



Curriculum Framework:

Missions

By Deborah Wassenberg

Creating a series of lessons about Missionaries and the work they do for Jesus is always exciting. It gives you the opportunity to invite special guests to visit your Kid's Church. (It's great to bridge Big Church and Kid's Church whenever you can.) Keep in mind many Missionaries were called when they were children. You may have a Hudson Taylor or Amy Wilson Carmichael sitting in your congregation. When using this Curriculum Framework I invite Missionaries I know personally, however, they can be hard to catch! So I also invite people who have been on short Mission Trips.

Build Excitement:

Two weeks before the lesson series begins hand out boarding passes. Encourage children to give one to a friend. (Example below)

ELEVATION KID'S AIRLINE



'WE TAKE YOU PLACES'

BOARDING PASS



FLIGHT NUMBER: MAT 28:19

DATE: 16.07.19

TIME: 09.00

GATE: Narrow

Set the Scene:

- Create a customs area for passports to be stamped
- Buy a Pilot's cap from the cheap shop
- Arrange the children's seating like that of a plane – only roomier!
- Ask your Leaders to dress as cabin crew – hat, neckerchief or vest
- Use travel posters to decorate walls

Passports:

Every child receives a passport to be stamped. I used animal stamps because they're easier to find and I matched the animal with the country being visited. Add a date stamp, too. If your Kid's Ministry is small, you may like to create a passport for every child and some spares for new and visiting children. The passport contains a personal details page for the children to fill out in the first week. Every other page is a colouring sheet of a country you will visit. The countries you choose are dependent on the Missionaries and guests you invite. If your Kid's Church is simply too large for that amount of photocopying, you may like to turn a double sided A4 page into a Visa, for stamping and colouring. Add the Memory Verse. Always allow children to stamp their own passport at the Customs table, because it's fun, but ask a volunteer to supervise. They can begin to colour the picture of the country they're visiting until an announcement is made by one of the cabin crew. I used passport templates I found on Google images, and tweaked them, adding our Kid's Church logo.

Announcement:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to (Kid's Ministry Name) Airlines.

We are requesting passengers on Flight number (whatever you like) to (whatever country you've chosen) to be seated.

Would all passengers flying to (whatever country) please take your seats now.

(Volunteers need to collect the Passports. Children can finish the page as they wait for parents, or as an alternative to craft.)

On Board Flight Information:

A leader wearing the pilot hat gives the following flight information...tweak it to suit yourself.

'Welcome Aboard!

Thank you for flying (Kid's Ministry name) Airlines.

'We take you places!' (Or other tag line of your own)

Your Cabin Crew today are (introduce volunteers).

You are on board Flight (make it up) flying to (name of country – children may call it out).

Before departure we have some safety instructions, so please listen carefully (your Kid's Church rules).

The exits are (indicate your doors).

Please stow your offering in the container provided.

Thank you for choosing (Kid's Ministry name) Airlines.

Enjoy your flight!

Song Suggestions:

- Up, Up and Away We Go (A VBS song on You Tube)
- Cast Your Burden (Higher, Higher)
- Go (Yancy)
- Who is the King of the Jungle
- This is Living Now (Hillsong Kids)
- Oceans (Hillsong Kids)

Giving:

You may like to give your offering to a Missionary or a Mission outreach of some kind. A friend knew a missionary in Cambodia who had rescued two babies from a rubbish bin, and needed baby formula, so we put the challenge out to the children. The response was overwhelming. Children gave all they could, even their birthday money. I had to make two bottle-o-metres!



Lesson Location Ideas:

- Week 1: What is a Missionary? (Don't assume your children will know)
- Week 2: Africa
- Week 3: Europe
- Week 4: Asia
- Week 5: North America
- Week 6: South America
- Week 7: Australia or Oceania (Be a missionary in your own backyard!)
- Week 8: Antarctica

Resources:

- Jungle Doctor Stories by Dr Paul White (an Aussie!) Free videos available at Max7 <https://www.max7.org/en/search?text=jungle%20doctor>
- Missionary Aviation Fellowship (amazing footage on You Tube) New Guinea
- Christian Radio Stations broadcasting the Good News
- Historical biography of Hudson Taylor (China)
- Historical biography of David Brainerd (American Indians)
- Historical biography of William Carey (India)
- Reinhard Bonnke (Lots of footage of millions saved in Africa)

Guests: Missionaries

Important! Ask your guests for photos on a USB, that you can put on a big screen or make into flash cards, because the children need visuals. Ask them to bring clothing, hats and objects for the children to look at and touch. Your guest might like to teach an easy song or dance, too.

Give your guests clear guidelines about visiting your Kid's Church. (See 'Guidelines for Visiting Speakers' below.)

Memory Verses:

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Seeds Family Worship have a wonderful video for this Scripture. It is worth purchasing as a resource! <https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/store/dvd-video-church/>

Games:

Corre, Corre la Guaraca (Chile)

The players sit on the ground, making a round circle, and one of them stands up and starts jogging around the ring of the circle with a **handkerchief**. The children seated must have their eyes closed while singing 'Corre, Corre, la Guaraca.' The main player will then drop the handkerchief on one child's back and run. He should run around the circle before the player who has been tagged realizes that he has a handkerchief on his back. If the tagged child realizes, however, he must chase the main player. If he succeeds, the main player will be out of the game; but if he fails, he gets to be the main player in the next round.

Red Light, Green Light (for North America)

Players must dash from one end of the yard to the next to tag the 'stop light.'

The 'stop light' player stands about 6 metres from the others.

The stop light turns their back and yells 'Green light!' The other players dash toward them.

The stop light then yells 'Red light!' and turns to face the runners. As soon as they hear 'red light,' the runners freeze. Anyone caught moving is out. This continues until a runner tags the stop light. That runner gets to be 'it' next round. If the stop light catches every runner moving before getting tagged, they get to be it again.

Statues (for Greece)

Choose one player to be 'It' and have her stand, eyes covered, in the center of a large, open playing field. She starts to count, there's no set ending number, only 'It' knows when she'll stop and open her eyes. While 'It' is counting, the others scatter around, never sure when she'll yell '*Agalmata!*' ('Statue' in Greek.) Players freeze. 'It' tags any statues that are moving, they're out, then tries to make the steady ones laugh or move. The last player remaining composed is the winner and becomes the new 'It'.

Cheetahs and Cheetals (India)

Children split into two groups each with a home base. One person is designated to be a 'prince' or 'princess'. The 'prince' or 'princess' yells 'Cheeee-tals' (spotted deer) or 'Cheeee-tahs' (spotted big cats). The teams, who have each formed a horizontal line and have stood with their backs to the other, rush toward their base as the other team tries to catch them. The goal is for the team whose name was called to get more players to their base than the other team can tag out.

Squirrels in Trees (for England)

Divide the children into groups of three. Numbers one and two join hands to represent hollow trees, and numbers three stand between them to represent squirrels. There should be at least one squirrel without a home. At a signal from the leader all squirrels change trees. The odd squirrel attempts to get to a tree during the change.

Arc de Triomphe (for France)

Divide into two teams. Two players from each team form arches at wide intervals round the area. The teams stand in a line, in front of their own arches. At a signal, each team runs through its own arch, races around the area outside the arches, through its own again and forms up as before. First team to line up wins.

Sleeping Lions (for Africa)

Have all of the children (except one or two spotters) lie down on the floor in sleeping positions. Once they are settled, they are not allowed to move. The spotters walk through the room and try to make the sleeping lions move by making them laugh, by telling jokes, and pulling funny faces and so on. However, the spotters are not allowed to touch the lions. Once any lion moves they are tapped and get up and join the spotters. The last child still on the floor wins!

Chura Khel (India)

'Horse game'. Children hold hands and run in a circle as fast as they can. Those who fall off chase the children who are still holding hands.

Other Ideas: Soccer and French cricket

Craft: Around the World

I tied the weekly craft with the continent visited. Add the Memory Verse wherever you can. Here's just a few ideas.

Animal crafts (anything from crocodiles to turtles that is a native of your chosen country)

Boomerangs (Australia)

Drums (Africa)

Faberge Eggs (Russia)

Fan (Japan)

Flags (All)

Food (All e.g. rice dishes, pizza, cakes – check for allergies!)

Kites (China)

Lanterns (China)

Mosaics (Italy)

Origami (Japan)

Piñata (Spain)

Sand Paintings(Desert countries)

Shields (Africa)

Tepees (North America)

Windmill (Netherlands)

Woven Heart (Denmark)



Guidelines for Visiting Speakers

A big THANK YOU for taking the time to visit our Kid's Ministry and share with the children! We so appreciate you. Here's a few things you should know before you come...

1. You don't have a lot of time

It's hard for children to sit for long periods. A lot depends on the age group you are talking to. A four year old can sit for four minutes and a ten year old can sit for ten. Mostly. Of course there are exceptions, but you need to keep your teaching to the point, and make it clear and engaging.

2. Give the kids something to look at...

Children need visuals. If you have photographs to accompany your talk, put them on a USB for the leader, so they can put them on a computer and project them larger than life. If you are sharing a true life story, like a mission trip, bring along non-breakable souvenirs like hats, clothing, instruments and objects that will interest the children. Demonstrate their use with the children as models, but put them on a table out of reach until you've finished talking, then invite the children to come and look and touch.

3. Let the Leaders handle the behaviour...

Our Leaders are trained in redirecting children's behaviour. They will be watching for any misbehaviour and will attend to the children in the appropriate way. They know the children very well. Don't let anything put you off, ignore distractions, and keep on going.

4. Keep your talk child-friendly...

Children come from very different families. What some children are allowed to watch on television could cause other children to have nightmares. Children are still largely ruled by their emotions, and stories can make a deep impact on them. So keep your talk G rated. Use suspense and enthusiasm to keep the children focused but don't put fear into them.

5. Make Jesus the hero of your talk...

Everything comes back to our Lord and Saviour Jesus. How did He help you? How did you know He was with you? When did you see His plan? What did you do afterwards? Did you remember to say thank you to Him? Did others get to know Him? You may like to have an altar call, or hand over to the Leader to hold one. Discuss this beforehand.

6. Safety!

Every Kid's Ministry has strict policies in place. Everything from identification to toileting. The Leaders will direct you. Please respect and follow the procedures.

7. HAVE FUN!

Ministering to children is the best! We know you and the children will have a wonderful time.