



1 No place like home — adventure guide

Location: *China*

Focus verse: Jeremiah 29:11 “‘For I know the plans I have for you’ – this is the Lord’s declaration – ‘plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”

Overall message: Missionaries make their home and minister wherever God calls them.

Overview: Missionaries often have to move – sometimes to a different house, sometimes to a different country. Wherever they go, they learn to make a home with their families and find out how God wants to use them right where they are. Caroline’s parents are missionaries and her family has lived in several Asian countries. She went on a trip to visit China, a country that her family used to call “home.” Today her family serves the Lord in a new home in Thailand. Wherever home is for us, we can serve the Lord, too.



Taking it in

No place like home — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Caroline in China video**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **No place like home focus verse**
 - **Chinese focus verse**. Make enough copies for every child to have one.
 - **China map**

Introduction

- Ask the children where they were born. How many still live in the house where they first lived?
- Explain that most people will live in different houses throughout their lives, but they can make a home wherever they live.
- Tell them that missionaries have to move often, but they learn to make a new home with their families and serve Jesus wherever they live.
- Ask one student to hold the **China map**.
- Tell the group that they'll meet Caroline who took a trip to China, a place her missionary family used to live.

Video - Caroline in China

- Play the video.
- What new things did they see in the video that they would experience if they visited China?
- Ask kids to think about what it might be like to live in a country where the language is different. Would they enjoy the challenge? Or would they be afraid?
- Ask them to think about what it would be like to live in a country where people do not go to church or know about Jesus. Ask them to discuss ways they could talk about Jesus in that place.

(MX 1 continued)



Taking it in

No place like home — MX 1 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Focus verse

- Read the **No place like home focus verse**.
- Explain that these verses were written for people who had to leave their homes a long time ago. They were Israelites who had been sent to live in Babylon. The Israelites were sad that they had to leave their homes. God told the people that they would have to live in Babylon for 70 years. God wanted the people to live happily in Babylon and told them to pray for Babylon.
- Give everyone a copy of the **Chinese focus verse**.
- Ask them to try to copy it onto their handouts.
- How hard is it to write in another language? Can anyone read what they have written?
- Aren't they glad that missionaries are willing to learn another language so they can tell others about Jesus?

Pray

Thank God that Christians are willing to make their home in China, so people there can hear about Jesus.



Taking it up

No place like home — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Caroline's prayer for China**

Recap

Caroline is a missionary kid. Her family has lived in three different countries in Asia. Wherever they call "home," they tell people about Jesus. Caroline went to China on a visit and learned that Jesus can use her wherever she lives.

Prayer time

- Distribute **Caroline's prayer for China**. If your group has seen the **Caroline in China video**, they heard her pray.
- Ask for a volunteer to read Caroline's prayer aloud.
- Read these facts about China, as the kids consider their own prayer:
 - More than 1 billion people live in China.
 - Many people there have never heard about Jesus.
 - Some people worship their ancestors or idols.
 - Some Christians are treated poorly because they have chosen to follow Jesus.
 - Many churches meet in secret.
- Give your kids time to write their own prayers onto the handout.
- Take time to pray, asking several of the kids to read aloud their prayers.
- Tell them you will now pray specifically for Caroline's family and for other missionaries.
- Ask for sentence prayers for her family and for others as they move to places where people need to hear about Jesus.



Giving it up

No place like home — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- Have a white board, chalk board or large piece of paper available.
- Bring a calculator.

Recap

Caroline is a missionary kid. Her family has lived in three different countries in Asia. Wherever they call “home,” they tell people about Jesus. Caroline went to China and learned that Jesus can use her wherever she lives. She also learned that “home” is wherever her family lives and wherever God wants them to be.

Discuss

- In each place that Caroline’s family has lived, she and her family have made a new home.
- Explain that making a new home isn’t always easy, but sometimes it’s what God wants us to do.
- Ask if any of the kids have moved and remember getting settled into a new home. What was it like for them?

Activity – Starting over

- Explain that when missionaries move, they have to leave almost everything they own behind. They have to start over.
- Stand at the white board and ask kids to list things they might need for an empty house. As they call them out, write them on the board (table, sofa, tv, bed).
- Now ask how much they think they’d have to pay for each item. Write the price beside each item. (It’s OK if the prices are way off-base. Just let the kids have fun filling the house!)
- Give the calculator to one child and ask them to add up the total cost of the items for the house.
- Explain that missionaries need money to make a house a home, every time they move.
- Tell them that when we give to missions, we help families create a home in a place where people need to hear about Jesus.
- When we give, we are a part of their work.
- Alternate idea: Draw a simple house outline on the board. Give each child a chance to come up and draw something for the inside of the house and write the cost next to it.

Pray

Ask God to help the kids be faithful in giving so that more missionaries can make their homes among people who need Jesus.



Taking it personally

No place like home — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Let's say it in Chinese! audio**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Jesus loves you flyer**

Recap

Caroline is a missionary kid. Her family has lived in three different countries in Asia. Wherever they call “home,” they tell people about Jesus. Caroline went to China on a visit and learned that Jesus can use her wherever she lives. She also learned that “home” is wherever her family lives and wherever God wants them to be. We can learn to share Jesus wherever we live.

Activity – Let's say it in Chinese!

- Explain that one way Christian workers share the Gospel in China is by teaching English. Sometimes, Christian workers offer short English lessons at “English corners.” Chinese are often anxious to practice their English and look forward to meeting at the corner or in the coffee shop or wherever they find people willing to help them.
- Tell the kids that it's their turn to practice some Chinese.
- Divide the kids into pairs or small groups.
- Play the **Let's say it in Chinese! audio**.
- Ask kids to listen closely and be ready to repeat a word or phrase when asked.

Discuss

- Ask how many of them know phrases in a language other than Chinese or English.
- How many would be willing to learn another language in order to tell someone about Jesus?
- Would they be willing to teach English to someone, knowing that they might have a chance to tell them about Jesus?
- Explain that missionaries learn other languages, but they also help people who want to learn English. They use things like “English corners” to build relationships with people. Sometimes they teach English using the Bible or stories about Jesus. That way the people are learning English and learning about Jesus at the same time!

(MX 4 continued)

Taking it personally

No place like home — MX 4 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

- Give each child a **Jesus loves you flyer**. Ask them to fill in your church's information.
- Ask if anyone knows or has met someone in his or her own town who is Chinese. If so, encourage kids to give that person their flyer. They can explain they have been learning a little Chinese. If the person receiving the flyer is not a believer, he or she will get to hear about Jesus. If that person is already a believer, he or she will be encouraged by their note.

Pray

Ask God to help your group to be aware every day of chances they have to tell someone about Jesus.



Going further

No place like home

Ideas for mission projects based on the theme

Plan an outreach activity to a Chinese community in your town. You might try asking your church's association, the school board, a local Chinese church or even the owner of a Chinese restaurant if they know of Chinese families who live nearby. Gather your kids to put together simple care packages that include things like pictures drawn by the children, hard candy, bottled water, gum and a Bible. Chinese Bibles can be purchased through companies like the International Bible Society. Make copies of the **Jesus loves you flyer**, included as a downloadable PDF on this DVD, and attach to each care package. Deliver these care packages as a group and let them know of your church. If your community has a Chinese church nearby, ask if you can partner with them to let families know about their church.