

Leader's Guide



Common Interests

Four missions experiences on using a common interest to share the Gospel

Location: Brazil

Focus verse: Psalm 66:16 “Come and listen, all who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for me.”

Overall message: Soccer is the most popular sport around the world, though its popularity is still growing in the U.S. Brazil is one of the countries where soccer is definitely the favorite sport. Some soccer players from Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) used the world’s most popular sport as a bridge between sports fans and Jesus fans! The OBU women’s soccer team took a mission trip to Brazil and used their soccer skills to share Jesus. Kids can follow their example and learn to use their skills, hobbies and interests to connect with people who need to know Christ.

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.]

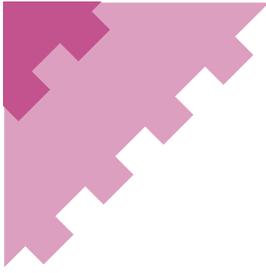
Here is a simple glossary that may be useful to you as you communicate these ideas to children:

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.



Common Interests Cultural Experience



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Goals, God and Good Times** video.
- Download and print one **Brazil map**, the **Common Interests focus verse**, and a copy of **Soccer stats** for each child.
- Bring a foam soccer ball or inflated beach ball.
- Provide markers, colored pencils or crayons.

Introduction

Invite kids to participate in a quick charades game, with each charade representing a sport or game the actor likes to play. After several turns, explain that because so many people in Brazil share a love for soccer, the women's soccer team from Oklahoma Baptist University used it to share the Gospel. Working with missionaries Rick and Jill Thompson in Brazil, OBU soccer players spoke about Jesus in schools, in churches, at soccer clinics and in neighborhoods. Soccer was the common interest that opened up opportunities to share their faith. Show the **Brazil map**, so kids can see this large country in South America.

Futbol fanatics

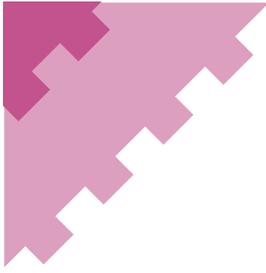
- Tell kids that in Brazil, soccer is called *futebol* [foocheh-bohl] and Brazilians are crazy about playing and watching the sport.
- Distribute copies of **Soccer stats** and encourage kids to complete the activity and compare answers: *501 professional teams; 30 million estimated players; 13,000 amateur teams; 5 million stadium seats; 103,000 ABC fans; 5 World Cup Titles.*
- If you prefer, read one statistic from **Soccer stats** at a time. Lead kids to kick their feet in one direction to indicate *more*; in the opposite direction to indicate *less*; or make a “goal” signal with hands above their heads if they think the number is correct.

Soccer celebrities

- Show the **Goals, God and Good Times** video.
- Mention that when the OBU team arrived, they received a “rock star” welcome with an open-air parade, fireworks and media interviews.
- Encourage kids to discuss how public attention might have made it easier for the OBU players to share Jesus with the citizens of Natal.
- Ask how Hannah White felt about her first mission trip. How did she use soccer to tell others about Jesus?
- Display the **Common Interests focus verse** and lead kids to read it aloud together.

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Common Interests Cultural Experience



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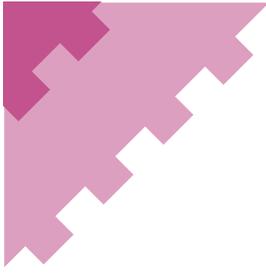
I get a kick out of...

- Lead kids to form a large circle.
- Place the soccer ball in front of the child next to you. Encourage her to name a hobby, sport or interest that could provide opportunities for Christians to talk about Jesus.
- After she does so, she may gently kick the soccer ball to the next person. Continue until everyone has mentioned a ministry possibility.

Pray

Encourage kids to pray for mission teams as they use their common interest in sports to minister to people who need to know Jesus.





Common Interests Prayer Experience



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **An amazing thing** video.
- Download and print the **Sharing at school** photo.
- Write individual alphabet letters (omit Q, X, Y and Z) on slips of scratch paper. Fold each slip and drop in a box, basket or gift bag.

Recap

Common enthusiasm for soccer made it possible for the OBU women's soccer team to minister to the people of Natal, Brazil. Working with missionaries Rick and Jill Thompson in Brazil, OBU soccer players spoke about Jesus in schools, in churches, at soccer clinics and in neighborhoods. They also played in friendly matches against Brazilian teams. Soccer was the common interest that opened up opportunities to share their faith.

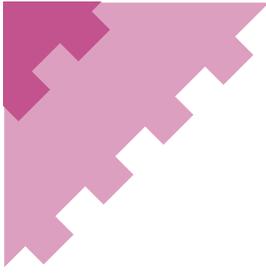
What would you say?

- Show the **Sharing at school** photo and read the caption aloud. Tell kids that the OBU soccer players were not only free to talk about soccer in Brazilian schools, they were free to talk about their faith in Jesus.
- Show the **An amazing thing** video.
- Call attention to the multicolored soccer ball. Explain that the athletes used the colors on the ball to help kids remember important things about salvation — being saved from the penalty of sin.
- Invite volunteers to share, if they had the opportunity, what they would like Brazilian kids to know about Jesus.

Prayer time

- Sit in a circle. Announce that kids can use alphabet letters to pray for sports-related mission teams.
- Hand the bag to the person who most recently attended or watched a soccer game. Prompt him to choose a letter from the bag. Challenge kids to name words related to the mission story that can help them pray for mission teams using sports to connect with non-believers. (Examples: *N* for *Natal*; *O* for *opportunities*; *T* for *travel safety*.)
- Direct the active player to keep the slip of paper and pass the bag to the next person.
- Working your way around the circle, invite each of the kids to pray a brief sentence prayer, or pray silently and simply tap the shoulder of the next person when the prayer is complete.
- Encourage kids to remember the letters they drew from the bags. When they notice that letter on a sign or a shirt, encourage them to pray that soccer fans in Brazil will get excited about Jesus.





Common Interests Giving Experience



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, print **Team trip highlights** and one copy of **Trip money** for each child.
- Provide scissors, pencils and one envelope per child.
- Collect information about an upcoming mission trip involving people from your church or church association, including where and how to send contributions. (Option: invite a trip participant to visit with kids.)

Recap

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Team highlights

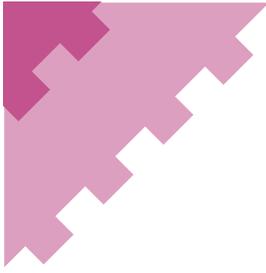
- Display photos from **Team trip highlights**.
- Describe the nature of the OBU women's soccer trip to Brazil or invite volunteers to recall trip details.

Trip money

- Distribute **Trip money** sheets and scissors. Lead kids to cut the play money bills apart.
- Challenge kids to calculate the amount of money they have available (\$1,650).
- Invite volunteers to identify costs that might be related to the OBU team's mission trip (passport, airfare, restaurant food) and to show you which bills they think would be needed to pay for them.
- Comment that an adult U.S. passport costs \$165; airfare from Oklahoma City to Natal could cost as much as \$5,700. Because international travel is expensive, mission teams need the support of generous givers from their home churches.

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Common Interests Giving Experience



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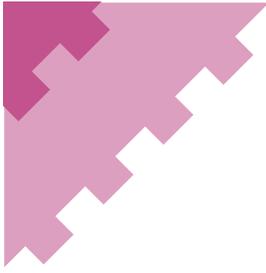
Making money travel

- Share what you know about an upcoming church or associational mission trip or introduce your guest.
- Tell kids that they can make their money “travel” to the team’s destination by bringing an offering to help with travel expenses.
- Give everyone an envelope and prompt kids to write *Travel Money* on the front.
- Encourage kids to take their play money bills home with them and replace them next week with real money they have collected for the mission trip.

Pray

Ask God to provide the funds needed for mission trip teams to carry His message to other places.





Common Interests **Serving Experience**



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, download and print the **Common Interests focus verse**, the **Sharing at school** and **Team trip** photos. You might have printed these already to use for a previous experience.
- Gather brown paper grocery bags, scissors, duct tape, and beanbag filler (dried beans, rice, dry pet food or buttons) to help kids make their own kick bags.
- Provide scissors and fine point permanent markers.

Recap

Common enthusiasm for soccer made it possible for the OBU women's soccer team to minister to the people of Natal, Brazil. Working with missionaries Rick and Jill Thompson in Brazil, OBU soccer players spoke about Jesus in schools, in churches, at soccer clinics and in neighborhoods. They also played in friendly matches against Brazilian teams. Soccer was the common interest that opened up opportunities to share their faith.

Soccer skills

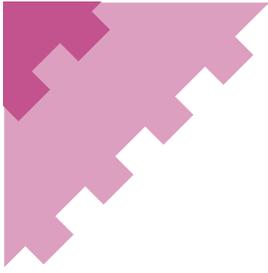
- Display the **Team trip photos** and ask for volunteers to read the captions.
- Invite kids who have played on a soccer team to describe the drills and soccer basics the Lady Bison team might have shared with kids at their soccer clinics.
- Help kids recognize how meeting practical needs (in this case, teaching soccer skills) can lead to opportunities for Christians to share their faith.

Duct tape kick bags

- Display the **Common Interests focus verse** and lead kids to read it with you. Ask: *What did the Lady Bison team do so that people would come and listen to them? What do you think they told people about what God has done?*
- Provide grocery bags, paper and scissors. Lead kids to cut two squares, approximately 4".
- Use duct tape to make an "envelope" with the paper squares, leaving one side open.
- Carefully pour filler into the open side, then seal with duct tape.
- Direct kids to use additional strips of duct tape to completely cover the kick bags.
- With permanent markers, kids can print the Bible reference or a phrase from the focus verse on the outside of the finished kick bags.

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Common Interests **Serving Experience**



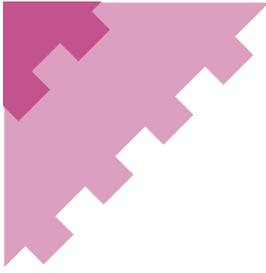
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- Let kids practice bouncing the kick bags on the tops of their feet or their knees while repeating each word or phrase of Psalm 66:16.
- Suggest that kids invite friends to use the kick bags with them. While doing so, they can teach the focus verse to their friends or invite them to church or Bible study.

Pray

Thank God for Christian athletes who use their skills to point others to God.





Common Interests Going Further



More ideas using this theme

- Download and print the **Common Interests parent letter**. Give to parents so they can continue investigating this theme as a family.
- Check with area Christian colleges or student ministries who are planning mission trips. Find out ways kids can support the mission team and provide opportunities for kids to do so.
- Conduct a sports equipment drive (new or gently used playground balls, soccer balls, indoor foam balls, jump ropes or other items). Donate the items to a ministry or organization that provides recreational opportunities or after-school care for needy kids.
- Order the **Cross Gospel Tract for kids** to use with your group. Explain how the Gospel is shared using colors as a talking point. These can be ordered from IMB by calling (800) 999-3113 or by going to **imbresources.org**.
- 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.

