

# Showing God's Love

## By Helping Missionaries

(Mark 16:15)

**Objective:** Students learn that they can show God's love by helping missionaries tell the good news of Jesus' love around the world.

**Materials:** Bible, aluminum foil, small Styrofoam balls, scissors, scraps of construction paper, pictures of missionaries your church supports (preferably some with families who have children); a globe or world map; some dolls or action figures.

**Before Class:** Become familiar with the ministries of one or more missionaries you will present during the class time. If possible, have a short story or facts that will interest children about each person or family. If you have enough prayer cards or pictures for each child in your class, plan to let them take the card home.

Precut aluminum foil into about 12-inch squares and make foil figures for younger children.

As children arrive, have them sit around a table.

### Pre-Session Warm Up

Who knows what a missionary is? (A missionary is a messenger. It's someone that tells other people the Good News about what Jesus came to do for us.)

Most often we think of missionaries as people that go to live in foreign countries far from home to tell people of other cultures about Jesus. But, really, each and every one of us has been called to be a missionary or a messenger of God's Good News. You can tell the others kids in your class at school or in your neighborhood about how good and wonderful our Lord is.

But today we are going to learn more about how we can help missionaries that are in other countries, far away from home, preaching the gospel in foreign lands.

### Opening Prayer

Lord, You have called each of us to be Your messenger. Give us hearts to tell others about Your love and ways. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

### Memory Verse

*And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. (Mark 16:15)*

### Lesson Review

We've been learning about how to show God's love to others.

1. In our first lesson we learned that God's love is everywhere and that he wants us to love Him back with all of our heart, mind, and soul.
2. Next, we learned that God knows all about us. He always knows where we are, what we're doing, what we're thinking and feeling. And, even so, He still loves us completely. In the same way, He wants us to love others, even people who do wrong to us and don't deserve our love. Because that's the way He loves us.
3. Third, we learned that because planet earth belongs to God, we can show others that we love Him by taking care of our environment properly. We did an activity that showed the effects of an oil spill on the ocean, birds, plants and animals. We talked about ways to care for God's possessions.
4. Next, we learned that one way of showing God's love is by being a good neighbor—that is, by thinking of others first and sharing what we have with them. We did an activity to show how sharing brings people together and often brings beautiful things into our lives—we put individual drops of food coloring in a dish of milk. Then when we added drops of dish soap it caused the food coloring drops to swirl together to make a beautiful rainbow.
5. Then we learned that we can show God's love by being compassionate to those who are hurting. God wants us to help

those who are sad, lonely, scared, shy, or feeling rejected. We put Band-Aids on a broken heart and talked about ways we can help people with hurts on the inside.

6. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by forgiving others when they do wrong things to us. We counted out 490 bird seeds to show just how many times 7 times 70 is – that's the number of times God tells us to forgive others!
7. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by using kind words. We put a paper clip on a ramp, but it just sat there like unkind words sit on a hearer's heart. But when we poured oil over the clip, it moved down the ramp, just like how kind words can help move sad things out of a person's life.
8. In the next lesson we learned another way to show God's love is by being a cheerful giver. We learned that when we give people gifts, it makes our gifts become "larger" like seeing them under a magnifying glass. That's because they not only make the person we are giving the gift to feel special, it makes us feel good, too.
9. In last week's lesson we learned another way to show God's love is by cooperating with each other. During that lesson we formed an assembly line to make pretend submarine sandwiches. God wants us to learn how to get along together—helping one another as we work and play with them.

## Lesson

After Jesus' death on the cross, He was buried in the tomb. But three days later he rose from the dead. For the next 50 days he met with the believers and gave them some last minute instructions before He went back up to heaven to prepare the place for us. One of the last things He told His followers has been written down for us in the book of Matthew.

## Matthew 28:18-20

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

So, Jesus gave us a big job to do. That job is to tell every person on Earth the Good News that Jesus died for them so that they could go to heaven.

But, many still have not heard the Good News. That's why some people want to leave home to go out all over the world to tell everyone.

Missionaries have many jobs. It takes many different kinds of people who have many different kinds of knowledge and abilities to do mission work. Some are pilots who use their planes to fly other missionaries from one place to another. Some are language specialists that work on translating the Bible into other languages so that other people can understand the words of God. Some are school teachers that teach other missionary's children. Each missionary uses the skills and abilities God has given them to help spread the Good News about Jesus all over the world.

Right after Jesus went to Heaven, the new churches that the disciples started had missionaries, too. Some were named Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and Timothy. These men went on missionary journeys over land and across the sea. The people who stayed at home became part of Jesus' command to tell everyone in the world about Jesus. They helped these missionaries in many ways.

## 3 John 5-8

*Dear friend, you are being faithful to God when you care for the traveling teachers who pass through, even though they are strangers to you. (6) They have told the church here of your loving friendship. Please continue providing for such teachers in a manner that pleases*

*God. (7) For they are traveling for the Lord, and they accept nothing from people who are not believers. (8) So we ourselves should support them so that we can be their partners as they teach the truth.*

How did this friend of Paul's care for the traveling teachers who passed through his town? It says he provided for them. What do you think they provided? (They probably gathered money and food and other supplies to help them on their journey. And, surely they prayed for them, as well.) He did whatever he could to help the missionaries.

This is true today. Missionaries count on people who stay at home to help them get their job done.

What do you think children can do to help missionaries? (Give part of their allowance as an offering; write letters to the children of missionaries to encourage them; pray for missionaries; send them clothing and other things they might need.)

### **Foil Figures**

Let's act out ways we can help missionaries. We can do this by making foil figures [or, you can use action figures.]

[Form groups of three or four. Hand out foil squares. Pass out scissors and a Styrofoam ball to each student.]

With your foil and ball, make a figure of yourself.

[Instruct children to place the Styrofoam ball in the center of the foil square and smoothly wrap the foil around the ball, bring all ends of the foil together. This will make a head for your figure. The remaining foil ends will be the body. Fan out the ends of the foil. Cut half to three-quarters up the middle to two ends. Make smaller cuts between the middle section and the two outside ends. The outside ends will become the arms, the inside ends will be the legs. By crumpling the foil, make arms and legs.]

Now with your group, make a scene that shows how you can help missionaries. For example, you could have your figures all fold their

hands in prayer or have them all standing up giving an offering to send to the missionaries.

[Make available scraps of construction paper so students can draw and cut out small items to use in their scenes, such as tiny white squares for letters to mail, circles for coins, shapes for clothing such as shirts, pants, and skirts. Let the children use their imaginations. When groups complete their scenes, gather around the table as a large group and have each group share their scene. Have others groups guess what the foil figures are doing.]

Although all of us have different abilities, we can all pray. Put your figure in a praying position.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father, thank You so much for our missionaries. Help them do the hard things they must do every day. Also help us to do our part to help them tell others about You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

### **Learning Activities**

#### **Activity Corner**

Copy a map of the Holy Land and have the children trace Paul's journeys. Talk about the aspects of traveling in his day: how far and difficult the journeys were; how many countries he went to; etc.

Paul was a missionary in the Roman Empire. He started churches in many cities. Paul went on three missionary journeys. He usually started his journeys from **Antioch** in Syria. Paul also went to Rome.

Travel was difficult in Paul's time. There were no planes, trains, cars, or buses. On land, Paul would have walked or ridden a donkey to cities like **Derbe**, **Lystra**, and **Colosse**. Can you find those cities on the map? [Teacher, have the children find and highlight the city names as you mention them.] After visiting these towns and setting up

churches, he wrote letters of encouragement to the believers there that would instruct them in the way they should live their lives. Can you think of what book in the New Testament that Paul wrote to the people in **Ephesus**?

Travel was dangerous. Robbers often hid by a road to rob travelers. Storms made life on a ship very dangerous. One time Paul's ship crashed on the south side of the Island of **Crete** and everyone on it barely made it to shore.

Paul was thrown into prison in **Philippi**. He was also beaten in **Thessalonica**, mocked in **Corinth**, and forced out of many other towns. But many people accepted Paul. They saw that what he said about Jesus was true. We should be thankful for missionaries like Paul.

Have the children write letters to the missionaries that your church supports. Have them draw pictures of themselves and then spend some time praying for these families.

### Game Center

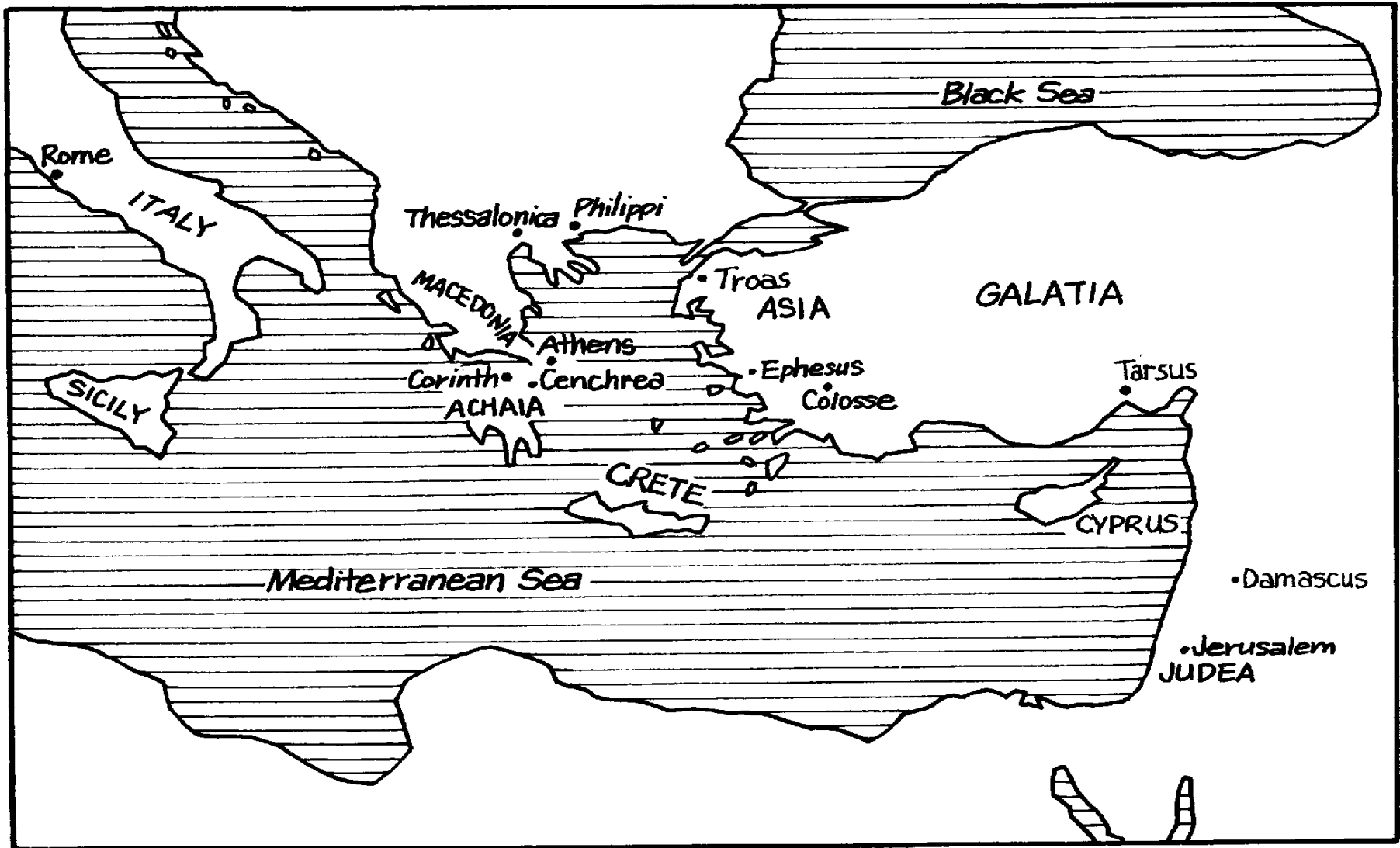
Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

#### **Review Questions:**

1. What is a missionary? (A messenger; someone that tells people about the Good News of Jesus Christ.)
2. Where do missionaries live? (Some live in foreign countries; but God wants each one of us to tell everyone the Good News about Jesus, no matter where we live.)
3. What are some jobs that missionaries have? (Pilots, language specialists, teachers, preachers.)
4. Who are some of the missionaries that we can learn about in the New Testament? (Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and Timothy.)

5. How did the believers in Antioch help the believers in Jerusalem? (They gathered an offering and sent it with Paul and Barnabas to the believers in Jerusalem.)
6. How do you think the people who stay at home can help missionaries who live in faraway countries? (By giving money, sending clothes and other items they need; by praying for them or writing them letters of encouragement.)
7. What can children do to help missionaries? (Give part of their allowance as an offering; write letters to children of missionaries; pray; send clothes and other things to help.)
8. What is the most important thing we can do for missionaries? (Pray.)

WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED (James, 1 and 2 Peter)



WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED (1, 2 and 3 John: Use Asia Minor section of map for Acts.)

WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED (Jude: This letter was passed from church to church. Use map for Acts.)

