



1 The big need — adventure guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that all people have the same spiritual need

Location: *Kazakhstan*

Focus verse: Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Overall message: People around the world have very different cultures, but the same spiritual need of salvation through Jesus.

Overview: The region of Central Asia is very diverse with more than 500 distinct people groups. Many of the countries were part of the former Soviet Union, so people often speak Russian along with the language of their people group. As different as the Central Asian cultures are from life in the U.S., the people’s need for Jesus is the same. All people have the same spiritual need of salvation through Jesus.

Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia. Christian workers in Central Asia care about the people of Kazakhstan and want them to know about God’s big plan.

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

Leaders: *Please be aware that none of the countries in Central Asia have true freedom of religion. In fact, all the countries have varying levels of hostility toward the Gospel and Christian evangelism. No one can work officially as a missionary, but churches do support Christian workers in the region. Also, though the cultural experiences will highlight a certain country, the material will not say where exactly a worker lives. The videos and experiences will refer in general to “workers in Central Asia.” Use this information to lead your group to pray for workers and national believers who might face danger because of their faith in Jesus.*



Taking it in

The big need — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Kazakhstan map**
 - **The big need focus verse**
 - **Kazakhstan photos**
 - **Leader's introduction to Central Asia.** Read this before your group time so you will have more information about Central Asia. Share information as appropriate for your group.
 - **Tell the truth statements**
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **God's big plan** video. This will play from a DVD player or computer.
- Bring in three baskets (or trashcans) and a foam or small ball. Write the words "true," "false," and "not in the story" on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket.

Introduction

- Show the **Kazakhstan map** to your group.
- Explain that your group will spend the next few months learning about Central Asia and how God wants the people of Central Asia to know about His one big plan of salvation through Jesus.
- Point out the large Central Asia area and let the children identify some of the countries they see.
- As they can see, Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia.

Video

- Introduce the video by explaining that we cannot know exactly where Christian workers live, but we can learn about Central Asia and the people they care about.
- Show the **God's big plan** video.

Activity – Tell the truth basketball

- Divide the kids into two teams and have them line up a reasonable throwing distance from the baskets.
- As the kids take turns, read the **Tell the truth statements** and let them answer by throwing the ball into the correct basket.
- If a child misses the basket but has the right answer, give another child on their team a chance to make it in the basket.
- Give a point for each correct basket.

(continued)



Taking it in

The big need (continued) — MX 1

A 10- to 15-minute cultural experience

Activity – Kazakhstan photos

- Say that it's time to learn more about one of the Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan.
- One at a time, hold up a photo of Kazakhstan.
- Ask a volunteer to read each caption.
- Allow time for the children to talk about what they see in each photo.
- What are things they don't see in their communities?

Focus verse

- Show the **The big need focus verse** and read it together.
- Explain that all people everywhere are sinners. The big need that we all share is salvation through Jesus.

Pray

Ask God to bring the Light of the world – Jesus – to Kazakhstan and all the people of Central Asia.



Taking it up

The big need — MX 2

A 10- to 15-minute prayer experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **Kazakhstan photos** (if you didn't already print these for MX 1). Display the photos around the room.
 - **Nargul from Kazakhstan** (ask one volunteer to prepare this dramatic reading)
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Loving Muslims** video. This will play from a computer or DVD player.

Recap

People all over the world have the same big need – salvation through Jesus – because of our sin. Christians need to tell others about Jesus so that they, too, can have eternal life in heaven. Most people in Central Asia do not know about Jesus. Christian workers are living among them to love them and let them know about the Good News. Kazakhstan is one country in Central Asia where the people need to hear about Jesus.

Prayer time for Muslims

- Explain that Christian workers in Central Asia love the Muslim people very much.
- They love them so much that they want to share the best gift with them—the message of Jesus.
- Introduce the video by telling them that they will see scenes from Central Asia and other places in the world where Muslims live.
- Ask the kids to watch the video prayerfully, asking Jesus that the Muslim people would have a chance to hear about Him.
- Play the **Loving Muslims** video.
- After the video, take time for sentence prayers for Muslim people and for workers who love them enough to show them the love of Jesus.

Prayer time for Kazakhstan

- Ask for a volunteer (or the one you enlisted prior to the meeting) to read **Nargul from Kazakhstan**.
- Tell them that now they know one child from Kazakhstan better. Ask how they can pray for children like Nargul [nar-gool].
- Divide the kids into groups and give them time to walk around the room.
- Instruct them to stop in front of each photo and pray that the people in Kazakhstan will hear about Jesus and choose to accept His gift of eternal life.
- Encourage them to pray with their eyes open and look at the photo.
- They might get an idea of what to pray for based on what they see.
- Option for younger children: Walk around the room as a group or make sure each group has an adult leader. The leader can guide the prayer time.



Giving it up

The big need — MX 3

A 10- to 15-minute giving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show **Christmas in Kazakhstan**. This will play from a DVD player or computer.

Recap

People all over the world have the same big need – salvation through Jesus – because of our sin. Christians need to tell others about Jesus so that they, too, can have eternal life in heaven. Most people in Central Asia do not know about Jesus. Christian workers are living among them to love them and let them know about the Good News. Kazakhstan is one country in Central Asia where the people need to hear about Jesus.

Video – Christmas in Kazakhstan

- Introduce the video by saying that they will meet a girl whose family adopted a baby girl from Kazakhstan. They will also see some scenes from Kazakhstan in the winter.
- Take time to talk about children in your church or community who were adopted.
- If a family in your church has an adopted child, consider asking them to share their story with the kids instead of watching the video. This might make the experience more personal to them.
- Play the **Christmas in Kazakhstan** video or ask your guest speaker to share.

Discussion – What we can give

- Explain that adoptive families *give* new life to children and that's what God does for us. He gives us new life!
- Christian workers want to give that new life to others.
- Ask what we can give so that workers will be able to live among the people of Central Asia.
- Point out that giving to missions offerings is an important way we can give to help the people of Central Asia hear about Jesus.

Pray

Ask God to help your church be faithful to give so that the workers will have a chance to tell others about the gift of Jesus.



Taking it personally

The big need — MX 4

A 10- to 15-minute serving experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print:
 - **The big need focus verse** (if you haven't already printed this)
- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **One big plan** music video. This will play from a DVD player or a computer. Note: sheet music for this song is available for download at centralasianpeoples.imb.org/kids.

Recap

People all over the world have the same big need – salvation through Jesus – because of our sin. Christians need to tell others about Jesus so that they, too, can have eternal life in heaven. Most people in Central Asia do not know about Jesus. Christian workers are living among them to love them and let them know about the Good News. Kazakhstan is one country in Central Asia where the people need to hear about Jesus.

Discuss – Understanding the big plan

- Read the focus verse together.
- Ask for kids to explain the verse in their own words.
- Explain that the verse tells us that every person in the world sins and needs forgiveness and grace through Jesus Christ.
- The answer to the big need – sin – is eternal life through Jesus!

Video – One big plan music video

- Explain that they will learn a song that will help them understand our big need and how they can tell others about Jesus.
- Tell them to stand and make sure they have room to move.
- Encourage them to follow the motions to the song.
- If time allows, play the **One big plan** music video a couple of times so the kids can learn the motions.
- Tell them that they can be part of God's big plan by telling people around them about Jesus.

Pray

Thank God for taking care of our big need and saving us through Jesus.



Going further

The big need

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Ideas for mission projects based on the theme

You will find free resources about Central Asia at centralasianpeoples.imb.org. Under the kids tab, order free copies of the booklet *Silk Road Kids*, which features stories and illustrations from the children of workers. You will also see free resources, like coloring pages, to download. Consider ordering a booklet for each child in your church. Consider using the booklet to help your kids do a presentation about Central Asia for your church. Ask your church staff if this can be done in conjunction with a missions offering or missions emphasis.