



## 3 Wherever you live – adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that God can use you wherever you live

**Location:** *Suriname*

**Focus verse:** Mark 16:15 – “Then He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.’”

**Overall message:** God sends missionaries to some interesting places because all people need a chance to hear about Him.

**Overview:** Missionaries Charles and Brittany Shirey and their three children are sharing the Gospel with the Aukan people in the rainforest of Suriname. Living as missionaries in a tropical jungle can be filled with all sorts of excitement, challenges and danger. God wants all people to have a chance to hear about Him. That includes the people in the rainforests of Suriname and it also means the people next door to you. Wherever we live, God wants to use us to share His message of salvation.

- 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

## Wherever you live — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

### Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **Shirey family photos**
  - **Life in the rainforest.** Cut the facts into strips to distribute to volunteers who will read them aloud.
  - **Wherever you live focus verse**
  - **Suriname map**
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare the play the **Rainforest sounds**. This will play from a DVD player or a computer. This audio file will last for 12 minutes. You can play it for the whole experience or just during the Life in the rainforest activity.

### Introduction

- Read the **Wherever you live focus verse** together.
- Tell your group that you will be visiting a South American rainforest tonight, where some missionaries are preaching the Gospel.
- Show the map of the rainforest and point out the country of Suriname.
- Show the **Shirey family photos**.
- Tell your group that the Shireys are a missionary family who live in the jungle and tell the Aukan (Aw-khan) people about Jesus.

### Activity – Life in the Rainforest

- Ask the kids what images come to their minds when they think of a rainforest.
- Distribute the **Life in the rainforest** fact strips.
- As the **Rainforest sounds** play, let the kids read the facts one-at-a-time.
- Take time to let the kids talk about how they would feel if they had to live that way.
- What would seem exciting? What would seem scary?
- Explain that God has asked the Shireys to live in Suriname and to share Christ with the people who live in the rainforest.
- If they don't live there, the Aukan people might not ever hear about Jesus.

### Pray

Thank God for the Shireys and the people who live in the rainforest. Pray that the Aukan people will hear about Jesus and believe.



# Taking it up

## Wherever you live — MX 2

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*A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience*

### *Prepare*

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **Prayer request bookmarks.** Print enough for each child to have one bookmark.
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Shireys in Suriname video.** This will play from a DVD player or a computer.

### *Recap*

The Shireys are a missionary family who live in the rainforest of Suriname in South America. They live among the Aukan people and tell them about Jesus. Living in the rainforest isn't easy, but the Shireys know that God wants them to be there so that the Aukans can hear about Him. They are thankful for Christians who pray for them and give money so that they can stay in the jungle and minister there.

### *Video – Shireys in Suriname*

- Tell the kids that you are going to spend time praying for the Shireys. Explain that it's not always easy to live in the rainforest.
- Tell them to watch the video and think of ways they need to be praying for the Shireys.
- Play the video.
- After the video, explain that the Shirey children face some unique challenges because they live in the jungle:
  - Watching out for snakes while they're playing in the grass or trees
  - Staying away from the edge of the river because the rapids can pull them away
  - Having to bail water from their family's boat
  - Learning a new language and culture
  - Not being around other people from their own country
  - Trying to do homeschool while Aukan people are looking in the windows at them
  - Showing God's love to people who don't know anything about Him
- Remind them that missionary families count on our prayers!

*(MX 2 continued)*



# Taking it up

## Wherever you live — MX 2 (continued)

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*A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience*

### *Prayer time*

- Distribute the bookmarks and divide the kids into two groups according to who has the same bookmark.
- If your group is small, consider praying together.
- Ask each group to read their prayer request and take time to pray for that specific request, plus other things that came to mind while they watched the video.
- Ask the kids to take their bookmarks home as a prayer reminder.



# Giving it up

## Wherever you live — MX 3

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*A 10- to 15-minute giving experience*

### *Prepare*

- Bring a small, wrapped gift box to be used to collect money for missions.

### *Recap*

The Shireys are a missionary family who live in the rainforest of Suriname in South America. They live among the Aukan people and tell them about Jesus. Living in the rainforest isn't easy, but the Shireys know that God wants them to be there so that the Aukans can hear about Him. They are thankful for Christians who pray for them and give money so that they can stay in the jungle and minister there.

### *Activity – The gift box*

- Show the gift box.
- Ask: “What is a gift?”
- Ask:
  - Who gave us the ultimate gift? (Jesus Christ)
  - What gift did Jesus give to us? (He died on a cross for our sins.)
  - Why did Jesus give us that gift? (So we can have eternal life with God)
- Point out that missionaries all over the world, like the Shirey family, have received Christ's gift. In turn, they give their lives back to God to be used to bring others to Him.
- Explain that giving money is one way Christians work together so that families like the Shireys can tell people around the world about Him.
- Our gifts help provide things for the Shireys like their canoe, solar water heater and fishing nets.
- Our money also provides the things they use to minister to the Aukan people.
- Hold the gift box and explain that giving to missions is a way to say “thank you” to Jesus for the gift that He gave to us.
- Encourage the kids to bring in a missions offering for the next few weeks and put it in the box.
- If appropriate for your church, have the children present the gift box during a worship service.

*(MX 3 continued)*



# Giving it up

## Who shares — MX 3 (continued)

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*A 10- to 15-minute giving experience*

### *Discussion*

- Tell the kids: “I have a question for you. How can we give our lives back to God right here where we live?” Possible answers:
  - Give Bibles to people we know are not Christians.
  - Help needy people in the community.
  - Pray for friends who are not Christians.
  - Write encouraging notes to the leaders in the church.
  - Collect money for home or international missions.
  - Make cards with Scripture verses for people in the hospital.
  - Find needs in the church and fill the need (examples: someone needs his lawn mowed, groceries bought, ride to the doctor, help with a bill).
- Help the kids to identify something they can do to share God’s love right where they are.

### *Pray*

Thank God for children who are learning about missions and that we can be a part of missions through our giving.



# Taking it personally

## Wherever you live — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

### Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
  - **How the Shirey kids serve.** Cut the acts of service into strips to be used for charades.

### Recap

The Shireys are a missionary family who live in the rainforest of Suriname in South America. They live among the Aukan people and tell them about Jesus. Living in the rainforest isn't easy, but the Shireys know that God wants them to be there so that the Aukans can hear about Him. They are thankful for Christians who pray for them and give money so that they can stay in the jungle and minister there.

### Activity—Ethan's story

- Remind kids that wherever we live and whatever we face, God wants to use us to tell people about Jesus.
- Explain that Ethan Shirey, age 10, is learning that even hard times can be used by God. Share Ethan's story:

*An Aukan boy named Damien kept bullying missionary kid Ethan Shirey. There were many times when Ethan's mother had to stop Damien when he teased or hurt Ethan. But Ethan knew that he needed to show God's love to Damien.*

*One day, while the boys were playing, Ethan asked Damien if he wanted to hear a story. Ethan told him the story of Noah and the Ark and then about Adam and Eve and how they fell into sin. Then Ethan asked Damien if he wanted to learn more about the Bible. Damien said yes.*

*Even though Damien is still a bully sometimes, Ethan prays that Damien will realize he needs a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

### Activity – How the Shirey kids serve

- Divide the kids into small groups or pairs.
- Give each group one or two of the ways that the Shirey kids serve others in Suriname.
- Ask each group to act out the service while the rest of the group guesses. Ask: "What would happen if we were that faithful to share God's love with the people around us?"
- Encourage the kids to live life like the Shirey kids do—looking for ways to serve others and tell them about Jesus.

### Pray

Ask God to give you opportunities to serve others and share the love of Jesus this week.



# Going further

## Wherever you live

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*Ideas for mission projects based on this theme*

The Shireys know that one life matters in the rain forest and one life matters right where you live. Visit the site [onelifekids.org](http://onelifekids.org). Read through the project ideas and plan to adopt a project for the next month (or quarter or year). These are specifically designed with KOM groups in mind. Kids can make their lives matter to God's kingdom by using their time, prayers, resources and talents etc. On the site you will see activities that will raise their understanding of people who don't have clean water or children who are forced to beg for food. As they become aware of these circumstances, you can lead them in steps that will make a real difference in someone's life.