

Teaching the Gospel Leader's Guide

Four missions experiences on people who are learning about Jesus as they learn a new language

Location: country of Greece (Europe)

Focus verse: Psalm 67:5 “Let the peoples praise You, God, let all the peoples praise You.”

Overall message: People from all over the world settle in many European cities, like Athens, Greece. They usually don't know the language and some are refugees, who are trying to start a new life. Christian workers use Bible stories to help people learn a new language, but also learn 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.

<p>This leader's guide includes plans for four, short missions experiences that can be added to your existing programs or events:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cultural experience  Prayer experience  Giving experience  Serving experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.]
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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.

IMB (International Mission Board)—A group created by Southern Baptist churches in one sacred effort to share Jesus with people around the world who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to know and follow Him.

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Teaching the Gospel Cultural Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Reaching Athens** video.
- Download and print the **Greece map**, **Teaching the Gospel focus verse** and the **Greece photos**.
- Consider bringing in pita bread, feta cheese or Greek olives (or other foods common in Greece) for kids to taste.

Introduction

If you've brought food, put it out on a table for kids to try as they enter. Welcome the kids to Greece – or at least to a time of learning about Greece and how God is at work in other European countries. Tell them that many people from different countries settle in European cities, like Athens, Greece, much like they do in U.S. cities. Most of these people do not know Jesus.

Missionaries have a great opportunity to reach out to them. Many people want to learn Greek, English or the language of that country. Some do not know how to read or write. Missionaries help them learn a new language by teaching them Bible stories.

Reach Greece

- Say that Athens is one city in Europe where many internationals settle. Missionaries live and minister in many other cities like Athens.
- Show the **Greece map** to the group or find Greece on a world map or globe if you have one.
- Show the **Greece photos** and ask for volunteers to read the captions.
- Explain that students went to Athens, Greece, to tell people about Jesus. In Greece they met people from many different countries.
- These students were part of an IMB ministry called International World Changers (IWC).
- Play the **Reaching Athens** video about these IWC students.
- Ask the following review questions:
 - What are some of ways the students use to witness to people? (games, drama, coffee houses, talking to people, music, telling people stories from the Bible)
 - What was unusual about the baptism in the video?
 - What language was the volunteer, Alex, anxious to speak?
 - How would you witness to people if you had been on this trip?
- Show the **Teaching the Gospel focus verse**.
- Ask what missionaries are doing so that all people can praise Jesus. (They are leading people to Jesus. People can't praise Jesus until they meet and accept Him as Savior.)



Teaching the Gospel Cultural Experience

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Pray

Thank God that people in Greece and all over the world are learning about Jesus and have a chance to praise Him.



Teaching the Gospel Prayer Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Teaching with class** video.
- Download and print the **Teaching the Gospel prayer guide**.

Recap

Many people from different countries settle in European cities, like Athens, Greece, much like they do in U.S. cities. Most of these people do not know Jesus.

Missionaries have a great opportunity to reach out to them. Many people want to learn Greek, English or the language of that country. Some do not know how to read or write. Missionaries help them learn a new language by teaching them Bible stories.

Prayer time

- Say that you will hear from Christian workers in Europe who are teaching people to read using Bible stories.
- Distribute the **Teaching the Gospel prayer guides**.
- Ask kids to listen and watch for notes to add to the top half of the guides.
- Show the **Teaching with class** video to your group.
- After the video, take time to briefly discuss and then pray for each item on the guide.
- If your group is large enough, divide them into small groups to pray.
- Now ask kids to work together to make an acrostic list of prayer requests using the word Greece as indicated on the bottom half of the prayer guide.
- Again, pause and pray for each letter or ask kids to pray in their small groups.
- Let them take the guides home so they can continue to pray with their families.



Teaching the Gospel Giving Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to play the **Blind man audio** story.
- Download and print the **Center of Promise** handout.

Recap

Many people from different countries settle in European cities, like Athens, Greece, much like they do in U.S. cities. Most of these people do not know Jesus.

Missionaries have a great opportunity to reach out to them. Many people want to learn Greek, English or the language of that country. Some do not know how to read or write. Missionaries help them learn a new language by teaching them Bible stories.

Center of Promise

- Explain that giving to international missions provides for ministries, like the literacy ministry in Europe.
- If your church participates in a missions offering, like the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®, emphasize the importance of those offerings.
- Distribute the **Center of Promise** handouts.
- Say that the Center of Promise is a ministry in a city in Europe where refugees can come for help.
- Missionaries there use stories from the Bible to point people to the hope found in Jesus.
- Ask for volunteers to read it aloud.
- Point out the dollar amount associated with this ministry.
- Help kids to realize that every dollar given to God's work can make a difference.

Blind man

- Say that telling Bible stories is an important part of the ministry at places like Center of Promise and other ministries throughout Europe, which churches support.
- As in other parts of the world, missionaries tell stories to share truth from Scripture.
- Prepare to listen to the **Blind man audio** story.
- Encourage kids to listen carefully, so that they can tell the story to someone else later.
- If time permits, let the children practice telling the story as they heard it.

Pray

Thank God that we can be a part of the missionaries' work by giving to support them.



Teaching the Gospel Serving Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to play the **Mystery verse audio**.

Recap

Many people from different countries settle in European cities, like Athens, Greece, much like they do in U.S. cities. Most of these people do not know Jesus.

Missionaries have a great opportunity to reach out to them. Many people want to learn Greek, English or the language of that country. Some do not know how to read or write. Missionaries help them learn a new language by teaching them Bible stories.

Many languages

- Ask your kids to think about the different languages people speak in your community.
- Do they know people who speak Spanish, Chinese or another language?
- Jesus wants us all to be able to reach across any language barrier to share His love.
- That's what missionaries are doing around the world and that's what we can do right where we live.
- Play the **Mystery verse audio**. This is a familiar verse spoken in an African language.
- Ask if anyone knew what Bible verse was being read.
- If someone taught them this language, they would know. That's why our missionaries are teaching language through Bible stories – so people can know and understand the Word of God.
- Tell them that the verse is John 3:16. Ask someone to read that or recite the verse.

Bible truth

- Say that missionaries choose Bible verses to go along with lessons they teach.
- As a group, or with kids divided into small groups, brainstorm Bible stories or Bible verses they know to go with each of these words. Suggestions are given in parentheses.
 - Forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Prodigal Son)
 - Love (John 3:16; Deut. 6:5)
 - Friendship (John 15:13; David and Jonathan)
 - Savior (Jesus on the Cross; Psalm 89:26)
- Encourage them to share the truths of Jesus' Word every day with people around them.

Pray

Thank God for the power of His story and His power to overcome language barriers.



Teaching the Gospel Going Further

More ideas using this theme

- Download and print the **Teaching the Gospel parent letter**. Give to parents so they can continue talking about this theme as a family.
- English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes are a wonderful way to help people learn the language and learn about Jesus. Ask your church staff or association if ESL classes are held in your neighborhood. Perhaps your church could host and be a part of teaching people about Jesus while teaching them English.
- For more on IMB's work in Europe visit europeanpeoples.imb.org.
- For more on International World Changers, visit imbstudents.org/IWC.
- Don't forget to visit kidsonmission.org for more activities and KOM experiences you might have missed. Also, like us on Facebook and see how other churches are using KOM.
- Download and print the **Telling the Story newsletter**. This includes activities on all three missions packages in this release. Use it as an introduction to the 12 New Language experiences or as a review. Make enough copies for each child to have one to take home.