

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

WORLD KIDS

Topic: Missionary Work

Purpose of this Session:

The title of this TalkSheet is taken from the concept of the World Christian. David Bryant says, "World Christians are day-to-day disciples for whom Christ's global cause has become the integrating, overriding priority for all that He is for them."* Young people can never catch a vision for Christ's global cause if they are never introduced to what God is doing in the world and how they can be a part of transforming it for Christ. This TalkSheet introduces kids to global missionary work.

To Introduce the Topic:

If you have access to a globe or a map of the world and a magnifying glass, ask your kids to take a closer look at the world. Different young people can name specific regions and cities they see through the magnifying glass. If you don't have a map, a globe, or a magnifying glass, have the kids list all the different places they are familiar with around the world, and write them on a chalkboard or on newsprint. Then talk with your young people about the kids who live in these faraway places. What concerns do they have? Do they worry about the same things kids in our country worry about? Do they have similar problems? What might it be like to be a kid in another country? Then tell the group that you are going to talk about the world, God's plan for it, and how each and every young person in attendance fits into that plan.

The Discussion:

Item #1: Kids will see by this activity that the work of a missionary is a career choice available to them as Christians. Too often, we don't talk with kids about this as a career option. Missionary work is no holier than other professions. Kids need to know that we need Christian fire fighters, lawyers, and sales clerks. But the church also needs to send out missionaries. Explore with the group some of the positions missionaries hold as they share the Gospel—nurses, doctors, writers, printers, pastors, engineers, schoolteachers, secretaries, and more.

Item #2: Ask the kids if they believe missionary work is still needed. You can explain that a missionary is someone who goes to another culture and tells people about God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Bring some information you can share with your group about the missionaries your church supports and why. Answer any questions the group may have about these missionaries.

Item #3: Point out that God wants all Christians involved in missionary work. Make a list with the group of the things the kids can do to get involved.

Item #4: You will need to do some personal research or ask someone familiar with these and other terms to talk with your group. A good starting point is the book listed below.

Item #5: Explain that missionary work was the emphasis of the early church because it is the center of God's plan for the world.

To Close the Session:

Write individual letters or a group letter to the missionaries your church supports asking the questions the young people have raised during your discussion. When they are returned, discuss the responses with your group. Close by reading John 3:16–21.

*David Bryant, *In the Gap: What It Means to Be a World Christian* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1979), 63.