

Send 'Em! Leader's Guide



Four missions experiences on supporting and encouraging Christians on mission

Location: Cuba/Ecuador

Focus verse: *Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*
Galatians 6:2 (HCSB)

Overall message: Changes in conditions after decades of government control have made it possible for two dedicated Christians to leave Cuba—not for political reasons, but for spiritual reasons. With official missionary stamps in their passports, Javier (Hah-vee-air) and Yaima (Jah-ee-ma) are making disciples in Ecuador, supported by Christians from their own country and the United States. Kids on Mission will learn how they can be the “support team” for missionaries worldwide.

A special note: Conditions and restrictions for travel, trade, and worship in Cuba are changing rapidly. Information presented in these missions experiences was accurate at publication time, but before you teach, check online for recent news stories about Cuban-American relations.

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 is a product of IMB,
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Send 'Em! Experience 1



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Cuba to the Nations** video.
- Download and print the **Cuba to Ecuador map**.
- Bring a laundry basket or empty, medium-sized box and a balloon.

Introduction

- **Clear space for an active game. Put the laundry basket on the floor.**
- **Form two teams, the “getter-inners” and the “keeper-outers.”**
- **Explain that the getter-inners have one goal: to volley or toss the balloon into the laundry basket. They may not make physical contact with the keeper-outers.**
- **The keeper-outers should form a tight circle around the laundry basket, facing outward with hands clasped behind their backs. They may not use their hands or feet, but can block the balloon with their heads and shoulders.**
- **Referee for safety throughout the game. When a team successfully lands the balloon in the basket, switch roles and play again.**
- **Explain that for years, government rules made it extremely difficult to get in or out of the island nation of Cuba, but times have changed, and two missionaries have left the country to do something extraordinary.**

Before leaving ...

- Show kids the **Cuba to the Nations video**.
- Display the **Cuba to Ecuador map** to show the relationship between Javier and Yaima’s home country and their new mission field.
- Comment that before they left for Ecuador, Javier and Yaima were already at work telling other Cubans about Jesus, often traveling by foot or on bicycles. With the help of other Cuban Christians, the couple helped start two churches and 19 Bible study groups.

Prayer time

- *Ask: What do you think Javier and Yaima are thankful for? Allow volunteers to respond, then ask one of them to thank God for allowing Javier and Yaima to serve Him in a new country.*



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Send 'Em! Experience 1

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- *Ask: What do you think Javier and Yaima need most? After volunteers respond, allow someone to pray that God meets the couple's physical and spiritual needs.*
- *Ask: How can we pray for the Cuban churches Javier and Yaima started before leaving for Ecuador? After volunteers respond, prompt someone to pray that more Cubans will come to trust Jesus through the work of the churches planted by Javier, Yaima, and their friends.*



Send 'Em! Experience 2



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show the **Cuba to the Nations** video.
- Download and print the **Send 'Em photos, Passport pages** (one per child), and **Passport stations**.
- Fold each **Passport page** in quarters to resemble an actual passport. Cut the **Passport stations** apart and tape to the walls of your classroom.
- Provide four sticker sheets. Place one sheet near each passport station.
- (Optional) Bring cups and a bottle of Coca-Cola®. (Check for dietary restrictions before you serve.)

Recap

Javier and Yaima are the first two travelers to receive missionary stamps in their Cuban passports. Supported by other Cuban believers and a special *Cubans to the Nations* giving project, they now share the gospel in Ecuador.

Travel briefing

- Distribute **Passport pages** and encourage kids to pretend they are preparing for travel to Cuba.
- If you brought Coca-Cola®, pour a small cup for each child. Explain that they should savor the taste—it may be hard to find when they arrive! (For over 50 years, Coca-Cola® was not for sale in Cuba due to trade restrictions.)
- Advise your “travelers” to be aware of additional unusual travel conditions:
 - » In Cuba, it is illegal to stay at someone’s house without paying. Travelers must look for a *special casa particular*, which is similar to a bed and breakfast, where they can pay for overnight lodging.
 - » American travelers cannot use debit or credit cards in Cuba; they must use cash.
 - » Wi-Fi access is scarce and unreliable.
 - » You will probably be unable to use your cell phone.
 - » Instead of buying souvenirs, you may be able to trade for them with T-shirts, American snacks, or other small items.



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Send 'Em! Experience 2

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- Finally, remind kids that they won't be able to find church planters Javier and Yaima in Cuba. They used their passports to travel to Ecuador, where they are sharing the good news about Jesus.
- Show or replay the **Cuba to the Nations** video and discuss the **Send 'Em** photos with kids.

Time to travel

- Call attention to the **Passport stations** taped to your classroom walls.
- Give each "traveler" a pencil to record information in his **Passport page**.
- Prompt kids to move from station to station, complete each assignment, and add a sticker to the center section of their passports.

Prayer time

- Remind kids that no matter where they travel, missionaries need prayer and financial support from believers at home.
- Lead a brief prayer. Ask God to give kids a desire to help missionaries by praying faithfully and giving regularly.



Send 'Em! Experience 3



Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show **The best summer** video.
- Download and print the **Cuba to Ecuador map**, **focus verse**, and **Send 'Em photos**.
- Bring a jump rope.

Recap

Javier and Yaima are the first two travelers to receive missionary stamps in their Cuban passports. Supported by other Cuban believers and a special *Cubans to the Nations* giving project, they now share the gospel in Ecuador

From Cuba to Ecuador

- Present or recap information about Javier, Yaima, and their unique opportunity to share their faith outside Cuba.
- Use the **Cuba to Ecuador map** and **Send 'Em photos** as desired.

Behind the scenes

- Comment that kids attending a summer camp in Kentucky were able to support Javier and Yaima behind the scenes.
- Play **The best summer** video for the group.
- *Ask: What happened—or didn't happen—at the snack shack that helped Javier and Yaima? (Kids gave some of their snack money to a special offering for the church planters.)*
- Display the **focus verse** and lead kids to read it together. Guide kids to describe how the kids at summer camp obeyed the Bible verse.

Skip it!

- Remind kids that one way to save money for projects to support missionaries like Javier and Yaima is to skip the purchase of things they may want but not need—things like ice cream, toys or video games.

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Send 'Em! Experience 3

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- Provide clear space for a jump rope game. Teach kids a simple chant to accompany the rhythm of the rope:

Skip it! Skip it!

Skip a treat for missions.

Skip it! Skip it!

What are you gonna skip?

- The active jumper will continue jumping, name something she can do without, then jump away from the rope.
- The next jumper will chant the main rhyme (kids waiting for turns can chant along with him), but before he finishes his jumping turn, he will name the original treat and a second “do-without” treat.
- Continue adding to the list until everyone has participated.
- For a space-saving option, play a charades game. Lead kids to act out the use of items, activities, or snacks they can skip in order to support missions with their own funds.

Prayer time

- Together, ask God to provide the funds, financing and opportunities for Cuban Christians to be on mission for Him.



Send 'Em! Experience 4



Prepare

- (Optional) From the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org, prepare to show **Cuba to the nations** and/or **The best summer** video.
- Download and print the **Cuba to Ecuador map**, **Send 'Em photos**, and **Spanish phrase game** (one game for every kid).
- Provide scissors and pencils or markers.

Recap

Javier and Yaima are the first two travelers to receive missionary stamps in their Cuban passports. Supported by other Cuban believers and a special *Cubans to the Nations* giving project, they now share the gospel in Ecuador.

Supporting roles

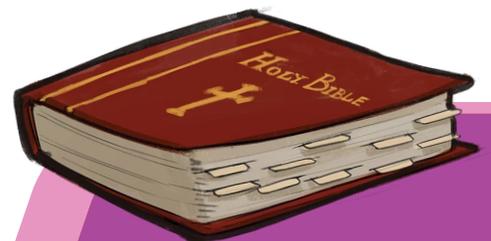
- Using the **Cuba to Ecuador map** and **Send 'Em photos**, review or present general information about Javier and Yaima. (You may also show or replay either video from the DVD-ROM or kidsonmission.org.)
- Ask kids how they can support missionaries—not just Javier and Yaima, but people serving all over the world.
- Distribute copies of the **Spanish phrase game**. Teach kids the phonetic pronunciations for these phrases:

iVayamos!
Let's go!

iOremos!
Let's pray!

iOfrendemos!
Let's give!

iSirvamos!
Let's serve!



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Send 'Em!

Experience 4

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- Provide pencils and scissors. On the English translation cards, lead kids to write specific ways they can pray, give, go (*participate in missions projects*), and serve (*help others as part of their daily routine*).
- When the cards are finished, kids can cut them apart, flip them over, and play a concentration game to turn over two matching cards at a time.
- For older kids, form teams of four to five kids. Each team will scramble all its cards, place them face down, and play *speed concentration*. The first team to correctly match all its cards wins.

Prayer time

- Direct kids to retrieve their *Let's pray!* cards and stand in a circle.
- Encourage kids to follow the prayer suggestions they wrote, then pass the cards one person to the right and pray in the way suggested on the new card.
- If your group is small, repeat until all cards have been read; for large groups, limit the number of times cards are passed.



Send 'Em! Going Further



More ideas using this theme

- Download and print the **Send 'Em! parent letter**. Give to parents so they can help kids extend their missions experiences through family activities.
- Older kids may have questions about the reasons Cuba has been a closed country for so many years. If you need to brush up on your history, this 2009 article presents a concise recap of Cuban-U.S. political relations: <http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1891359,00.html>
- The official language of both Cuba and Ecuador is Spanish. Talk with kids about the linguistic advantage Javier and Yaima have over missionaries who are not native Spanish speakers. Teach kids these service-oriented phrases in Spanish:

How can I help you?
¿Cómo puedo ayudarte?

I am glad you are here.
Me alegro de que estés aquí.

I am praying for you.
Estoy orando por ti.

- Supervising Internet use, allow older kids to research the steps required to obtain a U.S. passport—something they may need to know if they have the opportunity to go on mission outside the United States. (If you or someone you know is a passport holder, bring and show a real passport to the group.)
- 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.

