



2 Friends from home — adventure guide

Location: *India*

Focus verse: John 15:12-13 “This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.”

Overall message: God uses missionaries and He uses us to tell friends about Jesus.

Overview: When missionaries make their home in another country, they make new friends. These friendships often lead to opportunities to tell people about Jesus. Caroline’s parents are missionaries. Her family lives in Thailand, but they used to live in India. Wherever Caroline lives, she tells her friends about Jesus. We need to make sure we’re telling our friends about Jesus, too.



Taking it in

Friends from home — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Caroline in India video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Friends from home focus verse**
 - **India map**
 - **Henna patterns**
- Bring washable markers in different colors.

Introduction

- Ask the children to tell you about how they met one of their friends.
- How many have had to make new friends when they moved or started a new school?
- Explain that missionaries around the world have to make new friends whenever they move. Those friendships are important because they make their place feel like “home.” Those friendships also lead to witnessing opportunities.
- Say that missionary kids (MKs) in India make friends with their classmates and neighbors. India feels like home to them because of the friendships they make with Indian kids.
- Explain that MK Caroline used to live in India with her family. You will see what it’s like for people who call India “home.”

DVD - Caroline in India

- Play the video.
- After the video, ask what unusual things they saw that they would not see in the U.S.
- What do they think it would be like to make friends in India?
- MKs get to experience many different things in India, but mostly they get to do what all kids do when having fun with their friends. Children in India love to play badminton and a sport called cricket. They also like to hang out, eat snacks, fly kites and draw pictures.



Giving it up

Friends from home — MX 1 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Activity — Henna art

- Remind the kids about the henna drawings Caroline told them about in the video. Explain that henna drawing is an art form in India. Henna is a plant extract that makes a temporary stain on the skin.
- Show them the **henna patterns** from the DVD-ROM. These are simplified drawings, based on henna designs.
- Many missionaries and MKs in India use these pictures to tell Bible stories. When girls draw henna art on each other, they have fun with their friends and they also get to hear a story from God's Word.
- Say that today, boys will participate, too (though usually only girls have henna tattoos in India).
- Break the kids into pairs or small groups. Let them practice drawing one of the patterns on each other's hands (or feet!), using the washable markers. Encourage them to tell the Bible story that goes along with the picture.
- If more appropriate for your group, let the children trace their hand onto a blank piece of paper and draw a pattern onto the paper.
- For younger children, you might consider having leaders draw a simple design on each child's hand.
- You can find intricate henna patterns and how missionaries are using henna art with their friends at www.hennastories.org. Your group may enjoy seeing these beautiful designs, like the one Caroline had in the video.

Pray

Thank God for missionaries around the world who are sharing Jesus with their friends.



Taking it up

Friends from home — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Friends from home focus verse**
 - **India prayer requests**

Recap

Missionaries make friends wherever they live, and they tell those friends about Jesus. Caroline used to live in India, where her parents were missionaries. She learned to tell her friends about Jesus. We don't have to be a missionary in another country to tell our friends about Jesus.

Focus verse

- Read and discuss the focus verse.
- Ask: What did Jesus command us to do? How do we love each other like Jesus loves us? What did Jesus do for us?
- Explain that Jesus prayed for His friends and we should pray for our friends, too.

Prayer time

- If your group has already seen the **Caroline in India video**, remind them how Caroline and her mom prayed with patients at the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India. (If they haven't seen the video, consider showing it now.)
- Give out copies of the **India prayer requests**.
- Ask for volunteers to read each request and then take time to pray for each one.
- After a time of prayer for the India prayer requests, ask the kids to think of friends they know who are sick and/or in the hospital. Give them time to share these requests.
- Ask them to write a prayer for that person on blank paper and give the prayer to them this week.
- If your church has a prayer list, you might bring in names of those who are sick and collect prayers from the children for those people.
- Thank the children for showing love by praying for others.



Giving it up

Friends from home — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Thanks from Asia video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- Plan for the coin scavenger hunt (see below). If it is not possible for children to visit adults in the church, bring a collection of coins from home.
- Bring shoeboxes or a bowl for children to collect coins.
- Make copies of the **Parent note**, if you plan to do the care package activity in MX 4. Hint: Fill in the blanks before copying.

Recap

Missionaries make friends wherever they live, and they tell those friends about Jesus. Caroline used to live in India, where her parents were missionaries. She learned to tell her friends about Jesus. We don't have to be a missionary in another country to tell our friends about Jesus.

Video – Thanks from Asia

- Introduce the video by explaining that Caroline's family is supported by an offering called the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®. In this video, Caroline and her friends thank Southern Baptists for giving to this offering. You'll notice that Caroline is much younger! This video was taken when her family first moved to Thailand.
- Take a few minutes to explain how your church gives to missions.
- Play the **Thanks from Asia video**.

Activity – Coin scavenger hunt

- Remind the kids that even small amounts of money, like a few coins, add up quickly and can help support missionaries. Explain to the kids that they are going to motivate the adults in the church to give to missions by encouraging them to empty their pockets.
- Before your meeting time, talk with your church leaders about the kids interrupting the adults meeting at your church. Ask adults to come to church prepared to give the kids the coins from their pockets.
- Divide the kids into small groups, each with an adult helper.
- When you say "go," give them five minutes to visit an adult group and ask for the coins from their pockets. Remind the kids to say, "Thank you for giving to missions!"
- When the groups return, count the money and celebrate how much you collected for missions! If your group enjoys competition, count the money separately and recognize the group with the most money.

(MX 3 continued)



Giving it up

Friends from home — MX 3 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

- Option: Instead of leaving the room, let the kids hunt for coins that you have hidden around the room.
- Tell them that this next week will be their turn to empty their pockets. Encourage them to give up their coins, do extra chores for money, and sacrifice something they planned to buy in order to give to missions. Instead of putting 75 cents in the soda machine, will they set those coins aside for missions? Ask them to add to the money collection next week.
- Be sure to give the money to missions through your church!

MX 4 Preview

- The next MX includes making small gift bags for patients at a local hospital.
- If you plan to do this with your group, send the **Parent note** home with the kids, so parents will have time to purchase the necessary supplies.



Taking it personally

Friends from home — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- Plan to make and give small gift bags to patients at a local hospital or homebound members of your church.
- Bring sandwich bags or other small bags to use for the gifts.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Gift bag tags.** Make as many copies as you plan to have gift bags. Hint: Fill in your church information on the bottom of the tag before copying.

Recap

Missionaries make friends wherever they live, and they tell those friends about Jesus. Caroline used to live in India, where her parents were missionaries. She learned to tell her friends about Jesus. We don't have to be a missionary in another country to tell our friends about Jesus.

MX 3 Giving recap

- If your kids participated in the MX 3 giving experience, collect their money and thank them for giving so that people all over the world can know about Jesus.

Activity – Gift bags

- If your group has seen the **Caroline in India video**, remind them how Caroline brought small gifts to patients at the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India. (If they haven't seen the video, consider showing it now.)
- Collect the items that your kids brought for the gift bags. Arrange them in an assembly line on a table or on the floor.
- Give each child a bag and let him or her fill them with the items.
- All bags don't have to be the same. You might have enough for each bag to have three items, but don't worry if there are different items in each bag.
- Next, ask kids to write a note or draw a picture on the **Gift bag tags**.
- Bring attention to the focus verse on the tag and remind your group that you are showing God's love.
- If possible, plan for the kids to deliver the gift bags with you.

Pray

Ask God to use the gift bags to help show love to others. Thank God for your children and people around the world who are showing love to friends and people in need.



Going further

Friends from home

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Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

Plan a birthday party outreach event for everyone who has a birthday this month. Have children invite their friends. In India, when someone has a birthday they will sing happy birthday to them. Then the birthday person will be fed a piece of cake by someone else. It is also customary for the person who has the birthday to give out small treats to all of their friends. At the birthday party, allow the children who are celebrating birthdays that month to pass out the treats. Let one child explain to the group that you have been learning about India and how you want to show Jesus' love to friends.

Indian people often live in "societies." These are neighborhoods, apartment buildings or other sectioned-off areas that provide community for the people living there. The society often gets together to celebrate festivals, watch major sporting events or to talk about things that are happening in their community. Help children plan a community block party and invite everyone in the community. This will be a great opportunity for families to get to know each other and build relationships that could lead to lasting friendships and opportunities to share the Gospel.