



MISSION TO THE WORLD

Into All the World

April 22, 2023

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) • “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Acts 23:11 (NIV) • “The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.’”

Isaiah 40:9 (NIV) • “You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’”

Proverbs 25:25 (NIV) • “Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.”

Acts 1:8 (NIV) • “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Matthew 10:5-14 (NIV) • “These twelve Jesus

sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.’”

Psalms 67:1, 2 (NIV) • “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.”

Psalms 96:3 (NIV) • “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

Isaiah 45:22 (NIV) • “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.”

(See additional passages in student material.)

(Additional quotations on the subject of mission

are available at the teachers' section of the Web site under Editor's Quarter Review.)

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT "MISSION TO THE WORLD"

Although planes, TV, and the Internet have made the world smaller and more accessible, the cultural nuances of mission work are more than just interesting; they can be quite challenging. Taking the good news of God's kingdom to the world is a command that was given in a time without speedy travel and advanced communications. Even in today's society with those things the level of commitment and focus it takes to be mindful of this mission is often underestimated.

Some may claim that there is a mission field in their own neighborhood. While this is true, mission work around the globe should not be traded for local ministry. Clearly Jesus called His disciples to do all of it—both/and. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV). This lesson focuses on a worldwide mission and what impact that has on our church and on our personal lives. In addition, this lesson will also address what the gospel is at its core, an important aspect of global mission.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "MISSION TO THE WORLD"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Understand that spreading the gospel is the most important work of the church.
2. Understand the gospel as it relates to different people groups.
3. Develop a sense of personal ownership of gospel work around the world.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) *SDA Yearbook*, globe or map of the world, sticky/Post-it notes, pictures

from different parts of the world.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, verses written on small pieces of paper, paper, pencils.

Applying • Bibles.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • The goal of this activity is to help students connect real people to different parts

of the globe. You will need the *SDA Yearbook*, which has general statistics and information about those who work in the different divisions, and a globe or map of the world.

Get set • Organize students into groups of two or three and equip them with a few sticky/Post-it notes. Then **say:** **We are going to spend some time learning about our world and possibly the people who are sharing the gospel all around it. We won't have all the information, but collectively we should be able to develop a pretty good picture; be prepared to share what you know. Your job is to spin the globe and randomly place a sticky note on it while it is still moving—essentially stopping the motion as you stick a spot. If you are in the middle of an ocean, we will choose the closest place to focus on.**

Go • Spin the globe and have each group pick a location. Then ask each group to develop a collective report on what they might know about that region, the culture, anyone they know, or stories they might have read or heard, and any information they already have about that area. Next, look up in a copy of the *SDA Yearbook* that particular division and scan for more interesting information. (An online version is available at: www.adventistyearbook.org/.) This may seem like a random activity, but the goal is to create awareness and curiosity about other parts of the world. Bring any pictures you have of different parts of the world.

Debriefing • Ask: How many of you knew there was such a thing as the *SDA Yearbook*? What did you learn about the world that you didn't know before? How does thinking about other believers around the world increase your desire to know and do things for God abroad? What do you think would happen to your own sense of mission if you were to pray regularly for the names in this book?

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • What cultural issues would a missionary have to consider while doing missionary work in various parts of the world? Pick a group of reliable candidates (boys and girls) who can create a short skit for the class that demonstrates the attributes of the culture described below. Have them step out and prepare the skit or give the task to them ahead of time. The point of this activity is not to make a judgment on the culture but to have students observe different cultural norms and be able to think about how the gospel of Christ could speak most effectively to that culture.

Get set • While the students are preparing to share their skit with the rest of the class, **say:** **Today we are going to get a glimpse of another culture. Our job will be to identify some of the key rules of that culture and to consider ways that we could work among them and help them learn about Christ.**

Go • After the students share their sketch, invite the class to discuss the following questions.

Debriefing • Ask: What cultural norms did you notice? How do those norms agree with your belief in God? How might they be different? What do you think a missionary should seek to do in a culture like this? How do you think they should go about communicating the gospel of Christ? As a missionary, what would be the most difficult thing about moving to this culture?

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, short-term mission trips have multiplied phenomenally over the past two decades. Students from schools and churches all over have seized the experience of short-term missions as a way to share the gospel, as well as to develop a sense of participation in the world church. While

traveling to do mission work is valuable, notice what this school did to help orphans in Zambia.

High school seniors attending Wheaton Academy in Chicago, Illinois, raised \$3,000 to build a three-room schoolhouse for AIDS orphans in Zambia. The idea caught on with the rest of the school and the entire student body chipped in, giving money normally used for clothes, fast food, and other items cherished by teenagers. They raised money by having cookouts and concerts. At the end of the school year the students had raised \$72,000 for missionary work.

Debriefing • Ask: What other stories have you heard that are similar to the situation at Wheaton Academy? How much could be raised if your group chose to give the same way? What kinds of things would be easy to give up for such a cause? What would be difficult? Do you think the students at Wheaton Academy feel as if they participated in mission work, even though they didn't go themselves?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

Going into the world with the good news is the main focus of anyone in God's kingdom. If you are a citizen, you are a missionary. Some people will travel to the end of the globe and sacrifice wealth, luxury, and personal achievement for the work of the kingdom. Others will stay in their neighborhoods and sacrifice to give and support missions while they seek to be missionaries to their neighbors. The kingdom of God exists for the purpose of inviting others to join. The disciples were commissioned to go into "all the world" and make disciples of "all nations." Ultimately, it takes a whole team to make this happen. Some areas of the world are very receptive to the gospel;

other areas are not as open. How does the Seventh-day Adventist Church make its way into all the world and what makes our mission work successful?

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.

Ask: Mission work is all about sharing the gospel, but in many scenarios, the walls have to be broken down by selfless service and hard work. It's not unlike the Savior and the way He worked on behalf of people. Can you think of some examples in the life of Christ? What are some walls in your culture that need to be broken down in order for people to listen to you? What are some walls in other cultures that need to be broken down in order for people to listen to the gospel message?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

The purpose of the following activity is for students to understand how Christ met people's needs and to practice also doing it with actions, not words.

Write the following quote and list where all can see.

The Christ Way

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me' " (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Group one: Mingled with men as one who desired their good

Group two: Showed His sympathy for them

Group three: Ministered to their needs

Group four: Won their confidence
Group five: Bade them, "Follow Me"

Place the verses listed below, with their numbers, on separate small pieces of paper. Mix them up and then distribute all the verses among the students. If you have more than 20 students, create more pieces of paper on which you repeat verses.

Say: The verses I've given you show Christ doing one of the five actions mentioned on the board. Look up your verse, then ask yourself silently, "Which activity of The Christ Way is being emphasized in this verse?" When you have identified The Christ Way that your verse describes, find others who have a verse describing the same Christ Way. But you must do it without saying a word. You must communicate without using language or sounds, including writing it out. You will have to act out The Christ Way your verse demonstrates.

The numbered verses should end up as follows:

Group one

1. Matthew 9:10, 11
2. Matthew 11:19
3. Luke 15:1, 2
4. Mark 2:16

Group two

5. Matthew 9:36
6. Matthew 15:32
7. Mark 8:2, 3
8. Luke 7:13

Group three

9. Matthew 14:14
10. Matthew 20:34
11. Mark 1:41, 42
12. Mark 1:33, 34

Group four

13. Matthew 7:28, 29
14. Matthew 9:8
15. John 2:23
16. John 6:1, 2

Group five

17. Matthew 4:19, 20
18. Matthew 9:9
19. John 1:43
20. John 21:19

When the students have grouped themselves, debrief.

Debriefing • Ask: How did you find your group? What methods of communication worked best? Could your verse have worked in another group as well? Which one? What other stories can you think of in the life of Christ in which you can see His method of ministry? What would it look like if your church were to take this approach locally and/or globally? What can you do right now to use this approach in your personal life?

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Think of a mission story you have heard that is almost unbelievable. Encourage the students to think of the most famous mission story they ever heard. Share the stories with the class and discuss what makes them great. Is it danger? Is it life-and-death challenges? Is it the miraculous? Is it the massive numbers of believers that are baptized? Maybe some of the great stories are great because ordinary people did extraordinary things with God's help.

Have someone read **Acts 1:8**. Notice that the call was to first go to Jerusalem before moving out farther to the outer reaches of the world. Have the students identify some practical ways in which they can practice Christ's five-step way (see Connecting to Life) of reaching people in each of the areas described in **Acts 1:8**.

- » Jerusalem (home, closest friends, neighbors)
- » Judea and Samaria (community, city, or school)

- » Ends of the earth (foreign missions, supporting student missionaries, or short-term mission trips)

Debriefing • Ask: What makes living like a missionary more difficult than talking about missions? What can you do to get involved in missions instead of just talking about it? Why do you think mission work is important?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. If you were born in another country, such as India, Russia, or China, what do you think your religious convictions would be like?
2. What are some of the character qualities that every missionary should have?
3. Agree or disagree: Everyone who claims to be a follower of Christ is a missionary. Why or why not?
4. What would you be willing to give up for mission work?
5. What missionaries are there in your congregation whom you could interview and ask for ideas for becoming a mission-minded person locally?

6. Agree or disagree: Churches that grow locally usually support missions around the world. Why?
7. How many of you want to commit to being a student missionary or going on a short-term mission trip before you are done with your education?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words conclude with the following ideas:

The church is in existence to communicate the gospel to the world. This doesn't happen without missionaries. Missionaries are people who respond to the call of God to live so deliberately for His kingdom that they are willing to do whatever it takes to win others for Christ. Missionaries aren't perfect people, and they aren't always popular people. However, missionaries are called by God to spread the gospel to the world. Consider for a moment what it will be like in heaven when the Father rewards us for the work we have done for Him. One quality will be true of all: we were willing to "go."



STUDENT LESSON

MISSION TO THE WORLD Into All the World

April 22, 2023

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 12, The Church:** “The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together . . . for service to humanity, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 88-91

INTO ALL THE WORLD

Wycliffe Bible Translators have been translating the Word of God into as many languages as possible. Cameron Townsend, pioneer of linguistic and missionary endeavors in Central America, desperately wanted to translate the Bible into the local Indian languages of Mexico.

In 1935 Townsend and his wife, Elvira, with several students who had learned his methods, went to Mexico to undertake their work. The group settled in a tiny Aztec village, a two-hour mountain drive from Mexico City, and began learning the language of the local

people. They had the support of the secretary of labor, who was interested in a cultural program for the Indians. He had his department publish Townsend’s primers for teaching Aztecs to read.

Townsend worked diligently to improve the quality of their life while celebrating the unique qualities of their culture. In the village where he worked day to day, he noticed a freshwater spring that ran down the backside of the village, only to be wasted on the steep slope. He encouraged the villagers to plant crops in such a way as to take advantage of the water supply. They diverted the spring to an open area, and soon successful crops were producing much food. The economy in that area blossomed, and Townsend wrote an article about the whole experience.

The article found its way to the desk of the president of Mexico, Lázaro Cárdenas, who was curious about this gringo (foreigner) who would live among his people and help them in such a profound way. Townsend had gone to live in an area where even the local government employees refused to live. The president made a journey to the village to meet Townsend, and when the car pulled into the center of the village, the humble missionary made his way over to meet the visitors. Townsend greeted the president and was surprised to be greeted with “You are the man I have come to see! Tell me about what you are doing here.” Townsend shared his story and reminded the president of his desire to translate the Scriptures into the local language. Lázaro Cárdenas gladly allowed him

to translate the Bible into the local tongue; this began a friendship with the Mexican government that lasted many years. During that season of favor the gospel spread throughout the region, and the Word of God flourished among many different cultures.

Mission work is all about sharing the gospel, but in many scenarios, the walls have to be broken down by selfless service and hard work. This is how the the Savior worked on behalf of people. Can you think of some examples in the life of Christ?

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Matthew 28:18-20.
- » On the forum are posted some requests for your feedback about mission. Be sure to go online and share what you think it takes to be a missionary.

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE CHURCH

- » Read Jeremiah 23:3; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 14:6.
- » God has called us to a special work as we live in the last days of the history of this world. To share the good news about Jesus, we need to let His light shine through our actions and words. We are called to serve others with kindness and to lead them to the compassionate and loving Savior.
- » As we are rapidly approaching the second coming of Jesus, how are you responding to His Great Commission?

- » What are ways you can do your part in serving others and sharing God's love through actions and words?

- » Using the word list, find the missing words

to read the following Bible texts. All texts are from the New King James Version.

appear	commandments	done
go	light	preach
ends	world	testimony

"And He said to them, ' _____ into all the _____ and _____ the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned' " (Mark 16:15, 16).

"I will also give You as a _____ to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the _____ of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6).

"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the _____ of God and have the _____ of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).

"For we must all _____ before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has _____, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Tuesday REFLECTING

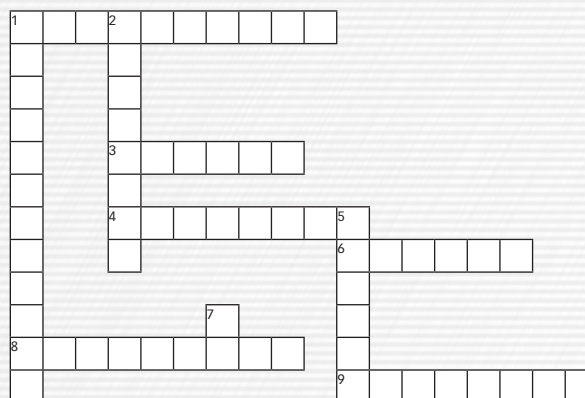
- » Read Matthew 9:35-38.
- » One of the most moving scenes in all of Scripture is found in Matthew 9:35-38: "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' " (NKJV).

- » Compassion moves people to action. From a distance, you can pity someone who is hurting. You can even sympathize and hurt for people who are suffering, because you know what they are going through is horrible. But you can still stay home and do nothing.
- » Compassion, as seen in the life of Jesus, forces people to act. Jesus shouts, "I need workers to help!" Most people stop short of responding because they do not know what to do.
- » Start with your money. People who give to missions are more likely to live with the spirit of mission. Another paraphrase might be "Put your money where you want your heart to be."
- » Carve out time to pray for and write letters to missionaries.
- » Sponsor a student missionary with letters of encouragement from home.
- » Send Bibles to a school or church overseas.
- » These are just a few ideas. The important thing is to do something. And it seems that the more you do, the more you will know what to do. It is not entirely clear why this is true, but it works. Try it.
- » "He who gives money or time for spreading the gospel enlists his own interest and prayers for the work, and for the souls to be reached through it; his affections go out to others, and he is stimulated to greater devotion to God, that he may be enabled to do them the greatest good" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 90).

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Complete the crossword. All texts are from the New King James Version.



Across:

1. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" is known as the Great _____ (Matthew 28:19).
3. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus said He would _____ be with us—"even to the end of the age."
4. What will melt in 2 Peter 3:10-14?
6. God's message is to go "to every nation, tribe, tongue, and _____" (Revelation 14:6).
8. God is looking for a people that "have the _____ of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).
9. "_____ them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).

Down:

1. God is looking for a people that keep His _____ (Revelation 12:17).
2. In the last days, we are to proclaim the three angels' _____ to all the world (Revelation 14:6-12).
5. Jesus sends the Holy _____ to give us power to witness for Him (Acts 1:8).
7. Jesus has asked us to _____ (Mark 16:15).

Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read Isaiah 61:1-3.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Try to imagine yourself as a follower of Jesus when He was alive on this earth. Envision how compelling it must be to watch Jesus as He walks among the people, hearing and caring, coaching and giving. People are drawn to the Savior because He saves. He helps. He changes people with the touch of His hand or the truths in His message. When Jesus walks through a town, people are different.
- » Now jump back to reality, 2,000 years later. Would it surprise you to know that He promised the same kind of results for you? Check this out: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12, NKJV).
- » Sounds unbelievable? Not for God. Look at the book of Acts and see for yourself that it's ordinary people doing little things for their Savior who produce extraordinary stories. What we have to remember is that these great people, these workers for God, are just like you and me. Ordinary people. But the step from ordinary to extraordinary is the moment we do the little things in response to God's call to "go."

Friday APPLYING

- » Read Jude 3.
- » With a group of your friends or family members, choose areas of the world to pray for this week (and every week). Pray for a different area each day, or have each person choose a different area to pray for all week.
- » Go to www.adventistyearbook.org/, scroll down to the map of the world, and click on a colored area you want to pray for. You will be taken to plenty of specific names and places for which to pray. You may even want to send the ones you pray for a letter and encourage them to continue serving diligently for the gospel (the addresses are there too). Imagine how powerful it would be if teens from all over the world were praying for and sending notes of encouragement to those working around the world!

