DiscipleLand

Missions Education

Level 3, Quarter B—Amazing Words

Integrate these World-missions concepts into your **DiscipleLand** lesson. Introduce your children to one missions truth each lesson.

© 2007, **DiscipleLand**. All rights reserved.

Teacher Intro—Almost everyone can recite John 3:16. God often uses this Bible verse to help someone place his or her trust in Jesus. Few people realize that this is a great missions verse. God loved the world so much He sent a Messenger. Jesus came to tell us how much God loves us. Jesus also sends us to be His messengers. What a great privilege!

Our God is sovereign. His redemptive work in this world cannot be thwarted. He has no need of our help, yet He invites us to take part in His kingdom, His suffering, His triumph, and His glory! God calls us His fellow workers—servants to whom He assigns a task (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). As Jesus' messengers, our task is to proclaim Jesus Christ—the good news of great joy for all people. This task cannot fail. All authority belongs to the One who sends us, and He promises to be with us always!

The stories in the lessons are all about real children and real events. Sometimes their names and a few details may have been changed, but these are not fictional story characters. They are real children. Jesus sends all His followers, including children, as His messengers.

Lesson 1—Jesus' Messengers Are Friendly to Outsiders

Nine year old Hans is just starting fourth grade. Hans is a little frightened about going to school. On the first day, he sees Carlos standing all by himself. Carlos looks frightened and lonely. Hans remembers being in vacation Bible school a few weeks earlier. He remembers all the Spanish-speaking children who attended the VBS. They were happy and friendly and loved the games just like Hans. Hans can't speak much Spanish, but he knows that he can be a friend to Carlos now. Hans walks up to Carlos and tries to say hi in Spanish, "Hola!" Carlos doesn't know much English, but Hans doesn't mind. He knows that with Jesus' help, he can still be Carlos' friend. Hans wants to share the good news that Jesus loves Carlos and has a place in His heavenly home all ready for him.

Lesson 2—Jesus' Messengers Give to the Poor

Eight-year-old Linda is hot and thirsty after the long ride back from Mexico. She opens her suitcase and starts unpacking. She served on a short-term missions team that her church sent out. With the missions team, Linda spent a week "south of the border" in Mexico. Linda is excited to tell all the other people at church about her experience on the missions trip. So many things happened! She wants to tell her church about the friendly children in the orphanage. She wants to share her sadness about how the children had so little when she, her friends, and her church in the United States had so much. Linda thinks about a girl named Juanita—she had no shoes. Most of the kids in the orphanage had no toys of their own. Linda remembers how good she felt when she gave Juanita her best pair of tennis shoes. Juanita's eyes sparkled when she received such a loving gift. Linda has many shoes, clothes, and toys at home—she feels happy that she could give her shoes to a girl who had none. Linda decides she will learn to speak Spanish so she can go back next summer and share even more than just shoes or toys. She will tell the kids she meets about how much God loves them and how Jesus died to give them new life!

Lesson 3—Jesus' Messengers Pray Boldly

Nikki hears the bell ring. It is "locker time." Nikki hurries to change books for her next class. Time is short. The hall is crowded with seventh graders. Nikki is determined to carry out her plan even if other kids notice and laugh at her. Hanging on a hook in Nikki's locker is a bundle of colorful cards. Each card has a picture of a child in an unreached part of the world—a child from a place where the Gospel has not yet been preached! Under each picture is information about the child's country and some ways to pray. It was Nikki's own idea, after her grandmother had given her the cards, to spend those extra minutes at her locker praying. Each day, Nikki chooses a different card. She prays silently that Jesus will send a messenger to the children in these distant parts of the world. A few kids close to Nikki notice her "strange" behavior. Nikki also prays for the courage to share the Good News about Jesus with the kids in her classes and the kids at the lockers next to hers.

© 2007, **DiscipleLand**. Permission granted to reproduce for class use.

Lesson 4—Jesus' Messengers Have Special Skills

Teresa has learned to do something very few sixth graders can do. She "speaks" sign language for deaf people. Teresa is not deaf herself, but her friend Cindy has a hearing disability. Together the two girls worked hard to memorize the symbols and practice sign language together. It didn't take long for Teresa to use sign language very well. Teresa enjoys signing with Cindy, but now Teresa wants to use her new skill in other places too. She discovers that her aunt is teaching a Bible class at the deaf school. That is something she can help with! Each week, Teresa works with her aunt, using sign language in the Bible class. At her own youth group, Teresa begins to sense that Jesus is sending her to be a missionary. She wonders how God can use her in a faraway place. One day, a woman shares about the country of Mongolia. The missionary says that there is a church of 400 deaf Mongolians! Teresa is surprised and very excited. She never thought that God could use her sign language skill to share about Jesus with deaf people in other countries. Teresa is sure that some day she will be a missionary to the deaf, perhaps even in Mongolia.

Lesson 5—Jesus' Messengers Have the Most Fun!

Matt is excited about summer break. Today is the last day of fifth grade! He hopes to play lots of baseball and swim every afternoon. Without homework to worry about, he'll have more time to play the new video games that he received for his birthday. At dinner, Matt's parents tell him the news—they are going to the country of Turkey for the summer. Their whole family is going—including Matt! He'll be the youngest member of the missions team. Matt is upset; all his hopes for baseball, swimming, and video games are gone. But his complaining doesn't change anything; a few days later, Matt and his family board a plane for Turkey. To Matt's surprise, he loves being in Turkey! The missions team travels to some of the same places where the apostle Paul, from the New Testament, had planted churches. Matt makes friends with Turkish students at an Internet café where Christians offer coffee, Turkish New Testaments, and friendship. Above all, Matt realizes how much he enjoys the afternoon prayer times. Each day he joins his mom and brother to pray for the Turks to know Jesus. Matt cannot remember a summer where he had more fun. Matt can't wait to tell his friends at home about how fun it is to serve Jesus and the great joy of praying. How exciting it is to participate in God's plan to reach people from every nation!

Lesson 6—Jesus' Messengers Have Big Dreams!

Daniel lives on a ranch in Montana. Since the first time he sat on a horse as a toddler, he has dreamed of becoming a cowboy. His favorite stories are about the American Wild West. By sixth grade, he has learned to ride well, first on a pony and later on a stallion. Daniel enters races and wins trophies. He also attends church with his parents. One Sunday, Daniel invites Jesus to be his Savior and the Lord of his life. Daniel learns that Jesus sends messengers of the Gospel to farthest places all over the world. Daniel wonders how he can be a cowboy and still obey the call to missions? Daniel gave his whole life, including his own plans and dreams, to Jesus, the Lord of his life. He tells Jesus he is willing to go wherever Jesus sends him, even if that means he cannot be a cowboy. Then, one day, Daniel hears about a tiny country in Southern Africa called Lesotho. In Lesotho, the boys and men ride horses across the African plains, herding their cattle from one valley to another. The best way to be a messenger of the Gospel in Lesotho is to ride with the men and share with them about Jesus. What a discovery! One day, Daniel can serve God by being a cowboy in Africa! He prays his dream will come true—he wants to be a cowboy, but even more, he wants to tell the world about Jesus.

Lesson 7—Jesus' Messengers Are Prepared to Share.

Diana belongs to a group at church called the Bridge Builders. They are fourth through sixth graders who train every week to share the message of the Gospel. Sometimes the Bridge Builders play games on the weekend with kids in a poor part of town. Sometimes they set up a table at a busy street corner and pray with people who stop by. Diana and the Bridge Builders learn to sing praise songs and visit homes where elderly people live. One afternoon, Diana is walking among the elderly men and women at a nursing home. The elderly had been listening to their singing. Diana stops beside one white-haired lady in a wheel chair. The Holy Spirit speaks to Diana and tells her to ask the lady if she has ever invited Jesus into her life. The elderly lady answers, "No, but I would like to right now." Diana is prepared, and she explains how a person can receive Jesus and enter God's Kingdom of light. The lady in the wheelchair prays with Diana and begins her new life in Christ. As a messenger sent by Jesus, Diana knows that she must always be ready to share the gospel with anyone at anytime.

© 2007, **DiscipleLand**. Permission granted to reproduce for class use.

Lesson 8—Jesus' Messengers Share with Classmates

Ryan knows all about challenges. When he was young, his family left California to live in the Slovak Republic in Eastern Europe. His parents are missionaries and Ryan thinks of himself as a missionary, too. He is in the fourth grade with kids who speak Slovakian. After living there for a few years, he can easily speak Slovakian with his classmates. Ryan has two best friends and they always eat lunch together. One day, Ryan asks his two friends if they have ever thought about believing in Jesus. Ryan doesn't know what they will say. He is very happy when both friends reply that they wish they could know Jesus like Ryan does. Ryan shares the message of Jesus with his two friends. Now, the three boys not only eat lunch together, they also study their Bibles together! Jesus sent Ryan and his family as messengers to the Slovak Republic. Now, Ryan's two friends are also messengers for Jesus. At Ryan's school, there are now three boys who are sharing God's love with their classmates!

Lesson 9—Jesus' Messengers Make Personal Sacrifices

It is Steph's idea. She usually has a party with her friends every year for her birthday. This year, Steph asks her Mom if they can have her party with the sick children at the hospital instead. Steph has been helping out at the hospital for one afternoon each week. Most of the time, she reads Bible stories to the kids who are sick. Mom agrees that Steph's plan is a good one. It will take a lot of work to organize a birthday party at the hospital, but Mom and Steph agree it is worth it. After getting permission, Steph starts making party favors. The party food needs to be approved for the kids' diets. Steph prepares to share a flannelgraph presentation from the life of Jesus. They decorate with balloons and bring music and games for the kids to enjoy. Mom explains to Steph that this celebration at the hospital will be her only party this year. Also, Steph knows she will not get any birthday presents from her parents—she wants the gift money to buy toys for the kids in the hospital. Steph gladly gives up birthday presents and a party with her friends because she loves the kids in the hospital and wants to celebrate with them. After the party, Steph is surprised to find a birthday present for her left on the table. It is a framed picture of herself and a little girl in the hospital. The happiness Steph sees in their beaming smiles, and the joy Steph felt as she celebrated her birthday with the sick kids at the hospital is better than any birthday gift Steph could have received!

Lesson 10—Jesus' Messengers Tell Their Neighbors

They've been doing it for five years now. Each summer Corrine's family hosts a Backyard Bible Club at their house. It takes a lot of work to help organize the activities. Story time in the living room, games and snacks in the backyard, and craft time in the garage—Corrine is very familiar with the routine. The best part is marching around the neighborhood with her family, armed with invitations. At first, Corrine is afraid to knock on someone's door. Now as a fifth grader, Corrine feels like a "pro." Sometimes the person who answers the door is in a hurry to close it again. But many times, they smile broadly and agree to send their kids to Backyard Bible Club. Dozens of families in Corrine's neighborhood send their children to the Backyard Bible Club. Afterwards, some of them begin worshiping at church on Sundays. Many children pray to receive Jesus as their Savior. Each summer Jesus sends Corrine as His messenger to the kids and families in her neighborhoods. She is always glad to be a part of her family's passion to share about Jesus. Now, Corrine has begun to pray for a country in Central Africa. Who knows? Someday she may be reaching out to families there as well.

Lesson 11—Jesus' Messengers Triumph in Tragedy

Bethany Hamilton is a world-class surfer. She lives with her parents in Hawaii. She began to compete when she was only eleven. Bethany loves surfing, but most of all she loves Jesus. One sunny morning when Bethany is 13, she hits the waves with a girlfriend. Suddenly, a shark attacks! The 14-foot shark bites off Bethany's left arm. She quickly paddles back to shore with one arm and is taken to the hospital where her life is saved. To everyone's amazement, Bethany awakes from surgery and asks, "When can I surf again?" Now, with only one arm, Bethany wins surfing competitions on a regular basis. But God has given her a bigger vision. Bethany also speaks to young people at camps and shares her story and her faith in Jesus on national television and in a best-selling book. She has teamed up with World Vision to raise $50,000 to help children around the world who are handicapped by the loss of limbs. Even though she has lost an arm, she has not lost her faith in Jesus. Despite a shark attack and the tragic loss of an arm, Bethany has triumphed because she is a messenger sent by Jesus. She continues to allow her life and testimony to bring Him honor.

© 2007, **DiscipleLand**. Permission granted to reproduce for class use.

Lesson 12—Jesus' Messengers Listen to God's Spirit

Her father is arrested for preaching the Gospel and pastoring a small church in his home in China. Her Mom and family move across the country to live near her father outside the prison in a flimsy tent. Soon Pastor Li dies and his family is left with no one to care for them. Sister Li, age twelve, is the oldest of his four children. She goes directly to the man in charge of the prison and tells him she is responsible for Pastor Li's family now that he had died. And she needs a job. The prison warden tells Sister Li to stand outside the prison mine shaft, beside a pole that has a red button on it. She is not to touch the button unless someone tells her to. Day after day, in every kind of weather, Sister Li stands beside the button and waits. Then one day, a voice says, "Push the button!" Sister Li looks around and sees no one near her. She hears the voice again, "Quick, push the button now!" But there is no one nearby; Sister Li doesn't know what to do. The voice says a third time, "Sister Li, push the button now!" Sister Li realizes that God is speaking to her. She immediately pushes the emergency button which sounds the alarm. All the miners hurry out of the mine. When the last one has exited the mineshaft, a mighty earthquake shakes the ground and collapses the mine. Someone gives Sister Li a box to stand on, and she boldly tells the astonished miners, "The Lord Jesus Christ is the one who told me to push the warning button. He loves you and died for you and He wants you to believe in Him." That day all 3000 of the miners and the prison warden, too, kneel and pray to receive Jesus—because of the brave actions of this young messenger.

© 2007, **DiscipleLand**. Permission granted to reproduce for class use.