



2 When things change – adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that God can use you and your family even when things change

Location: *Bolivia*

Focus verse: Joshua 24:15 “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Overall message: God can use you and your family to tell people about Jesus, even when things change.

Overview: Steve and Marilee Flook were serving as missionaries in the Dominican Republic with their six children when God asked them to move to Bolivia. While that change has been very challenging at times, God is using the whole Flook family to serve Him in their new home. Our families can serve God wherever we are and whatever changes come our way.

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



Taking it in

When things change — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Bolivia map**
 - **When things change focus verse**
 - **Meet the Flook family photo.** Make a copy for every child.
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show **The Flook life**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

Introduction

- Ask kids how they would feel if their parents told them they were going to move to another state. What if they were going to move to another country?
- Tell the group that they will meet a missionary family that moved from Florida to the Dominican Republic, then from the Dominican Republic to Bolivia.
- Find these countries on a world map or globe, then show the Bolivia map. Point out Santa Cruz—the city where the Flooks live.

Video – The Flook life

- Show The Flook life video.
- Tell them to try to remember everyone's names!

Activity—Meet the Flooks

- Distribute the Meet the Flook family photo.
- Ask the kids to write down the names they can remember. Here's a reminder: Steve (dad), Marilee (mom), (kids from oldest to youngest) Stephen, Sarah, Hannah, Samuel, Mary Margaret, and Elizabeth.
- Ask the kids what kinds of changes the Flooks had to make when they moved.
- Based on the video, what are some things that seem different from living in the US?
- Mention that it's never easy to make big changes. Tell the kids that just as missionary kid Hannah Flook said in the video, we need to ask God to give us different feelings — His feelings — when we start to become overwhelmed with all of the changes in our lives.

(MX 1 continued)



Taking it in

When things change — MX 1 (continued)

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

- Point out that God often uses change to help us learn to rely on Him and not on ourselves. Changes are an opportunity to know Him better and serve Him.
- The Flocks had to adjust to a new country, but they will continue to serve Him as a family.
- Read the focus verse together. How are the Flocks serving the Lord?
- Ask how your kids and their families are serving or can serve the Lord.

Pray

Thank God for the Flock family and their willingness to move to Bolivia and tell people about Jesus.



Taking it up

When things change — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- Small piece of clay to give to each child
- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Flook prayer photos.** Set up stations around the room with a photo of the Flooks and prayer requests for their family.
- Optional: CD player and a CD of instrumental Christian music to play quietly while the children are praying.

Recap

The Flooks are a big family serving God in a big way. Steve and Marilee are missionaries in Bolivia and the whole family is working together to tell the people about Jesus. It wasn't easy when they made the move to Bolivia, but they know that God can use them wherever they are.

Discuss

- Hold a piece of clay in your hands. Ask the kids:
 - What do I have in my hands?
 - What can I do with it? (Make different shapes, objects)
 - After I make a shape, do I have to keep it that way? (No, you can change its shape into anything.)
- Tell the children that we all need to be moldable. We need to allow God to shape us into all He wants us to be. Sometimes that means making big changes, but if we are following God, it's worth it!
- The Flook family is allowing God to mold them to be His servants in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
- Give every child a small piece of clay. Allow the children to work the clay with their hands.
- Tell the kids that they are going to pray for the Flook family and their ministry in Bolivia.
- Tell them to hold the clay in their hands and mold it as they pray to remind themselves that they need to be willing to do whatever it takes (be moldable!) in order to serve God.

Prayer Activity

- Divide the kids into partners or groups and ask them to move about the room praying as the photos indicate.
- Keep young children in one group or have an adult move with them.
- Ask them to pray aloud or silently (or both), as best for your group.
- If possible, leave the photos in the room as prayer reminders for the next few weeks.
- Remind the kids how important their prayers for the missionaries are. Tell them the Flooks are very grateful that they have taken the time to pray for them. After the prayerwalk, ask children to keep their piece of clay somewhere at home as a reminder to pray for missionaries all over the world.



Giving it up

When things change — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - Missions money matters
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Olivia to Bolivia** video. This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

Recap

The Flocks are a big family serving God in a big way. Steve and Marilee are missionaries in Bolivia and the whole family is working together to tell the people about Jesus. It wasn't easy when they made the move to Bolivia, but they know that God can use them wherever they are.

Video- Olivia to Bolivia

- Introduce the video by saying that Olivia, a 12-year-old from Virginia, took her first international trip to Bolivia to meet the Flocks and see how a missionary family lives.
- Play the **Olivia to Bolivia** video.

Activity – Missions money matters

- Explain that Olivia's family has always given money to missions, but this was the first time Olivia got to see and experience how that money is used.
- Show the **Missions money matter** sheet. Ask for volunteers to point out different ways our giving to missions is used by the Flock family.
- Olivia learned that every dollar she gives to missions is helping people in Bolivia hear about Jesus, some for the first time.
- Encourage the kids to be on mission by giving so that people all over the world will hear about Jesus.

Pray

Thank God that people are giving to missions so that the Flock family can tell people in Bolivia about Jesus. Pray that you all will be faithful givers to God's work.



Taking it personally

When things change — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **What the Flocks can do handout.** Make a copy for each child.
 - Bring a toolbox with a few tools.

Recap

The Flocks are a big family serving God in a big way. Steve and Marilee are missionaries in Bolivia and the whole family is working together to tell the people about Jesus. It wasn't easy when they made the move to Bolivia, but they know that God can use them wherever they are.

Discussion

- Show the kids the toolbox. Ask them what you're holding.
- Pull out each tool and ask the kids how each tool could be used.
- Explain that we are all a part of God's toolbox. He created each of us with different abilities to work for Him.
- Tell the kids that just as all the tools in the toolbox are useful and important, so every person in God's toolbox is useful and important to Him.

Activity – What the Flocks can do

- Distribute the **What the Flocks can do** handouts.
- Together, look at each of the Flock children and talk about how they can be used for God in Bolivia. (For example, Stephen plays the guitar so he can use his gifts in a Bolivian church.)
- Ask the kids: "What kind of 'tools' do you have that God could use this week?"
- Then ask: "What kind of 'tools' does your family have that could be used by God this week?"

Pray

Ask God to help each child to use his or her abilities to minister this week to someone who does not know Jesus.



Going further

When things change

Ideas for mission projects based on this theme

Just like the Flocks have had to get used to a new home in a new country, many immigrants are coming to the U.S. and making it home for the first time. Ask your church staff or association about ministry opportunities to immigrant or refugee families in your area. If they don't know, ask your schools if international families have recently moved into the school district. Once you find a family, guide the children in preparing a "pantry pounding" for them with canned goods and non-perishable items. Find out if they have specific needs for clothing or furniture and ask church members to help minister to them. Ask the kids to make welcome cards and a list of nearby things they might need: grocery store, doctor's office, park. Show your kids that they can be involved in international missions right where they are by ministering to internationals who having to get used to big changes.