

# City Connection Leader's Guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that God uses Christians to share His truth

*Location:* Spain

*Focus verse:* Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden."

*Overall message:* The Parra family is willing to do whatever it takes for people in Spain to know about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They connect to the people through church, but also through school, soccer and community events.

*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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# City Connection Cultural Experience

## *Prepare*

- Prepare to show the **Meet the Parra family** video. Download and print the **City Connection focus verse**.
- Bring several small plates or saucers and simple snacks (crackers, raisins, etc.) for each plate. Plan to have a tapas tasting. Tapas are small plates of food, or snacks, popular in Spain. Have the plates set out when the kids come in.

## *Introduction*

Welcome the kids to your Spanish tapas [TAH-pahs] tasting. Explain that tapas are small plates of food, like snacks, but the Spanish often eat them as a full meal. One person might order several tapas, for example, as their meal. It is also common for people to set out several plates of food for guests.

Say that you will be learning about Spain and about Christians there who are sharing the Gospel. One missionary family, the Parras, is using every part of their daily living as a way to share Jesus.

## *Meet the Parra family*

- Let the kids enjoy their snacks while you show the **Meet the Parra family** video.
- What kinds of things do they have in common with the Parras? For example, does anyone have a baby brother? Does anyone play soccer or speak Spanish?
- Say that the Parras are just a regular family, but God asked them to live in another country where people need to know about a personal relationship with God.

## *The light of the world*

- Read the **City Connection focus verse** together.
- Ask the children what they think it means to be the light of the world.
- What does it mean to be a city on a hill?

## *Pray*

Thank God that the Parras are being the light of Jesus in Seville. Ask that God would help each of you be His light in your city.



# City Connection Prayer Experience

## *Prepare*

- Download and print the **Parra family photos**. Tape the photos around the room.

## *Recap*

God is at work in Seville, Spain. Many people in Spain know a lot about Jesus, but very few want to follow Him as their Savior. The Parras are a missionary family living in Seville so that they can tell people about eternal life with Jesus. They are working with Spanish Christians to be a light in Seville.

## *Prayer time*

- Remind your group of the focus verse, Matthew 5:14.
- Open with a prayer that you will all learn how to be the light of Christ to the world.
- Explain that praying for missionaries and believers and also for the salvation of non-Christians is a very important way for each of us to be the light of the world.
- Ask kids to walk around the room looking at the photos. Discuss how they might pray for the situation in each photo.
- After a minute, ask them to stand next to one of the photos.
- Take a few minutes to ask them what made them choose that particular photo. (For example, someone might stand next to Mary's photo because they love music, too. They will want to pray that Mary is able to use music to reach the hearts of people in Seville.)
- Spend time praying for the Parra family and their ministry in Seville. Ask for volunteers to pray aloud for the different things they have mentioned.



# City Connection Giving Experience

## *Prepare*

- Prepare to use the **Parra family photos** that you used for the prayer experience.
- Bring some pennies (enough for each child to have at least one) and an offering plate used in your church. Bring containers to decorate for the coin battle described below.

## *Recap*

God is at work in Seville, Spain. Many people in Spain know a lot about Jesus, but very few want to follow Him as their Savior. The Parras are a missionary family living in Seville so that people will know that they need eternal life with Jesus. They are seeing lives changed and are working with Spanish Christians to be a light in Seville.

## *Thanks for giving*

- As kids enter the room, give them a penny (or several) and tell them to walk around the room looking at the Parra family photos.
- When they are seated, explain that missionaries are very thankful that churches give to missions.
- Ask the kids what our giving provides.
- Remind them that our giving pays for daily living expenses, medical needs and ministry costs.

## *Time to give*

- Tell the kids to look at their coins.
- Ask how hard it is to give away money when you're holding it. (You might have them pretend it's \$100!)
- Ask about ways they get money – allowance, birthday gifts, teeth falling out.
- Do they like to spend money or save money?
- What do they think God wants them to do with their money?
- Explain that it's ok for us to use money on things we need and want, but we also need to be faithful to give as God directs us.
- Pass the offering plate and let kids put the coins into it.
- Tell them that giving regularly is a great feeling, too!



# City Connection Giving Experience

Continued from previous page

## *Coin battle*

- Suggest a coin battle for the next month: girls vs. boys.
- Each group will decorate a container (small box, tall chip can, coffee can, etc.) to be used for collecting coins.
- Girls will bring in change for their container and the boys will fill their own container.
- At the end of a month, count the money to find the winner.
- Consider a funny award, such as the winners get to throw water balloons at the losers.
- Give all the money to missions during a morning worship service.

## *Pray*

Ask God to use your offerings to help people around the world hear about Him.



# City Connection Serving Experience

## *Prepare*

- Prepare to show the **New life for Abraham** video.
- Download and print the **What's IWC?** and **What's Hand On?** descriptions and **Prep List**.

## *Recap*

God is at work in Seville, Spain. Many people in Spain know a lot about Jesus, but very few want to follow Him as their Savior. The Parras are a missionary family living in Seville so that people will know that they need eternal life with Jesus. They are seeing lives changed and are working with Spanish Christians to be a light in Seville.

## *New life for Abraham*

- Before you show the video, say that you are going to meet another missionary in Europe.
- Martha Moore is an IMB missionary who lives in Germany now, but she used to live in Spain. She started a ministry called Connexxion that reaches college students with the Gospel.
- A student named Abraham became a Christian through the Connexxion ministry. A lot of people shared the truth of Jesus with him:
  - o First a group of teenagers and adults on an International World Changers trip asked him some questions about his faith.
  - o Then a young woman who was serving as a semester missionary with a ministry called Hands On told him about Jesus.
  - o Then Abraham met Martha Moore and other Christians who helped him understand what it means to be a Christian.
- Play the **New life for Abraham** video.

## *How can we serve?*

- Show the **What's IWC?** and **What's Hands On?** descriptions. Explain that these are two ways that God might call them to serve Him in missions one day. (Note: These are two ministries supported by IMB.)
- Give each child a Prep list. Say that even though you have to be older to take some trips, everyone can be involved in missions now!
- Give them time to fill out their list. Discuss their answers.

## *Pray*

Thank God that each of us can be involved in His mission to reach the world for Christ.



# City Connection—Going Further

## *More ideas using this theme*

Download and print the **City Connection 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.

For more on international missions opportunities for youth through IMB, visit **thetask.org**

Plan a Tapas Sale to make money for missions. Plan a time for the children to bake cookies or assemble small bags or covered plates of snacks. Sell them after church or in your community.

If youth in your church have been on international missions trips, ask them to come share with your group and show pictures of their trip. Do things now to get your kids excited about a lifetime of serving the Lord, however He leads 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.