



## Lesson #12

# Telling the Story



**Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:19**



**Goal: We can help missionaries in faraway places.**

God calls us all to different mission fields for Him, some in far lands, some in near lands. The fact we may not be called to board a ship or plane to get to our mission field, however, does not mean we can't have an impact on the lives of those who are called to go. This lesson is designed to introduce the children to Churches of God missions and missionaries. By taking part in the interactive activities listed, the children will also brainstorm and practice ways of supporting those missionaries from the home front.

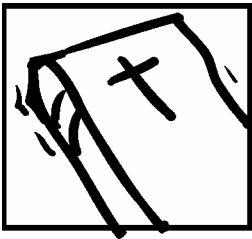


### Opening Activity:

(For this activity you will need a globe, prayer cards for Churches of God missionaries – available from the General Conference Office\*, and Bibles.)

Gather the children in a circle on the floor and place the globe in the middle of the circle. Say: **Last Sunday we learned about missionaries. Who remembers what a missionary is? Jesus felt being a missionary was an important job. How do we know this? Because He tells us so in the Bible.** Have the children look up Matthew 28:19 in their Bibles. Ask one child to read the verse.

**The Churches of God denomination believes the job of a missionary is very important, too, and they send missionaries to a number of countries and cities throughout the world. Let's meet some Church of God missionaries and see what lands they're living in.** Show the children the prayer cards one at a time and take turns locating their countries on the globe.



### Bible Experience:

(This activity consists of an interview with a current or retired missionary, a former ACTS team member, or a lay person who has visited one of the mission fields. You may arrange for someone to come to speak with the class in person.

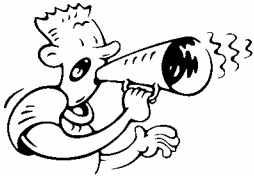
If you choose to have someone visit the classroom, you will need a copy of the attached interview question list.

Gather the children together in front of the area where the interview will take place.

Say: **Today we have the privilege of hearing from someone who has been to one of the mission fields we located on the globe.** Begin the interview by introducing the guest speaker.

If you have someone come to speak to the children in person, you may ask the interview questions yourself, or you may wish cut the question list into

individual strips and hand them to the children to ask. You may also conclude this interview with a time of spontaneous questions from the children. Be sure to have the children thank the guest for sharing with them.



### **Life Application:**

(For this activity, you will need chart or butcher paper, an easel or a blackboard on which to display that paper, masking tape if using a blackboard, markers, the prayer cards from the Opening Activity, and a golden clasp envelope.)

**Say: Today we learned ways we can help or support missionaries. What are some of those ways? One way mentioned was that we could write to missionaries. We're going to take time today to write a letter as a class.**

Place the chart or butcher paper on the easel or blackboard. Choose one of the missionaries or a child of one of the missionaries from the prayer cards. Use a marker to write the letter as the children tell you what to write. You may have to prompt them about what to say or ask (i.e. what schools are like there, what foods they eat, what language the people speak, what churches are like there, etc.). Also encourage the children to tell about their own church.

When finished, have the children read the whole letter aloud together. Fold the letter and place it in the envelope. The necessary address can be obtained through the General Conference office or the pastor. Place the Sunday School class name and the church's name and address in the return address position.



### **Closing Activity:**

(For this activity, you will need the prayer cards from the Opening Activity and a paper bag or basket large enough to hold the cards.)

Place the prayer cards into the paper bag or basket and mix them up. Have the children each reach into the bag or basket and pull out a card without looking.

Say: **Another way we learned we could support missionaries is to pray for them.** We're going to do that right now. You begin and end the prayer, with each child adding a sentence prayer for the family shown on his chosen prayer card.

Encourage the children to take the prayer cards home and continue to pray for the missionary families throughout the week.

\* Churches of God, General Conference may be reached at 419-424-1961 or [www.cggc.org](http://www.cggc.org)

## **Missionary Interview Question List**

- 1. Where is(was) your mission at?**
- 2. How long have you been there?**
- 3. Do(Did) you have family there with you?**
- 4. What kind of things are(were) you in charge of?**
- 5. If the people don't believe in God, do they pray to someone else? If so, who?**
- 6. What language do the people you work with speak? Will you teach us how to say something in that language?**
- 7. What are the children like? Do they go to school?**
- 8. What kind of foods do the people eat?**
- 9. Tell us something funny that has happened to you on the mission field.**
- 10. Are(Were) you ever afraid?**
- 11. What are the churches like there?**
- 12. How can we help missionaries to do their job?**