



2 How we share

Four missions experiences on the theme that God can use our different skills to bring people to saving faith in Jesus Christ

Location: *Amazon jungle*

Focus verse: Romans 12:6 “According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts ...”

Overall message: Missionaries start churches, share the Gospel and help those in need. God uses many different jobs to accomplish these tasks.

Overview: The Amazon jungle is one of the most unique and diverse places on the planet. Some of the most incredible animals, birds, plants and insects live in the midst of this massive forest. Within that same jungle are people who need to hear and know Jesus. Many of them have never had contact with anyone from the outside world. God gives different people different gifts that allow them to minister even in the remotest places in the world. You, too, have been given a special gift by God to use in service for Him.

- 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

How we share — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Amazon Jungle photos and facts**
 - **Amazing Amazon true or false**
 - **Latin America and Caribbean map**
- Tape the **Amazon jungle photos and facts** on the walls in your room.
- Bring a bag of small chocolate candy so that each child can have one piece.

Activity – The amazing Amazon

- Tell the kids you hope they brought their bug spray because today you're going to the Amazon jungle!
- Show them where the Amazon jungle is on the **Latin America and Caribbean map**.
- Point out how big the jungle is and share that the Amazon covers 2.5 million square miles, more than half the entire country of Brazil!
- Explain that they are going to learn more facts about the jungle and that you've posted photos and facts around the room.
- Invite kids to walk around and discover why the Amazon is so amazing.
- Tell them to pay close attention to the facts because you will be testing their Amazon knowledge soon.
- After the kids have had time to read the facts, ask them to sit down and face you.
- Tell them you are going to share a few facts about the Amazon jungle and they will need to decide if the statements are true or false.
- Ask them to try not to look at the facts on the wall.
- Read facts from the **Amazing Amazon true or false** document and ask for volunteers to share if they think the statement is true or false.

Discuss

- Ask kids if they were surprised by anything they learned about the Amazon jungle. Have them share some of those things.
- Tell them that just as the Amazon jungle is important to the world, the people living within the jungle are important to God. They need to be told about Jesus and the love that He has for them. God calls people to share about Him where they live. He also calls people to go to the jungles of the Amazon to share. God has equipped people with the right gifts and abilities to minister in the jungle.
- Ask kids to join in a time of prayer and share that afterward there is one more fun fact about the Amazon jungle you'd like them to know.

(MX 1 continued)



Taking it in

How we share — MX 1 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Pray

Pray that all the people living in the Amazon jungle will hear the Gospel. Ask that God will put these people on your hearts to pray for often in the coming days.

- After the prayer, ask kids if they knew chocolate also came from the Amazon jungle. Cocoa trees grow there, which is what chocolate is made from.
- Hand a piece of chocolate to each child and tell them, as they enjoy it, to remember the people of the Amazon jungle.



Taking it up

How we share — MX 2

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A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Sweet flight video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Paper airplane instructions**
 - **Airplane prayer request sheet**
 - **How we share focus verse**

Recap (optional)

The Amazon jungle is an amazing place, with lots of animals, plants and even people. God loves these people and wants them to know about Him.

Discuss

- Remind the kids that it is very hard to get to many of the people living in the Amazon jungle.
- God has equipped missionaries with the right gifts and abilities to reach and to minister to the people living there.
- Read the **How we share focus verse** aloud with the group.
- Share that God uses a missionary with a very special gift to get the Gospel in and out of the jungle.
- Tell kids that they are going to watch a video about Andy, whose missionary job is to fly people to the hard-to-reach places.
- Show the **Sweet flight video**.

Prayer Activity- Paper airplanes

- Share that because of Andy's unique skills as a pilot, many people are able to hear about Jesus who otherwise might never hear.
- Distribute one **Airplane prayer request sheet** to each child.
- Ask volunteers to read the prayer request for Andy and his work that is written on the paper.
- Pray as a group as each request is read.
- After praying, tell kids to turn their papers over to make their own paper airplane.
- Make sure the **Paper airplane patterns and instructions** are available if needed.
- Ask kids to take their planes home to use as a reminder to pray during the week.

Option: Assemble small balsa wood model planes, available at craft stores, ahead of time. Make one for each child and allow them to color or write prayer requests on their plane to take home with them as a reminder.



Giving it up

How we share — MX 3

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A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Missionary jobs video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Missionary jobs handout** for each child

Recap (optional)

The Amazon jungle is an amazing place with lots of different plants and animals. Many people also live in the jungle. These people need to hear about Jesus so missionaries are using their special abilities to find ways to reach them.

Video- Missionary jobs

- Remind kids how God uses Andy's skills as a pilot to take the Gospel into the Amazon jungle.
- Share that just like Andy has a unique job, so do other missionaries. God uses lots of different gifts and skills to do many different jobs.
- Show the **Missionary jobs video**.

Activity- Price points

- After the video, ask if any of the missionary jobs were a surprise to them.
- Explain that every ministry has tools they use and each tool costs money to buy. Distribute the **Missionary jobs handout** to each child.
- Instruct kids to match the ministry tool with the missionary job.

(MX 3 continued)



Giving it up

How we share — MX 3 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Discuss

- After kids have worked through the handout, remind them that we may not have the skills to fly a plane or treat a patient, but we can all give so that others can share God's story of redemption.
- Spend time discussing how much they think each ministry tool costs.
- Ask kids to think about something they want that costs as much as something on the list. What on the list do they think they could pay for? Would they be willing to skip getting the thing they want and give that money to international missions instead?
- Share that if they are willing, they can make a personal commitment to God about what they would like to give to help missionaries. Ask them to write it down on their piece of paper.
- If the children are interested in giving to missions, they can bring you their offering at a later date to be given through your church.

Pray

Ask God to provide every need for every missionary job. Pray for God to use you in meeting those needs.



Taking it personally

How we share — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **My ministry calendar**
 - **How we share focus verse** (if you haven't already)

Recap (optional)

Missionaries use different jobs to meet needs and share the Gospel with people around the world. Like the missionaries, God has equipped you to do a job for Him. While the skills we have may not fit every job, every one of us can give so that others can do the job with the gift God has given them.

Activity – Making plans

- Begin by asking kids to share one activity or interest.
- Tell them that they are going to put into action what they've been learning by creating a ministry project in their community based on their interests and giftings.
- Choose an interest or activity you would like to focus on with your group. (For example: **Sports** – start a basketball tournament at a local community center. **Outdoors** – hand out bottles of water at a local park)
- Use the **My ministry calendar** to choose a date for the project as well as plan additional dates for ministry preparation.

(Other ideas might be: a yard clean-up crew for the elderly, a sports camp for younger children, starting a Christian club at school, volunteering at a soup kitchen, making sandwiches and taking them to the homeless. The possibilities are limitless! Even young children can participate in ministry events by handing out water bottles, picking up trash, etc... Plan to have plenty of adult help at your ministry event to work alongside the children.)

- Guide the ministry planning, but allow children the chance to brainstorm ideas and use their own unique skills and gifts.

Pray

Read the **How we share focus verse** aloud with the group.

Share that no matter where we are, God has given each of us a special and unique gift that can be used in serving others and helping them to know Jesus.

Hold a commissioning service / prayer time for the kids. Pray for God's blessing, protection and success as they step out to serve using the gifts God has equipped them with.



Going further

How we share

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Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

- Check out some specific ways your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® support missionaries, including Andy Kennedy. Go to <http://www.imb.org/main/give/lmw>. (Find Andy's story by clicking on "The Americas" section of the world map).

Share with your group some of the missionary expenses reported in these Lottie Moon@Work stories. Consider a way to raise funds to cover one of these expenses.

- Consider ways your whole church can be involved in the ministry event from MX 4. Let the children have the honor of leading your congregation in ministry.