



3 At home with Jesus — adventure guide

Location: *Thailand*

Focus verse: Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Overall message: Missionaries share Jesus at home and throughout the world.

Overview: As Christians, our mission field starts at home and stretches throughout the world. It’s the same for missionaries who live in another country. Caroline is a missionary kid who lives in Thailand. She knows that “home” is an important mission field for her. She has learned to appreciate the Thai culture so that she can share Christ with her friends.



Taking it in

At home with Jesus — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare the **Scenes from Thailand slideshow**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
 - From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **At home with Jesus focus verse**
 - **Southeast Asia map**
 - **Buddhism fact sheet**

Introduction

- Ask one volunteer to find Thailand on the **Southeast Asia map**.
- Explain that Thailand is a Buddhist country in Southeast Asia. Tell them you'll explain Buddhism more after the video.
- Tell the kids that Thailand is known as “the land of smiles” because Thai people are friendly and very polite.
- Read the **At home with Jesus focus verse**. Share that Jesus wants us to share His love starting at home and going throughout the whole world.

Slideshow – Scenes from Thailand

- Show **Scenes from Thailand** from the DVD-ROM.
- After the slideshow, ask the kids about some of their favorite scenes. What would they want to see if they visited Thailand?
- Ask kids to remember the scenes of the Buddhists. (Consider playing the video back and pausing on one of the pictures of Buddhists at the temple).

Discuss

- Read the **Buddhism fact sheet** to the kids.
- Discuss the differences between Buddhism and Christianity. For each fact about Buddhism, can your kids explain what Christians believe?
- Explain that Thailand is home to many Buddhist festivals, including Songkran (Sohng-KRAHN). Discuss the Songkran festival:
 - Songkran is a water festival held each April 13-15 to celebrate the New Year.
 - Traditionally, Songkran symbolizes “cleansing.” Like “spring cleaning” in the U.S., many Thais clean their homes during this time.

(MX 1 continued)



Taking it in

At home with Jesus — MX 1 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

- Traditional Thai Buddhists also participate in a “cleansing” ceremony at their local wat (WAHT) or temple. As a way of paying respect to the statue of Buddha, Thai people pour a small amount of scented water onto the Buddha’s hands. Some Thai families also pay respect to their elder family members in the same way and give a towel, a box of handkerchiefs or soap as gifts to older family members.
- Today, Songkran has become a popular festival for both Thais and tourists. Since it occurs during the hottest time of the year, Songkran has also become a giant water fight. In the northern city of Chiang Mai, both Thais and tourists gather around the old city moat with buckets and water guns, drenching all who want to participate.
- Tell the kids that during this time of the year missionaries in Thailand take the opportunity to tell people that Jesus offers true cleansing from sins.

Pray

Thank God for the missionaries in Thailand who are sharing the love of Jesus. Pray that many Buddhists will accept Jesus as their Savior.



Taking it up

At home with Jesus — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Paper lantern pattern.** Make enough copies for each kid to have one.

Recap

Most people in Thailand do not know Jesus. Missionaries who live there are telling the people about Jesus. The Thai people enjoy many festivals. Missionaries use these festivals as witnessing opportunities. They know they have to share Jesus at home and around the world, just like we do.

Discuss

- Share that Loi Krathong (lo-ee krah-THOHNG) is another Buddhist festival. Loi Krathong is held each November. Share these facts:
 - During the festival, Thais launch lanterns, called Khom fai (comb fig) or fire kites, into the night sky.
 - Thais launch the lanterns for good luck. Thai Buddhists believe the lanterns carry away their sin and bad luck from the past year. Although Thais release lanterns at other times of the year for good luck, the Loi Krathong festival is the only time Thai Buddhists believe they can release their sins in this way.
- Remind students that we know Jesus paid the sacrifice for our sins. The Bible promises that He forgives those who confess their sins to Him.

Prayer activity

- Give each child a copy of the **paper lantern pattern**.
- Ask them to write one prayer request for Thailand on each “strand” of the lantern.
- They might prefer to think of their own, but here are some suggestions:
 - For Buddhists to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.
 - For missionaries to find chances to share Jesus’ love.
 - For Thai people to have Bibles in their own language.
 - For missionaries to have things they need.
 - For new churches to start in Thailand.
- Help them cut and staple their lanterns, as shown in the pattern.

(MX 2 continued)



Taking it up

At home with Jesus — MX 2 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Pray

- Take plenty of time to pray through the requests the kids have listed on their lanterns.
- Allow children time to share the requests they have listed.
- If there is time, let the children decorate their lanterns.
- Encourage them to take their lanterns home as a prayer reminder.



Giving it up

At home with Jesus — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Thai witnessing resources photo**
- Bring an assortment of snacks (candy, cookies, gum – things your group would especially enjoy). Set them up on a table with prices or point values.
- Prepare to reward the kids for all good behavior. From the beginning of your time together, give them a point (or sticker or play money) for smiles, sitting nicely, answering a question, etc. They will be given the choice at the end to spend their points on snacks or trade them in for money to give to missions. Try to give six points to each child.
- Ask adults in the church if they would be willing to give \$1 for each point that the children sacrifice. Explain you want to teach children the importance of sacrificing something they want in order for someone to hear about Jesus. You may give them a limit (up to \$6 or whatever they feel comfortable giving). Be sure to keep a list of givers.

Recap

Most people in Thailand do not know Jesus. Missionaries who live there are telling the people about Jesus. The Thai people enjoy many festivals. Missionaries use these festivals as witnessing opportunities. They know they have to share Jesus at home and around the world, just like we do.

Discuss

- Show the **Thai witnessing resources photo**. Explain that this is a book and DVD that Christians use to witness in Thailand.
- Share that many Thai people do not yet know Jesus as their Savior.
- Explain that some Thai Baptists and Christian workers share the Gospel using the book in the photo. In Northern Thailand, where Christianity is growing the fastest, Christian workers are also using a new evangelistic video that tells a story of love and forgiveness.

Activity — Snack or sacrifice?

- Explain that each of the resources costs about \$3. For \$6, a missionary can have powerful tools to use when telling someone about Christ.
- Point out that each of them now has six points.

(MX 3 continued)



Giving it up

Extreme service — MX 3 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

- Explain that you have brought snacks and they can cash in their points for snacks OR they can give up snacks and trade in the points.
- Tell them that adults in the church have chosen to match \$1 for every point that they sacrifice.
- Have an offering plate or basket for kids to put in their “points” should they choose to give to missions. They can simply write down the number of points on a piece of paper and put it in the plate.
- Add up the number of points and let them know that the same number of dollars will be given to missions!
- Put away the uneaten snacks. Don’t give them to the kids. Remember, the idea is to teach sacrifice.
- Be sure to follow through with collecting the dollars and giving to missions through your church. If possible, ask the kids to write thank-you notes to the adult sponsors.

Pray

Thank God for the sacrifice of your group and the generosity of your church family.

Note: This giving idea came from a church who asked kids to sacrifice points they had earned all year. They gave up getting some big prizes so that money would be given to missions instead. Adults were happy to sponsor the children and encourage the spirit of sacrifice. For more ideas on getting your church involved in giving to missions, visit the “give” tab at imb.org.



Taking it personally

At home with Jesus — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Caroline in Thailand video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM download and print:
 - **What Jesus means to me handout**. Make enough copies for each kid to have one.

Recap

Most people in Thailand do not know Jesus. Missionaries who live there are telling the people about Jesus. The Thai people enjoy many festivals. Missionaries use these festivals as witnessing opportunities. They know they have to share Jesus at home and around the world, just like we do.

Video – Caroline in Thailand

- Show the **Caroline in Thailand video** from the DVD.
- Remind the kids that though Thailand is a foreign country to them, it's home to Caroline and her family.
- Explain that Caroline, other Christian workers and Thai Christians want to find ways to tell people around them about Jesus.
- How did they see Caroline sharing the love of Jesus?
- Discuss ways that students can tell people around them about Jesus.

Activity – What Jesus means to me

- One important way that Christians witness is by telling people what Jesus means to them.
- Give each child a **What Jesus means to me handout**.
- Give them a few minutes to think about what Jesus means to them and write down their thoughts.
- Encourage them to be creative. Some might choose to write a poem or draw a picture instead.
- With young children, tell them what Jesus means to you and give them a few minutes to talk about what it feels like to know that Jesus loves them.
- If there is time, break into pairs and give the kids a chance to practice sharing with each other.
- Remind them that now they are ready to share that message with others.

Pray

Thank God that each of you can be a witness at home and around the world.



Going further

At home with Jesus

Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

Plan a “kids day” in an underprivileged area of your community or a neighborhood currently unreached by your church. Involve students in the planning of games and activities. Include adults to supervise food and games, but allow students to do most of the work. Encourage students to pray as they plan games and activities to share God’s love.