of knowing Jesus and salvation through him!

Romans 1:14-16

”

“ **How do we go and tell?**

We can tell about Jesus by sharing the Gospel and showing Jesus' love to others through our actions.

Romans 10:14-15

”

“ **Where in the world do people need to hear about Jesus?**

The whole world needs to hear about Jesus—people from every tribe, tongue, nation, group, and language.

Revelation 7:9-10

”

## “ 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

# Crack the LOVE CODE

**Your Mission:** Each letter of the alphabet has a corresponding symbol. Match up the symbol to the correct letter to reveal the verse.



THE CODE KEY								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

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\_\_\_\_\_ " 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 4:10

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" This is love : not

that we loved God,

but that he loved us

and sent his Son as an

atoning sacrifice for

our sins." 1 John 4:10

1 4:10





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DOING MISSIONS DIFFERENTLY