



2 It's your serve

Four missions experiences on the theme that we should serve others in Jesus' name

Location: Cambodia

Focus verse: Psalm 100:2 – “Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.”

Overall message: Kids can use practical skills – even skills like dentistry! – to serve others and tell them the Good News of Jesus.

Overview: Missionaries are using their creative skills to share missions with others through the Caravan, an animated resource. Some of the Caravan characters will help share the story of other Christians using their skills to share Jesus by meeting needs. Vietnamese believers living in a floating village on Cambodia's Tonle Sap (TOHN-lay SAHP) Lake learned basic dentistry from a team of American dental volunteers. Even some of the Vietnamese children offer basic dental care to others living on the lake and gain the opportunity to tell villagers about Jesus. Local believers also provide clean water to villagers from a water filtration system provided by donors in the United States.

- Each missions experience is designed to last 10-15 minutes.
- Use as an addition to a weekly meeting or combine for a longer missions focus.
- Customize these resources to fit your needs.



Taking it in

It's your serve — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- Prepare to show the **Life on the lake video** from the DVD-ROM. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **It's your serve focus verse**
 - **Python photo**
 - **Caravan intro**
 - **Southeast Asia map**
- Prepare a package of ramen noodles or other quick-cooking Asian noodle soup. As an easier alternative, break apart the uncooked noodles for the children to sample. Bring chopsticks if you can.

Discuss

- Read the **It's your serve focus verse**. Share that God wants us to serve others. He can use our skills and abilities to do this.
- Explain that some missionaries are using their creative drawing and animation skills to share missions with kids.
- Show **Caravan intro** and read the caption to introduce the Caravan.
- Zeke and his friends are going to help share the story of another group of believers using their skills to serve others.

Explore - Life on the lake

- Ask one volunteer to find Cambodia on the **Southeast Asia map**. Explain that Tonle Sap (TOHN-lay SAHP) Lake in Cambodia is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. Find Vietnam on the map and explain that some Christians from Vietnam are living in Cambodia.
- Explain that Vietnamese Christians who live in Cambodia are meeting the practical needs of their neighbors by providing clean water and basic dental services. They learned dental skills from a team of American dentists.
- Show **Life on the lake video** and tell kids to watch and learn more about what life on the lake is like.

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Taking it in

It's your serve — MX 1 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Activity – Python for dinner

- Show the **Python photo**.
- Explain that python is a common dish served on the lake. Villagers keep the python fresh by placing it in a net and submerging it in the lake until it is time to prepare it.
- Tell students that though you are fresh out of python, you have noodles similar to ones they eat in Cambodia. If possible, let the children try to eat the noodles with chopsticks.

Pray

Pray for the people living on Tonle Sap Lake. Pray for Christian workers who are sharing the Gospel with them. Pray that villagers will come to faith in Jesus.



Taking it up

It's your serve — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- Prepare to show the **Dentists on the lake prayer video** from the DVD-ROM. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **It's your serve focus verse** (if you haven't already done so)

Recap (optional)

Ask for volunteers to read the focus verse. Remind the group that Jesus wants us to help others. Christians in Cambodia are using their skills to serve others and tell them about Jesus.

Pray - Dentists on the lake prayer video

- Explain that Vietnamese Christians living in the floating village of Chonng Khneas (CHOHNG kuh-NAY-us), Cambodia, recently visited Kbal Taol (kuh-BAHL tuh-AHL), another floating village on Tonle Sap (TOHN-lay SAHP) Lake. Only one person in this village is a follower of Jesus.
- The Vietnamese Christians visited the village on a mission trip. They learned basic dentistry from a team of American volunteers. Then they put those skills into practice. They use the skills they learned as an opportunity to tell others on the lake about Jesus.
- Show the **Dentists on the lake prayer video** from the DVD-ROM. It will guide your group in prayer as you watch it. Encourage the children to use this as a true time of prayer.



Giving it up

It's your serve — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- Bring a clear glass or bottle of clean water and a glass or bottle of muddy water.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Water jug photo**

Recap (optional)

Jesus wants us to serve others. Vietnamese Christians living in Cambodia are helping others in Jesus' name by meeting their practical needs.

Activity — Making dirty water clean

- Show the dirty water. Ask kids to count how many “yucky things” they see floating in the water. Would they drink water that people have used to wash their clothes or take a bath? Why or why not?
- Explain that the people living on Tonle Sap (TOHN-lay SAHP) Lake in Cambodia do not have enough clean drinking water. They drink and cook with water from the lake. This is the same water they use when they go to the bathroom, wash their clothes and take a bath.
- Now show the clean water. Tell students that there are ways to make dirty water clean. Christians are providing clean water to people in three floating villages. Christians in the United States gave money to install a water filtration system on the boat Christian workers use to visit the villages.
- Remind kids that God wants us to serve others by meeting their needs. Because their most important need is to know Him, Christians write “God loves you” in Vietnamese on the 5-gallon water jug that is provided to villagers.
- Show the **Water jug photo**.
- Remind students that we all need water to live, but drinking dirty water can make us sick. Clean water is very important.
- Explain that \$5 will buy a 5-gallon bottle of clean water for the people living on Tonle Sap Lake.
- Ask students how long it would take them to make \$5. What kinds of jobs could they do to make enough money to buy one water jug? What could they sacrifice or give up to give \$5 to missions?
- Encourage children to follow through with a commitment to give an offering to missions this month.

Pray

Pray that those living on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake will have enough clean water. Thank God for Christian workers who are providing clean water and sharing the Gospel.



Taking it personally

It's your serve — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- Prepare to play the **Telling a story** audio from the DVD-ROM. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **God can use me handout.**

Recap (optional)

God asks us to take care of those who are in need. The greatest need people have is to know God. We can share Him with others by using practical skills.

Audio – Telling a story

- Explain that Hanh is a 15-year-old girl who accepted Jesus two years ago. She is one of only seven or eight believers in her floating village in Cambodia.
- Share that one of the skills Hanh is learning is telling Bible stories to share with people living in her village and other villages on the lake. Many of the people living on the lake cannot read. They learn Bible stories by hearing and sharing them with others.
- Play the audio **Telling a story** from the DVD-ROM.

Activity – God can use me

- Explain that everyone can learn Bible stories to tell others, just like Hanh. It's important for Christians to be able to share God's Word with others.
- Remind the group that they can use all their skills and gifts to tell people about Jesus. Whatever they can do can be used for Jesus.
- Distribute the **God can use me handout** to each child. Ask children to work with a partner or small group to fill in their skills and ways they can use those to tell people about Jesus. (Ex. "I can mow the lawn, so I can minister to a neighbor and tell them that I'm mowing their lawn to show Jesus' love." "I can help my teacher, so I can tell her that at church, I'm learning to be a helper.") Encourage children to learn a Bible story to tell to their neighbors and friends.

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Taking it personally

It's your serve — MX 4 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Option for younger children

- Ask children to draw a picture of themselves serving others.

Pray

Pray for Hanh and other Christians as they learn Bible stories to share with those who do not follow Jesus. Ask God to give them courage as they share His love in their village. Ask God to give your kids courage to use their skills to tell people about Jesus.



Going further

It's your serve

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Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

Plan a service day for your church where children can use their skills to help others. Work with your church staff to identify particular needs and match skills of your children to the need. Service can be as simple as having younger children pick up trash in a neighborhood, or as specific as having a child who plays the piano play at a local retirement home. Let the children be a part of the planning. Tell the church that the children are learning that everything they do can point to Jesus. This is an important step in developing a lifetime of missions service.

The most basic physical need is water. Yet so many around the world do not have access to clean, safe drinking water. You can help. Since 1997 WMU® has been meeting one of the most basic human needs of missionaries through Pure Water, Pure Love®. The goal of this ministry is to provide missionaries and the people they serve with clean drinking water, free from disease-causing microorganisms, at no cost to them. For more information how you can be a part, visit wmu.com and click *Pure Water, Pure Love* under Ministry.

Interested in learning more about Zeke and all his friends? Check out caravanfriends.org for more children's resources and activities from Asia.