

# Leader's Guide



## No Matter the Cost

Four missions experiences on being obedient to share the Gospel no matter the cost

**Location:** **Unnamed places (areas of persecution)**

**Focus verse:** Matthew 16:24 “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.’” (HCSB)

**Overall message:** Missionaries are not allowed in some areas of the world, and being a Christian can be dangerous. God wants people living everywhere to hear about Jesus, so Christian workers are being obedient to go to risky places, no matter the cost. We will not refer to the names of these places in order to protect the work and the believers living there, but God knows where these places are and the names of everyone living there.

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.]

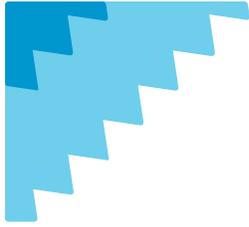
**Here is a simple glossary that may be useful to you as you communicate these ideas to children:**

**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.

**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.



# No Matter the Cost Cultural Experience



## Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or [kidsonmission.org](http://kidsonmission.org) prepare to show the **Just a regular kid** video.
- Download and print the **No Matter the Cost focus verse**.

## Introduction

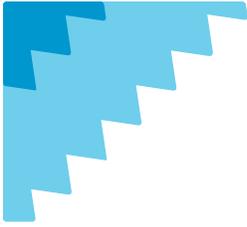
- Share that in some places of the world, missionaries are not welcome and being a follower of Jesus can be dangerous. People living in these places may not believe in Jesus. They may put their faith in other people and things. They may follow other religions. It can be hard for people living in these places to change the way they've thought and believed to follow Jesus.
- Sometimes the governments and leaders of these places want to control what people believe. They don't want their people to hear about Jesus and change the way they live and what they believe.
- Explain that you will be talking about these types of places but because there are Christians living and working there, you won't share the names of these places. God knows the names and exactly where they are located.
- Remind your group that God loves the people living in these unnamed places and He wants us to be a part of His work there.

## Discuss

- Read the **No Matter the Cost focus verse** together.
- Discuss what Jesus means when He says to take up our cross and follow Him. (Jesus' cross was the physical cross. He was obedient to God by dying on the cross to save those who believe in Him. Jesus asks believers to be like Him. We need to be obedient to do whatever God asks us to do.)

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# No Matter the Cost Cultural Experience



## Just a regular kid

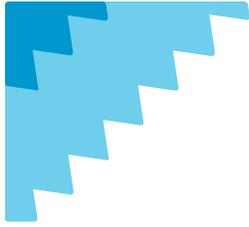
- Tell kids they are going to watch a video about Avery Claman,\* whose parents are Christian workers in an unnamed place. Since we can't show Avery, his friend, Adam, will tell us the Clamans' story. They are being obedient to do what God asks, even if it costs them their lives.
- Turn off the lights and play the **Just a regular kid** video.
- After the video has finished, turn it off and keep the lights off.
- Ask kids to sit quietly and imagine there is an angry mob outside the door. How would they feel? What would they do?
- After a minute of sitting in the dark, turn the lights back on and ask for volunteers to share some of their thoughts.
- Share that we don't typically need to worry about people wanting to cause us harm for sharing about Jesus. In the video, Adam asks what we can do to be obedient to Jesus. Ask kids to share some of their ideas.

*\*Name changed*

## Pray

Thank God for the Clamans and the work they are doing in their unnamed town. Ask that they would be protected and that many people in their town will want to follow Jesus.





# No Matter the Cost Prayer Experience



## Prepare

- Create a prayer tent: Space 4 chairs about 1 foot apart vertically and lay a bed sheet over the chairs to cover them. Adjacent to those chairs, space 4 chairs about 1 foot apart horizontally and place a bed sheet over the chairs to cover them.



### Prayer tent example

*\*You may need to add more chairs and sheets according to group size.*



- From the DVD-ROM or [kidsonmission.org](http://kidsonmission.org), download and print the **No Matter the Cost focus verse** (if you haven't already), the **Areas of persecution map** and the **Prayer tent photos**. Tape the photos along the "walls" of the prayer tent.

## Recap

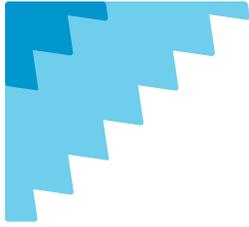
In some places around the world, following Jesus and sharing the Gospel can be dangerous. To protect believers living and working there, we won't refer to the names of these places, but God knows who they are and where they live. He wants us to be a part of what He's doing there.

## Discuss

- Review the **No Matter the Cost focus verse**.
- Share that one of the ways Jesus asks us to follow Him is by praying that all people will hear about Him and will also choose to follow Him.
- Show the **Areas of persecution map** and explain that the darkened areas are known places where being a missionary is not allowed and followers of Jesus could be persecuted.
- Remind kids that persecution can happen in other parts of the world, too.
- Read the definition of persecution from the **Areas of persecution map**.

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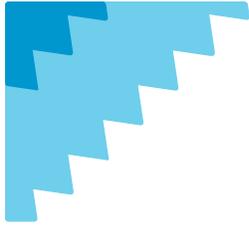
# No Matter the Cost Prayer Experience



## Prayer tent

- Point out the North Africa and Middle East region on the **Areas of persecution map**.
- Ask kids if they noticed that this part of the world is almost completely darkened.
- Tell kids that some people in North Africa and the Middle East live in tents. We may not be able to visit people in this part of the world now, but we can pray anywhere.
- Share that they can be obedient to pray for the people living in this part of the world by joining you in the prayer tent.
- Ask kids to sit in groups of two around a photo and pray for the request listed. After a minute, ask groups to move to the next spot.
- For younger children, read the requests aloud and pray together.





# No Matter the Cost Giving Experience



## Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or [kidsonmission.org](http://kidsonmission.org), download and print **You choose**, the **No Matter the Cost** focus verse (if you haven't already) and **The rest of the story**. Print one for each child.

## Recap

Jesus asks us to follow Him no matter the cost. For some Christian workers, that means going to places where missionaries are not allowed. For people living in these places, choosing to follow Jesus may mean persecution, which is being treated badly for believing in Jesus.

## You choose

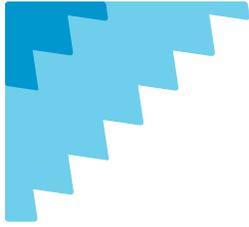
- Share that in the United States, we are free to tell others about Jesus. We are also free to follow Him, but that doesn't mean we don't sometimes face persecution.
- Remind kids the definition of persecution is being treated badly for believing in Jesus.
- Ask volunteers to share if they've ever faced persecution for being a follower of Jesus or for telling others about Him. (Kids may mention things like being made fun of, losing friends or being bullied.)
- In many of the unnamed places we've been talking about, people are not free to be Christian or share about Jesus. Persecution here can look very, very different.
- Explain that you will be reading a story about one believer in China who faced persecution.
- Refer to the **You choose** PDF and read the story aloud. Ask kids to listen carefully. You will pause at different points in the story and will need volunteers to choose what they think happens next.
- Alternate idea: cut out each segment of the story. Hand the segments to different volunteers to read aloud to the group. Ask the volunteers to share what they think happens next.

## Discuss

- Ask kids why they think it's important for people to hear about Jesus, even if believing in Him means they could be punished or even killed.
- Read the **No Matter the Cost focus verse**.
- Give a copy of the **The rest of the story** handout to each child.
- Point out that the verse at the top of the page is what comes after their focus verse.

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# No Matter the Cost Giving Experience



- Ask kids to read Matthew 16:25 aloud with you.
- Share that Jesus promises everlasting life in heaven to those who believe in Him. Whatever happens in this life is brief compared to eternity. This is why Christian workers share the Good News of Jesus with people living in unnamed places no matter the cost.

## The rest of the story

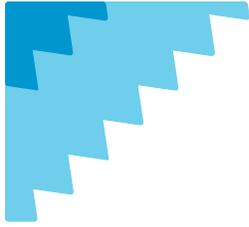
- It does cost to send Christian workers to the unnamed places. We can help more missionaries go by giving an offering.
- Explain that your church gives to missions through a global missions offering. Money given through this offering helps share the story of Jesus with people around the world.
- Instruct kids to look at the **The rest of the story** handout and ask them to fill in the blank of their story. What will they choose to personally give so others will hear about Jesus?
- Tell them you will be collecting their offering to give through your church on the date you have chosen.
- Conclude Sung's\* story by sharing that because Christian workers are able to go, many people are choosing to follow Jesus. Those followers — even those facing persecution like Sung — are being used to tell even more people about Jesus. Here is the rest of Sung's story: *After being released from jail, Sung continued to tell others about Jesus. As a result, his team baptized more than 100 new believers and started seven house churches in the same area where he was persecuted.*

\*Name changed

## Pray

Pray for God to comfort believers facing persecution. Ask God that good will come from their standing strong in their faith. Ask God to show what you can give to help missionaries share the Gospel with many more people.





# No Matter the Cost **Serving Experience**



## Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or [kidsonmission.org](http://kidsonmission.org), prepare to show the **My obedience** video.
- Download and print the **Take up my cross** handout. Print one for each child.

## Recap

God wants everyone, everywhere to hear about His Son, Jesus. That includes those living in places where believing in Jesus can be dangerous. God will use the obedience of believers who follow Him in big ways!

## Discuss

- Remind kids they have been hearing stories about believers who are being obedient to follow Jesus no matter the cost. Avery Claman\* and his family had to hide in their home for several days because people in their village were angry at Christians. Sung\* went to jail and was punished for days because he was telling people in Chinese villages about Jesus.
- Ask kids what they think about people like the Clamans and Sung. Is there any difference between what God has asked them to do and what He has asked us to do?
- Explain that whether we are giving our time, our prayers, our money or our lives, God asks us to be obedient to follow Him. This is no different for us than it is for the people in the stories we've been hearing.

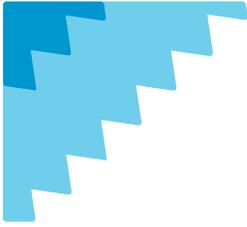
*\*Name changed*

## My obedience

- Remind kids that Jesus was willing to give His life and die on a cross so that others would believe in Him and be saved. Jesus was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for us. Think about what you would be willing to give so that others will know about Him.
- Tell kids to think about this question as they watch the video.
- Show the **My obedience** video.

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# No Matter the Cost **Serving Experience**



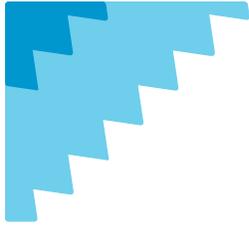
## Take up my cross

- After the video has finished, give each child a copy of the **Take up my cross** handout.
- Ask kids to take a few minutes to look at the options listed on the handout. Ask them to put a check next to the ways they are willing to follow Jesus so others will hear about Him this week.
- Encourage them to share this handout with their families because our family can help us be obedient to the commitments we make.

## Pray

Pray for hearts to follow Jesus no matter the cost. Ask God to use each of you to tell others about Jesus right where you are.





# No Matter the Cost **Going Further**



## More ideas using this theme

Download and print the **No matter the cost parent letter** to give to parents so they can continue talking about this theme as a family.

To learn more about the top 50 countries where persecution of Christians is greatest, go to **worldwidewatchlist.us**.

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.

