

Family Camp Leader's Guide



Four missions experiences on the theme that God is at work reaching families

Location: **Czech** [pronounced CHECK] **Republic**

Focus verse: Psalm 118:26 “He who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed. From the house of the Lord we bless you.”

Overall message: IMB missionaries, Harold and Ginger Johnson, in the Czech Republic are finding ways to build relationships and tell whole families about Jesus.

Before you begin: This resource is a collection of experiences to plug your kids into global missions. We hope you will take the ideas included here and expand your children's view of missions and their role in God's kingdom.

This leader's guide includes plans for four, short missions experiences that can be added to your existing programs or events:



Cultural experience



Prayer experience



Giving experience



Serving experience

- 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.
- [Note: If you are using the DVD-ROM, all videos and handouts are included. Please follow the directions on the cover to access all files.]

Here is a simple glossary that may be useful to you as you communicate these ideas to children:

Mission(s)—A job God gives a person He has chosen to tell another group of people the Good News about Jesus. The person God sends is called a missionary.

Missionary—A Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the Good News about Jesus. (Preschool version) A Christian chosen by God who obeys and goes to tell another group of people about Jesus.

People group—A group of people who share the same language and way of life.

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Family Camp Cultural Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Families reaching families** video.
- Download and print the **Czech Republic map**, the **Family camp focus verse** and the **Czech Republic photos**.
- Bring small, lightweight balls, like foam or ping-pong balls, for the game described below.

Introduction

Begin the experience by showing the **Czech Republic map** and finding the country on a globe or world map. Explain that IMB missionaries Harold and Ginger Johnson live in the Czech Republic with their family. They want other families to know about Jesus and how to have a Christian home. One way they are reaching others with the Gospel is to host a summer camp where whole families come together. They work with a Czech church to bring Jesus to families. Though work in their country can be very difficult, it's also a lot of fun! Get ready to play some wacky games like they play at family camp.

Let's play

- Give kids a few minutes to talk about their camp experiences. What was their favorite thing about camp?
- Tell your group that since you'll be learning about a camp, it's time to play a camp game.
- Explain that the Johnsons play this game at the camp in the Czech Republic.
- Divide your group into teams. On their hands and knees, have each member of the team blow the ball from a starting point around an obstacle and back. The first team to have every member finish a turn wins.

Families reaching families

- Introduce the video by saying that a missionary kid named John is going to give them a glimpse into family camp.
- Show the **Families reaching families** video.
- What are some ways that the kids saw the Christians building relationships with families?

Where in the world?

- Since most people are not familiar with the Czech Republic, take time to learn a little bit about the country and about the Johnsons.
- Distribute the **Czech Republic photos** to volunteers who will hold them and read the caption to the group.



Family Camp Cultural Experience

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Focus verse

- Read the **Family Camp focus verse** together.
- How are Christians a blessing to others when we come in the name of the Lord?

Pray

Thank God that He is working through missionaries to reach families in the Czech Republic.



Family Camp Prayer Experience

Prepare

- Have a globe or world map available.
- Download and print the **Family Camp prayer requests**. Cut out the strips and put them in balloons that you blow up and tie. If possible, have one for each child.

Recap

Harold and Ginger Johnson live in the Czech Republic with their family. They want other families to know about Jesus and how to have a Christian home. One way they are reaching others with the Gospel is to host a summer camp where whole families come together. They work with a Czech church to bring Jesus to families.

Preparing to pray

- On a globe or world map, point out the distance between your state and the Czech Republic.
- Tell children that one great thing about knowing and having a relationship with Jesus Christ is that He is with us always, no matter where we go in the world or how distant we are from those who need our prayers.
- Emphasize the role of prayer as the very first step in all missions work. Tell children that while it may seem they can't do much for missionaries as kids, their prayers on behalf of missionaries are very important to God.

Prayer time

- Say that the Johnsons often use balloons in different activities during family camp.
- Give every child a balloon and ask them to stand up.
- For 30 seconds, ask them to start tossing their balloons into the air, mixing them up. When you call time, every child should grab a balloon and sit down.
- On the count of three, ask them to pop their balloons. (You might have to help with a pin or scissors!)
- Ask them to find the prayer request inside and read it aloud when it's their turn.
- If someone reads the request that they have, they should get up and sit beside that person.
- Now take time to pray for each request. Ask a volunteer from each group to pray for that request.



Family Camp Giving Experience

Prepare

- Bring a calculator to help with the activity below.

Recap

Harold and Ginger Johnson live in the Czech Republic with their family. They want other families to know about Jesus and how to have a Christian home. One way they are reaching others with the Gospel is to host a summer camp where whole families come together. They work with a Czech church to bring Jesus to families.

Time for camp

- Explain that it costs \$110 for one child to attend the family camp in the Czech Republic. It costs \$140 for an adult to attend camp.
- If their family were to attend the camp, how much would it cost? Ask each child to do the calculations for their family. (Have a calculator handy to help with the math!)
- Now ask them to pretend that their family cannot afford to go to camp. What if their family never learned about salvation through Jesus because they didn't get to go to camp?
- Explain that the Johnsons and other Christians are doing everything they can to make sure that people have the opportunity to go to camp.
- Besides the family camp, here are some other ways that the Johnsons are working to tell people about Jesus: a new church, weekly Bible discovery groups, English camps, youth outreach events, and discipleship and training for believers.
- When churches faithfully give to missions offerings, they help to provide for these ministries.
- Encourage your kids to become faithful givers to missions and to remember the many ministries that their money will help to support.

Pray

Thank God that He uses our gifts for His purposes.

Family Camp Serving Experience

Prepare

- Post a banner or poster board with “How Can I Serve?” written on it. Have markers/ crayons/pens/pencils available. If you choose to do the relay described below, bring plastic spoons and ping-pong balls.

Recap

Harold and Ginger Johnson live in the Czech Republic with their family. They want other families to know about Jesus and how to have a Christian home. One way they are reaching others with the Gospel is to host a summer camp where whole families come together. They work with a Czech church to bring Jesus to families.

How can I serve?

- As kids enter the room, have them go to the banner and trace their hands. Ask them to write their name and write one way they can serve God right where they are.
- Take time to discuss the different ways they can serve God. Encourage them to think through the many ways that kids can serve in their church, family and community. When they serve others, they are serving God.
- Also explain that they support the service of Christians around the world through their praying and their giving.
- Remind them of the work of the Johnsons in the Czech Republic. Point out that some people think that serving God is boring or dull. But the Johnsons have a lot of fun in their work, too! They get to play games and have fun as a way to build relationships with families.
- If time allows, play another game that the Johnsons use at family camp. Have a relay race using plastic spoons and ping-pong balls. One at a time, team members walk with a ball in a spoon held out in front of them. Have them walk across the room and back or around a simple obstacle course. When one child returns, transfer the ball to the next person's spoon without touching the ball.
- Emphasize that serving God can be a lot of work, but that it can also be a lot of fun!
- Review the **Family Camp focus verse** with your group.
- At the end of your time together, let each child cut out their hand from the banner to remind them to be a servant.

Pray

Pray for each student to have the courage to serve Jesus right where they are.



Family Camp—Going Further

More ideas using this theme

Download and print the **Family Camp parent letter**. Give to parents so they can continue talking about this theme as a family.

Download and print the **Lifestyle Missions newsletter**. Use it as an introduction to the 12 Lifestyle Missions experiences or as a wrap-up. Make copies for each child to have one to take home.

Let the kids plan a Family Fun Day outreach event for your church. Talk with your church leadership about scheduling this event. Invite families from your church and community. Plan some family games, lunch, then a time for your pastor or another church leader to explain the importance of a Christ-centered family. If you have children in your church who show spiritual maturity and are well-spoken, ask them to share their testimonies and explain how living in a Christian family is blessing to them.

For more on missions around the world and how you can be a part, visit **imb.org**.

Don't forget to visit **kidsonmission.org** for more activities and KOM experiences you might have missed.