



## 1 Extreme obedience — adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that nothing should stand in the way of obeying Jesus

**Location:** *Senegal*

**Focus verse:** 1 Peter 2:21 “For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps” (HCSB).

**Overall message:** We often need to make personal sacrifices to teach people about Jesus.

**Overview:** Jesus wants us to obey Him no matter what, even when it is difficult. Sometimes we have to give up things that are important to us in order to obey God and teach others about Him. Two children from the United States traveled with their parents to live in West Africa for three months. They had to leave their friends and all their belongings in the U.S. Their parents had to quit their jobs. God is using this family’s obedience to teach people about Him.

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



# Taking it in

## Extreme obedience — MX 1

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*A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience*

### *Prepare*

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Off the grid** video. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **Extreme obedience focus verse**
  - **Senegal map**
- If possible, display a world map or globe.

### *Introduction*

- Introduce the missions experience by telling the group that they are going to meet a special family that made a really big move. Tell them that the Striker\* family moved from Idaho to Senegal for three months to tell people about Jesus.
- On a world map or globe, point out the distance between Idaho and Senegal to demonstrate the distance the Strikers traveled to follow God's calling. Show them the **Senegal map**.

### *Video - Off the grid*

- Play the **Off the grid video** from the DVD-ROM.
- After the video, let the kids discuss the cultural differences they saw. How is life for the Strikers different in Senegal than it is in the U.S.?
- What things did the Strikers give up in order to share Jesus in Senegal?
- How do you know that the Strikers believe it was worth the sacrifice to go to Senegal? (Remind the group about the new believers and baptisms they saw in the video!)
- Show the **Extreme obedience focus verse** to the group.
- Ask how the Strikers obeyed this verse.

### *Pray*

Thank God for the Strikers' obedience to go to Senegal and pray for the new believers who came to Christ because of the Strikers' testimony.

***\*The names of this family have been changed to protect the work among the people of Senegal and protect Christians from persecution.***



# Taking it up

## Extreme obedience — MX 2

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*A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience*

### *Prepare*

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **Senegal photos.** Tape these around the room.
  - **Senegal prayer guide**

### *Recap (optional)*

We are to follow Jesus in obedience, even when it's hard. Sometimes obedience means stepping out of where we feel comfortable. The Strikers gave up their life in America for three months to minister to the people of Senegal.

### *Discuss*

- Share that most Senegalese do not follow Christianity. Most follow a religion called Islam. Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Some people believe in many spirits and ghosts.
- If the Strikers had not gone to Senegal, many of the people still wouldn't know about the truth of Jesus Christ.
- What are some ways the kids think they should pray for the Strikers and for the people of Senegal?

### *Prayer time*

- Give each child a **Senegal prayer guide**.
- Ask the children to spread out in front of one of the photos from Senegal.
- Tell them to walk around the room, pause in front of one of the photos and pray for the request written on the prayer guide.
- **Option for younger children:** break into small groups with a leader. The leader can read the prayer guide and instruct the children how to pray.



# Giving it up

## Extreme obedience — MX 3

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*A 10- to 15-minute giving experience*

### *Prepare*

- Prepare to show the **Kids across culture** video from the DVD-ROM. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **Plane ticket to Senegal**. Make enough copies for everyone in the group to have one.

### *Recap (optional)*

We are to follow Jesus in obedience, even when it's hard. Sometimes obedience means stepping out of where we feel comfortable. The Strikers gave up their life in America and spent a lot of their own money to minister to the people of Senegal.

### *DVD – Kids across culture*

- Show the **Kids across culture** video from the DVD-ROM.

### *Discuss*

- Share how we are to show Christ's love to others, even if we have to give up some things we might want or enjoy. Remind kids that Jesus gave up His place in heaven to give us a way back to God.
- Explain that the Strikers understood that each one of the children in Senegal, like the ones in the video, needs to know about Jesus. They were willing to give up life in the United States, pay for expensive plane tickets and live life among the people in Senegal.
- Say that sharing Jesus with people often costs a lot of money. If your church takes up a regular offering for missions, remind your group about its purpose.
- Give each kid a **Plane ticket to Senegal**. Tell them that a plane ticket to Senegal and back to the U.S. costs about \$1,300. Help children understand how important it is for Christians to commit to give so that people all over the world have a chance to hear God's Word. Would they be willing to pay \$1,300 or more one day so that someone could hear about Jesus?
- Ask each child to bring home the ticket as a reminder that God wants us to be willing to sacrifice and give so that everyone can know Him. Let them write their names on the ticket and make up information for the rest of the ticket.

### *Pray*

Pray that each child in your group would be willing to sacrifice and give to show the world about Jesus' love.



# Taking it personally

## Extreme obedience — MX 4

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*A 10- to 15-minute serving experience*

### *Prepare*

- Bring two empty buckets, or similar containers, for the relay.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **My village** handout. Make a copy for each child.

### *Recap (optional)*

We are to follow Jesus in obedience, even when it's hard. Sometimes obedience means stepping out from where we feel comfortable. The Strikers gave up their life in America for three months to live among and minister to the people of Senegal.

### *Activity – Bucket relay*

- Explain that in Senegal, most people transport heavy items by carrying them on their heads. They start with small loads when they're young and work up to heavier items as they grow, so they have excellent balance by the time they are adults. The Strikers learned about this while living in West Africa.
- Divide your group into two lines at one end of the room. Set two chairs at the opposite end of the room.
- Have the first child in each line balance a bucket on their head. Each child must walk with the bucket, across the room, around the chair and back to their line to pass the bucket to the next child.
- Hands may be used to balance the bucket. Blocks or stuffed animals can be put in the bucket to add weight – this actually makes it easier to keep balance.
- For a hot-weather twist, play outside and fill the buckets with water!

### *Activity- My village*

- Tell the kids that because the Strikers were willing to live in the village and learn the culture, they formed relationships with the people and were able to tell them about Jesus.
- Give them a copy of the **My village** handout.
- Tell them that even though they live in a neighborhood or community, not a village in Africa, they still have relationships with people who need Jesus' love.
- Ask them to write in the name of someone at each "village" stop to whom they can minister. Tell them to add places where they frequently go, that might not be pictured.

### *Pray*

Close in prayer, thanking God for the way He is at work in these children's lives. Ask God to make you all aware of people in your community who need to know Jesus.



# Going further

## Extreme obedience

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*Ideas for mission projects based on the theme*

Ask the group how much time it would take to raise enough to send one missionary to Senegal. Would your church join your children's ministry in raising \$1,300 for missions? Make a plan to raise this money (or more!) to give to your church's missions offering or to a team from your church who is preparing for an international missions trip. Plan a car wash or bake sale to help raise the money.

Tell your group about the many children in the U.S. and around the world who don't have any toys of their own. Instruct your group to go through their things at home and put all the toys they no longer play with in a box. Have them bring the boxes to the next class to donate their old toys to a children's home, orphanage or shelter in your community.

Get younger children excited about God's work in Africa at **[Africatales.org](http://Africatales.org)**.