

What's Up? Leader's Guide



Four missions experiences on helping others grow in the knowledge of Jesus

Location: Guatemala

Focus verse: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*
2 Peter 3:18a (HCSB)

Overall message: What's (growing) up in Guatemala? Healthy crops and a harvest of new Christians! David and Regina White are IMB missionaries in Guatemala. They teach farmers how to nourish their soil and plant the seeds of the gospel as well, through the Chorti Agricultural Development Center. These missions experiences will teach kids about reaching the Chorti people of Central America with the good news of Jesus. These experiences will also encourage kids to tell people close to them about Jesus - even if it takes some hard work.

Before you begin: This resource is a collection of experiences to plug your kids into global missions. The leader's guide includes plans for four, short missions experiences designed to last 10 to 15 minutes. Add these to existing children's programs or combine them for a longer missions focus. Through these experiences, kids will learn about other cultures and also about developing lifelong patterns of praying, giving and being personally involved in God's plan to reach all nations.

Names of Christians around the world or Christian workers are often changed or withheld to protect the spread of the gospel.

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What's Up?

Experience 1



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Happy work** video.
- Download and print the **Guatemala map** and the **What's Up focus verse**. Leave the focus verse posted in your room to refer to in each experience.
- Gather supplies for a simple erosion experiment (see options below).
- Provide drawing paper and markers.

Introduction

Allow kids to take the lead conducting one of these experiments to demonstrate the concept of soil erosion:

Option 1: Fill a large cake pan about $\frac{1}{2}$ full of sand. Blow gently across the surface of the pan with straws to simulate wind erosion. Then tilt the pan slightly and allow kids to pour small streams of water from a measuring cup to simulate erosion by water.

Option 2: Place several Skittles® candies in a shallow pan. Take turns spritzing the candy with water to watch the candy coating erode.

Option 3: Place a cookie or graham cracker in a bowl of water. Let kids estimate the time it will take for water to erode the cookie.

Help to grow

- Show the **Guatemala map**. Explain that erosion, over time, has affected the soil in Guatemala so severely that people have difficulty growing good crops and gardens.
- Explain that a group of creative missionaries is helping the Chorti people of Guatemala grow better crops and helping them *grow better* by sharing the good news about Jesus with them at the same time.
- Play the **Happy Work** video. Explain that the Whites live in Guatemala, but the agricultural center is right across the border in Honduras. Chorti people live in Guatemala and Honduras.
- Distribute drawing paper and markers. Encourage kids to doodle and sketch things they saw growing at the agricultural center. Invite volunteers to describe what they drew.

Pray

Read the **What's Up focus verse**. Invite a volunteer to thank God for Miriam's family and their love for the Chorti people.



What's Up? Experience 2



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Bumpy roads** video.
- Bring a potato or soft foam ball and a whistle, squeak toy or smartphone with a sound effects app.
- Download and print the **What's Up focus verse**, if it's not already displayed in your room.
- Prepare to use a blank poster or dry erase board for notetaking.

Recap

The Whites are a missionary family living in Guatemala. They tell the Chorti people about Jesus and work to plant churches among them. They find opportunities to share the gospel as they teach farmers how to grow food in difficult conditions. The farmers are happy to have food, but even happier when they accept Jesus as Savior.

Hot potato

- Guide kids to form a circle and pass the “hot potato” from person to person as quickly as possible until you blow your whistle or use your noisemaker. The player holding the potato at that time should respond to one of these directions:
 - Name a food or crop that grows underground.*
 - Name a food or crop that grows in a tree.*
 - Name a food or crop that grows on a vine.*
 - Name a crop that farmers harvest with big machinery.*
 - Name a crop that is used to make breakfast cereal.*
 - Name a vegetable that is larger than a tomato.*
 - Name a vegetable that is smaller than a potato.*
- To increase the difficulty for older kids, choose one volunteer to stand in the center of the circle, read one of the categories and signal kids with your noisemaker to begin passing the potato. The volunteer should name three items that fit the category before the “hot potato” travels completely around the circle. Give young children a choice of answers for each question (What grows underground? A potato or an orange?).
- Tell kids that IMB missionaries David and Regina White work with the Chorti Agricultural Development Center to help the Chorti people produce better food and crops in poor soil.



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What's Up? Experience 2

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What do the Whites do?

- Lead kids to watch the **Bumpy roads** video.
- Point to the **What's Up focus verse** and lead kids to read it aloud with you. Ask: *How do the Whites help people grow in the knowledge of Jesus? Which do you think is more difficult: growing good crops or growing new Christians among the Chorti people? Why?*

Pray

- Brainstorm with kids a list of ways to pray for the Whites and the Chorti people. For fun, challenge kids to include the word grow in each suggestion, for example:

*Pray that the Whites do not **grow** discouraged in their work.*

*Pray that the Chorti people will learn to love God, who makes plants **grow**.*

*Ask God to help Chorti kids **grow** up knowing about Jesus.*

- Give everyone the opportunity to pray aloud for the work of David and Regina White.



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Experience 3



Prepare

- If you have not done so, from the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Bumpy roads** video.
- Download and print the **White family photos** and the **Giving questions**.
- Bring a dice or another numbered game cube.

Recap

The Whites are a missionary family living in Guatemala. They tell the Chorti people about Jesus and work to plant churches among them. They find opportunities to share the gospel as they teach farmers how to grow food in difficult conditions. The farmers are happy to have food, but even happier when they accept Jesus as Savior.

Planting seeds

- Mention to kids that showing Chorti farmers how to grow good crops provides missionaries with an opportunity to share the gospel.
- If you have not done so (or wish to review), play the **Bumpy roads** video for kids.
- Lead kids to review the **What's Up focus verse**. Explain that the Bible often compares sharing the gospel to planting seeds (*telling about Jesus for the first time*) and waiting for a harvest (*when people trust Jesus as their Savior*). Ask: *How do David and Regina White find ways to tell people about Jesus?*

Seed money

- Show the **White family photos** and ask for volunteers to read the captions.
- Ask kids to recall, from the video or from previous discussions, items that the Whites might have to buy in order to do their jobs.
- Remind the group that when they give to missions, they make it possible for missionaries to “plant seeds” all around the world.
- Let kids take turns tossing the game cube. From the **Giving questions**, read the question that corresponds to the number. When the cube lands on the number 6, everyone should stand and enthusiastically say the **What's Up focus verse**, at first with prompting from the poster, then from memory.

Pray

Thank God for kids, families and churches who give generously to make it possible for others to hear about Jesus.



What's Up?

Experience 4



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, download and print one **Icky gameboard** for every two kids. Post the rules where everyone can see them.
- If you have not done so or would like to review, from the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Happy work** video.

Recap

The Whites are a missionary family living in Guatemala. They tell the Chorti people about Jesus and work to plant churches among them. They find opportunities to share the gospel as they teach farmers how to grow food in difficult conditions. The farmers are happy to have food, but even happier when they accept Jesus as Savior.

Hard workers

- Review with kids basic information about mission work done through the White family in Guatemala, or replay the **Happy work** video to the group.
- At the video's end, challenge kids to list ways they noticed people working hard, such as feeding animals, hoeing vegetable patches, washing clothes by hand or grinding corn.
- Comment that farm work is almost always hard work, but the work is worth it when it gives missionaries the opportunity to tell Chorti farmers about God!

Icky, sticky, yucky, achy

- Tell kids that a very effective way to share God's love is to serve others through hard work.
- Lead kids to find partners. Provide an **Icky gameboard**.
- This will be played like Tic-Tac-Toe. One player will be Xs and the other will be Os (or other symbols of their choosing).
- The object of the game is to mark four spaces in a row horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Kids will take turns earning spaces by responding to the word on the gameboard:

Icky — Name a job people rarely volunteer to do.

Sticky — Name a job that requires you to “stick with it” all day long.



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What's Up? Experience 4

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Yucky — Name a job that is gross or gets you dirty.

Achy — Name a job that might make your muscles sore

- Supervise and referee as needed. At the game's end, call for volunteers to share examples of each type of job. Challenge kids, before you meet again, to serve others through some form of icky, sticky, yucky, achy work.

Pray

Ask God to give kids the desire to serve others by working hard.



What's Up? Going Further



More ideas using this theme

- Download and print the **What's Up parent letter**. Give to parents so they can help kids extend their missions experiences through family activities.
- More information about the Chorti Agricultural Development Center is found at **imb.org**. Search "Chorti." You'll also find links to additional video and further information about the Chorti people.
- Sweeten your session with some type of chocolate snack. Remind the group that cacao grows at the agricultural center. Share a little information about how cacao is transformed into chocolate with information found online.
- For a real-time, real-life service experience, set a specific date for kids to burn a little elbow grease cleaning, picking up trash in a park, doing yard work for a homebound grandparent or unloading/sorting donations at a local food pantry.
- 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.

