



Extreme service adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that Jesus calls us to serve those in need

Location: *South Africa*

Focus verse: Matthew 18:5 “And whoever welcomes one child like this in My name welcomes Me” (HCSB).

Overall message: Jesus wants us to help people in difficult circumstances.

Overview: Jesus tells us in the Bible that we are supposed to take care of orphans and other people in difficult situations. Many Christians in South Africa are serving Jesus by helping babies who do not have parents to take care of them. Some of their parents cannot afford to raise another baby or, sadly, don't want a baby. Other parents have died because of deadly diseases. God is using Christians to take care of these children and show them the love of Jesus.

- 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.

Leader's note: *These missions experiences will focus on the needs of orphans in South Africa. Please be sensitive to children in your group who have been adopted or who do not live with their parents.*



Taking it in

Extreme service — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-Rom, download and print:
 - **South Africa map**
 - **Extreme service focus verse**
 - **South Africa photos**

Introduction

- Introduce the missions experience by pointing out the South Africa map. If you have a world map or globe, let kids find the distance between your state and South Africa.
- Tell your group that you'll be learning about South Africa, but most importantly about how Jesus is using Christians to help people there know about Him.
- Show the South Africa photos and let the kids read the captions aloud.
- Explain that South Africa has 11 official languages. Most people speak Afrikaans or English, but others speak languages like Swazi and Zulu.

Activity – Mbube

- Explain that “mbube” [pronounced BOO-bay] is a Zulu word for lion. You are going to play this game.
- Players should make a large circle with two blindfolded players in the middle. One player in the middle is the lion and the other one is the impala. The object of the game is for the lion to catch the impala. Consider going outside if your room doesn't allow for a large enough circle.
- Players in the circle begin quietly saying to the lion, “mbube, mbube!” As the lion gets closer to the impala, the circle chants faster and louder. If the lion is far away, the circle chants quietly.
- If the lion fails to catch the impala in a minute, a new lion is chosen, and if the lion catches the impala, a new impala is chosen.

Discuss

- Show the children the **Extreme service focus verse**.
- Tell them that many people in South Africa need our help, but most importantly they need to know about Jesus.
- Explain that they will be learning about children in South Africa who are orphans and how Christians are welcoming them into their lives to help them and love them.

Pray

Thank God for the opportunity to learn about South Africa. Pray that the people there will hear about Jesus.



Taking it up

Extreme service — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Children in need video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print the
 - **Children in need prayer guide**. Make a copy for each child.
- Bring a bag of small, colored candies, such as Skittles® or M&Ms®.
- Have crayons available to use with the handout.

Recap (optional)

People in South Africa need the love of Jesus. Many children in South Africa have difficult lives due to poverty and sickness. Other children have no home and no parents to take care of them.

Video – Children in need

- Play the **Children in need video** from the DVD-ROM.

Prayer time

- Give each child 5 different colored candies and a **Children in need prayer guide**.
- Discuss ways you can pray for the orphans and for workers, like Ella and Jackie.
- Direct children to color in the circles on their prayer guides to match the color of their candies. For each piece of candy, ask them to write out a request.
- Encourage older children to get creative with their request. For example, what does yellow make them think about? Yellow might remind them to pray that Jesus would shine in their lives.
- Let the kids eat the candy, as they color each circle.
- Take time to pray aloud, letting each child voice one of the requests on their sheet.
- Ask the children to take home the prayer guides and when they see those colors or eat something that color, to pray for that request.



Giving it up

Extreme service — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **What to buy handout.** Make one copy for each child.

Recap (optional)

People in South Africa need the love of Jesus. Many children in South Africa have difficult lives due to poverty and sickness. Other children have no home and no parents to take care of them. Jesus wants us to be a part of caring for orphans and others in need.

Activity — Let's go shopping!

- Give each kid a **What to buy handout**.
- Explain that they will “go shopping” with the \$50 amount on the top of their handout. Show them where to subtract the amounts as they shop.
- Tell them that they will see items they might want and also things that babies need.
- Instruct them to spend the entire \$50 by circling the items they choose to buy.
- Option for younger children: Complete the worksheet together. Stop at each item and ask if they want to buy it. Help them keep track of the balance.
- Another option: If you have the time to prepare, use play money and actual items placed around the room. Let children “shop” by walking around the room.

Discuss

- Ask the children if they chose to spend the money on themselves or on the baby.
- Explain that it's not wrong to buy things we enjoy, but that we must be willing to help others with our money.
- Tell them that giving to help others sometimes means sacrificing things we might want, but it's doing what Jesus wants us to do.
- Ask how they feel when they give something to someone else. We will feel blessed when we give to others, even if it means doing without something we want. Jesus wants us to be generous so that others will know about Him.
- If your church gives money to international missions, explain that the offering helps support missionaries in places like South Africa who are telling people the Good News of Jesus.
- Encourage them to live a life that gives sacrificially and generously.

(MX 3 continued)



Giving it up

Extreme service — MX 3 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Pray

Ask God to help you give generously so that babies in South Africa, and other children, will have what they need and hear about Jesus.



Taking it personally

Extreme service — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Door of Hope video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Extreme service focus verse**.
- Bring large boxes or brown paper grocery bags for the kids to decorate.

Recap (optional)

People in South Africa need the love of Jesus. Many children in South Africa have difficult lives due to poverty and sickness. Other children have no home and no parents to take care of them. Jesus wants us to be a part of caring for orphans and others in need.

DVD – Door of Hope

- Read the **Extreme service focus verse** with the kids. Tell them they will see people who are definitely living out this verse.
- Play the **Door of Hope video** from the DVD-ROM.

Discuss

- Ask the kids how they feel after watching that video. Could they tell how much Jesus loves every child in the world?
- Explain that Safiya and Daisy are volunteer missionaries. That means they gave up their own money and their own time to show love to the babies at the Door of Hope orphanage.
- At Door of Hope, children are loved and cared for, but they also hear about the love of Jesus. That's most important!
- It might be hard for your group to travel to South Africa, but brainstorm ways kids can minister to children in need in your town.

Activity – Diaper drive

- Plan a diaper drive at your church.
- Ask church members to bring in a variety of sizes.

(MX 4 continued)



Giving it up

Extreme service — MX 4 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

- Plan a time for the kids to bring the diapers to the social services department or a children's hospital. Think of other ministries in your community or specific families who might need diapers.
- If you have time in class, ask the children to decorate the collection boxes or bags and put them around the church where people will see them.

Pray

Ask God to show you ways to serve children right where you are so that those children can hear about Jesus.



Going further

Extreme obedience

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Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

Follow through with the diaper drive explained in MX 4. This is a great way for the children in your church to serve children in need, right where you live. If possible, get the whole church involved. Include a Bible storybook and invitation to your church with each bag of diapers.

Consider a place where older children from your church might go to show love to babies. Perhaps a trip to a children's hospital or even a local daycare might be appropriate.

For additional resources for a younger audience, go to www.AfricaTales.org.

For more on the Door of Hope ministry, go to <http://www.africastories.org/door-of-hope> or <http://www.doorofhope.co.za>.

For more on the orphan ministry, visit <http://www.africastories.org/orphan-ministry/overwhelming-need>.

For more on child-headed households, see <http://www.africastories.org/world-aids-day/town-of-graves>.

Get your kids and students directly involved with ministries like the Door of Hope through OneLife. Choose a OneLife project and transform lives by meeting both physical and spiritual needs. To find projects go to www.onelifematters.com.