

UNIT 2: THE CHURCH SERVES GOD

Session 5: The Church Sent Missionaries

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 13

LIFE POINT

The church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries.

CHRIST FOCUS

The gospel is the true story of Jesus coming to earth to be the Savior.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: July 30

BIBLE VERSE

Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples.

Psalm 96:3 (CSB)

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:3 (KJV)

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 96:3 (NIV)

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Psalm 96:3 (ESV)

Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups** (optional)

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Paper Airplanes”—sheets of paper (1 per child), marker
- “Tools of the Trade”—chenille stems, sheet of paper, scissors, marker, cup

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: none

True2Life Drama (or *Mooseberry video*) (3-5 minutes)

Props: table, 3 chairs

Connection Point Game

(10 minutes)

Props: 12 beanbags (2 colors; 6 of each color), laundry basket, painter’s tape

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, flags (or photos of flags) of several different countries

Worship Song and Offering

(3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse

(5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions

(5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections

(3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“All”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game and Life Point slides
- **Worship Song:**
“We Are Your Church”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides; Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies *(for each small group)*:
 - “Paper Airplanes”—sheets of paper (1 per child), marker
 - “Tools of the Trade”—chenille stems, sheet of paper, scissors, marker, cup

HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION “PAPER AIRPLANES”

Prep: none

- Give each child a sheet of paper.
- Help kids fold their papers into airplanes.
- Write each child's name on his paper airplane.
- Lead kids to stand side by side in a line.
- Count to three and invite kids to toss their paper airplanes.
- Award 50 points to the child who threw his plane the furthest.
- Play several rounds and keep a point tally.
- Explain that many missionaries fly around the world to tell people about Jesus. Mention that some missionaries even pilot their own small planes!
- Tell kids that the church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries. God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.
- **Leader tip:** *Most kids will know how to fold a paper airplane. Do a quick Internet search if you need help.*

HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION

“TOOLS OF THE TRADE”

Prep: Cut a sheet of paper into several strips.

- Review the Life Point: **The church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries.**
- Help kids recognize that missionaries use their specialized skills and abilities to connect with people, make friends, meet needs, and build trust.
- Mention that some missionaries work as farmers, doctors, dentists, teachers, musicians, and coaches.
- Lead kids to name tools that missionaries might use *(such as a soccer ball, toothbrush, stethoscope, and so on)*.
- Write each idea on a separate slip of paper.
- Place all of the papers in a cup.
- Form teams.
- Give one volunteer on each team several chenille stems.
- Draw a slip of paper from the cup and discreetly show it to each volunteer.
- Challenge the volunteers to use the chenille stems to sculpt the tool listed on the paper.
- Explain that the first team to correctly guess the tool and tell how a missionary might use it to share the gospel earns a point. *(For example, a missionary might use a soccer ball at a sports camp. Missionaries can tell boys and girls at the camp about Jesus.)*
- Play as time allows, choosing new sculptors for each round.
- Remind kids that while they are not missionaries or pastors, it is everyone's job to tell the good news about Jesus.
- Challenge kids to think of specific individuals with whom they can share the gospel.
- Lead kids to pray for missionaries. Also encourage boys and girls to pray for opportunities to tell their friends and family members about Jesus.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown Video*
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “All” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

What a great day to gather and worship our great God! He is worthy of all our praise! Everyone, stand and join me as we sing.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

It’s great to see you today! I’ve been looking forward to our time together. Does anyone have any good news to tell the group? *(Allow for responses.)*

Christians always have good news to share. The good news is the gospel. What is the gospel? *(Allow for responses.)* The gospel is the true story of Jesus coming to earth to be the Savior.

It’s every believer’s job to tell the gospel, but God chooses some Christians to go tell another group

of people the good news about Jesus. Those people are called *missionaries*. The church sends missionaries to places all around the world to tell about Jesus.

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries. Say that with me: **“The church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries.”**

All people need to know the good news of the gospel. Today’s Bible verse says that the gospel is for people in every nation! Read with me Psalm 96:3.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 *(CSB)*
- Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:3 *(KJV)*
- Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 *(NIV)*
- Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! Psalm 96:3 *(ESV)*
- Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 *(NKJV)*

Everywhere we go, people need to know about Jesus. There are people right here in our town who do not know that Jesus loves them and is the Savior. God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world. People’s greatest need is Jesus!

Let’s pray for people in our community who need to know the gospel. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

God, thank You for the gospel—the good news about Jesus! We pray for the people in our community who do not know You. Please help our church connect with those people and tell them about Your salvation plan. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
 - Ron (*a church kid who is learning about God*)
 - Lucy (*Ron's church friend*)
 - Dave (*Ron's neighbor who loves baseball*)
- ➔ Props: table, 3 chairs

Lucy sits at the table. Ron and Dave enter.

Ron: Hi, Lucy! I want you to meet my friend, Dave.

Dave: Hey, Lucy.

Lucy: Dave, I'm glad you're here. Come sit by me!
(Dave sits next to Lucy. Ron sits in the third chair.)

Dave: I think I remember you from school last year.
Were you in Miss Watson's class?

Lucy: Yes, I was! Are you excited to be here?

Dave: At church? Actually, I'm kind of nervous to be here. I've never gone to church before. Ron just kept asking me to come, and he seems to really like it. I thought I would try it out.

Ron: I'm glad you came. If you have any questions, just let me know.

Dave: OK, first question: When will they start yelling at me and telling me how awful I am?

Ron: What are you talking about?

Dave: We are at church. Isn't it the job of the church to tell everyone how bad they are if they don't have the Bible memorized?

Lucy: That is NOT one of the jobs of the church. People at church aren't perfect. That's one reason we come to church. All of us are learning to do what's right and be more like Jesus.

Dave: Whew! That's a relief!

Ron: We talk about all kinds of things at church. Today we are learning about missionaries.

Dave: I've heard of missionaries! They go into the jungle and tell people to memorize the Bible.

Lucy: Umm ... not exactly.

Ron: Dave, missionaries share the good news that Jesus is the Savior. God chooses some Christians to be missionaries and go to other places to tell about Jesus.

Dave: That sounds way different than what I thought. ... Hey, Ron, are you a missionary? I mean, you tell me about God and Jesus.

Ron: Me? *(thinking)* Well, I guess in a way I'm LIKE a missionary, but the truth is, I'm just a neighbor and friend. A lot of people in the world don't have neighbors or friends who are Christians, so we have to send missionaries to their towns.

Lucy: The church also supports the missionaries. We give money to help them, and we pray for them.

Dave: Maybe I had this whole church thing wrong. It doesn't seem like a place where people yell at you and call you terrible. Actually, it seems like a nice place to be.

Lucy: It is a GREAT place to be!

Dave: I'm glad I have a good friend and neighbor who invited me to church!

Ron: And, I'm glad I have a good friend and neighbor who decided to come!

(They exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 4 kids
- ➔ Props: 12 beanbags (2 colors; 6 of each color), laundry basket, painter's tape

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place a laundry basket in the center of the game area.
- Tape 6 Xs on the floor around the laundry basket, each approximately 6 feet from the basket.
- Place 2 beanbags at each X. (1 of each color)

- Choose 4 kids.
- Form 2 teams.
- Assign a beanbag color to each team.
- Explain that kids will play “Around the World” and attempt to toss a beanbag into the basket from each X.
- Lead 1 player from each team to choose an X and stand on it.
- Comment that when you say to begin, each player should pick up his team’s beanbag and toss it into the basket.
- Allow each player’s partner to retrieve the beanbag if it does not land in the basket. The player may not move from the X until he successfully lands his beanbag in the basket.
- Lead teammates to swap roles, move to another X, and toss the beanbag into the basket.
- Explain that teammates will continue swapping roles and moving to each X until they toss 6 beanbags into the basket.
- Name the first team to toss all 6 beanbags into the laundry basket as the winner.
- If time allows, reset the game, lead teammates to swap roles, and play again.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Today’s game is called “Around the World.” Who would like to play? (Choose four kids. Form two teams. Assign a beanbag color to each team.)

One player from each team will choose an X and stand on it. When I say to begin, pick up your team’s beanbag and toss it into the laundry basket. If you miss, your partner will retrieve the beanbag and give it back to you. You may not step off of the X until you successfully toss the beanbag into the basket.

After you land your beanbag in the basket, your teammate becomes the tosser. He will move to the next X and try to toss the beanbag into the basket.

Continue tossing and swapping roles until your team tosses all six beanbags into the basket. The first team to finish will be the winner.

Do all of you understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

What a great game! Our teams made it all the way around the world as they tossed their beanbags!

Remember that God calls people to serve as missionaries in places all around the world. Some missionaries go for a few months, a few years, or even for many years! Many missionaries spend their entire lives doing work for God in the places where He sends them.

Let’s sing another song. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about men who left their homes to go tell others about Jesus.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: “We Are Your Church” (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Matthew 28:19-20 is what Christians call *The Great Commission*. These verses give us Jesus’ instructions to tell the whole world about Him! Jesus said, “Go, ... and make disciples of all nations.” The gospel is for all people! All people who trust Jesus as Savior and Lord are part of His church. Let’s sing, “We Are Your Church” before we hear today’s Bible story.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, flags (or photos of flags) of several different countries

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story. If you do not have international flags, do an online search for printable images.

Option 2: Play the *Notebook Bible Story* video.

Option 3: Tell the *Optional Bible Story* available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "Jesus Sent Out His Followers," Luke 10:1-20.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

How much do you know about the countries of the world? Let's find out! I'll show you a flag, and you guess which country the flag represents. (Show several international flags and lead kids to guess.)

There are so many countries and people in the world! In fact, there are almost 8 billion people alive on the earth! That's a LOT of people, and all of them need to know the good news about Jesus. That's one reason that missionaries have such important jobs. Let's hear a Bible story about two of the first missionaries whom God sent to share the gospel.

(Open Bible to Acts 13.)

Saul, Barnabas, and other men came to the church at Antioch (AN-tih-ahk). While they worshiped and taught about Jesus, the Holy Spirit sent a message.

(Read Acts 13:2.)

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

The men laid their hands on Saul and Barnabas and prayed. Then they sent Saul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus.

Saul (who was also called Paul) and Barnabas took a boat to Cyprus (SIGH-pruhs) and preached about Jesus in the synagogues. They traveled the entire area as far as Paphos (PAY-fahs). There they met a

government leader who wanted to hear what they taught about God.

A magician, named Elymas (EL-ih-mass), also was in Paphos. He did not want the leader to hear what Paul and Barnabas said, and Elymas made it difficult for Paul to teach. Paul stared right at the evil man and spoke to him.

(Read Acts 13:10-11).

"You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery, ... Won't you ever stop ... ? Now, look, the Lord's hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time." Immediately a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Elymas was blind! When the government leader saw what happened, he was amazed by God's power. The leader believed what Paul and Barnabas said about God.

Paul and Barnabas continued traveling. One day they listened as someone in the synagogue read God's Word. Then the church leaders invited them to speak. Paul reviewed Jewish history with them. He reminded the people how God had taken care of them. Paul also the people taught about Jesus' death and resurrection.

On the next day of worship, Paul and Barnabas returned to the synagogue to preach. This time almost the whole town came to hear about Jesus! This made some Jewish leaders jealous and caused problems for Paul and Barnabas.

(Read Acts 13:46.)

Paul and Barnabas boldly replied, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it ... , we are turning to the Gentiles."

The Gentiles were excited to hear about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus, and the good news spread throughout the whole area.

(Close Bible.)

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

The gospel is the true story of Jesus coming to earth to be the Savior! Paul and Barnabas shared the good news everywhere they went. They told that Jesus is God's Son, sent to save people from sin. They told about the things Jesus said and explained about God's salvation plan. The gospel is good news for all people!

The gospel is good news for people today, too! Trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord is the only way for people to have their sin forgiven. Without forgiveness, people cannot have a relationship with God. They have no hope. That's why it is so important that we spread the gospel to every part of the world.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Did you know that the gospel is for YOU? Going to church or doing good things will not cause your sin to be forgiven. Trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord is the only way to receive God's forgiveness. A person who chooses to trust Jesus as Savior is called a Christian. Christians can ask God to forgive their sin and look forward to spending forever with Him.

Some of you are already Christians, but others are not. God will let you know when it is time to trust Jesus. If you have questions about the gospel or how to become a Christian, be sure to talk to a leader or to your parents. We want to help answer your questions and pray for you. In fact, let's pray, right now.

God, we praise You for the gospel. We thank You for sending Jesus to be the Savior of all people. I pray for the boys and girls who have not yet chosen to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. Please help them know when it is the right time to become a Christian. Give them courage to talk to their parents or a leader to learn more about Your salvation plan. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps missionaries spread the gospel to many parts of the world. If you would like to give an offering today,

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Name a way that a missionary might travel, such as sailing on a boat, flying on a plane, driving in a car, walking along a road, or riding on a train.*
- *Lead kids to move around the room, pretending to travel in the way that you named.*
- *Say: "Stop."*
- *Guide kids to say together the Bible verse.*
- *Call another method of travel and play again.*
- *Continue as time allows.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 (CSB)
- Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:3 (KJV)
- Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 (NIV)
- Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! Psalm 96:3 (ESV)
- Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 (NKJV)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

It's time to say our Bible verse! Everyone, say with me Psalm 96:3.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

The verse says: “Declare His glory among the nations.” What does it mean to declare? *(Allow for responses.)* Declare means “to tell.” What does the verse say that we are to tell? *(Allow for responses.)* We are to tell about God’s glory! That means to tell how awesome and wonderful He is!

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

(Show the Connect to Missions slide.)

God sent Michael and Traci Byrd to serve as missionaries in St. Louis. The Byrds want people who feel like no one cares about them to know that Jesus loves them, and they love them, too. God has given Michael and Traci a love for their neighborhood and given them creative ideas to help the people.

The Byrds started a new church called Faith Community Bible Church. They built relationships with the people by sharing meals with them, offering group cooking lessons, and taking people to the grocery store. As they find ways to meet the needs of people in the area, they have an opportunity to tell them about Jesus. “We all need the same Jesus,” said Michael.

Pray for the work the Byrds are doing in their neighborhood of St. Louis. Pray for more churches to be started in other neighborhoods, too.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, thank You for the work the Byrds are doing in St. Louis. We pray that their church will grow and that more churches will start in other neighborhoods. We pray that many people in St. Louis will hear and respond to the gospel. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today’s Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Questions slides.)

Today you heard that the gospel is the true story of Jesus coming to earth to be the Savior. It’s important that every person hear and respond to the gospel. Let’s hear what you know about missionaries and the work that they do.

- What is a *missionary*?
- Who can be a missionary?
- How can you pray for missionaries?
- How can you help missionaries do their work?

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries. Say that with me: **“The church shares the gospel by sending and supporting missionaries.”**

Remember, you do not have to be a missionary or a pastor to tell others about Jesus! Every Christian should tell what they know about Jesus.

I’m glad you were here today. Invite a friend and bring him along with you next time! Bye.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*