

20 Ideas to Learn About Missions

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Draw and Guess

One member of a team draws a picture and the team members guess the answer. Use this game to introduce a study or reinforce a study.

In advance

1. Secure a chalkboard and chalk or a flip chart and felt-tip markers.
2. On 3-by-5 inch cards write words or statements you want the teams to draw.

At the meeting

1. Divide the participants into two teams. One person from the first team to play is given the word or words they are to draw. The person drawing has one minute to draw and allow her team to guess what she is drawing. If the first team guesses the answer, they receive one point. If the first team cannot answer in one minute, the second team has a chance to guess. Then it is the second team's turn.
2. Play until all the cards are used or for a set period of time.
3. After you play the game, discuss the words you used when you played the game. Talk about how the words apply to the lesson.

Concentration

The point of the game is to match 2 cards that are identical until all the cards are matched. Concentration is a good review game.

In advance

Prepare 16 3-by-5 cards; every 2 cards should have identical information on them. On one side write the facts, mix up the cards, turn them over, and number the cards 1 to 16.

At the meeting

1. Individuals can play alone or you may divide the participants into two teams. The first player or team calls out two numbers on the board. The two cards are turned over, and if the words or facts match, the cards are removed from the game board. If the words or facts do not match, the cards are turned over so that the numbers show. The other team then calls out a set of numbers. A team continues to play as long as they match cards.
2. When all the cards are matched, the team with the most cards wins.

People Tic-Tac-Toe

Play Tic-Tac-Toe to help reinforce what the participants have learned during the mission study.

In advance

1. Secure masking tape, two colors of construction paper, and a list of questions about the mission study.
2. Cut large X's from one color of construction paper and large O's from the other color.
3. Use the masking tape to make a big Tic-Tac-Toe board on the floor. Each square has to be large enough for an adult to stand in.

At the meeting

1. After the mission study, divide the participants into two teams. Give one team X cutouts and the other team the O's.
2. Ask the first question. If the answer is correct, the team member chooses a square to stand in. Alternate asking questions until a team wins by having three team members standing in a row. Play as many games as time allows.

World Map

Give each family in your church a world map and a pack of stars. Ask families to put the map in a place in the home where children will see it often. Each month give the families a brief description of a missionary. Children should place a star on the world map where the missionaries live and work. As a star is put on the map, invite families to pray for that missionary.

Facebook

Invite people in your church to become friends with Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon online. Both are on facebook.

Ask Me

Make buttons that say "Ask Me About Lottie," "Ask Me About Annie" or Ask Me About Mary." Invite children to the church library or pastor's office to research Lottie Moon, Mary Hill Davis or Annie Armstrong. Then distribute the buttons and ask children to wear the buttons during church. Station children in the hallways. When people ask about Annie, Mary or Lottie, encourage children to share what they have learned.

Learn How to Witness

Go to www.4truth.net to read about such subjects as how you can know God, what Buddhists believe, and what to do when a Mormon knocks on the door.

Virtual Missions Trip

Virtual travel is "traveling" by way of the internet. Your church can pray around the world. Let families claim a country. Ask them to visit www.imb.org to discover missions opportunities around the world. Ask them to consider where God could use them to show His love. They should choose a country in which they have a special interest. The family should find facts about their country (population, languages, major religions, main crops, natural resources, etc.) Invite families to make a map of their chosen country. They should get two clocks. One should be set to show local time and the other should show time for their assigned country. Family members should discuss needs of their country. What could you do to help meet that need? What do you take with you when you go? What will the living conditions be like? What do people in your country wear? How long will it take to get there? Discuss religious and cultural differences you might find. Invite families who participate to a potluck. They should bring food representative of their country. Allow families to share about what they have learned.

Christmas Around the World

Work with your worship leader to plan a Christmas-Around-the-World choral presentation. Following the music, invite church members to a fellowship that features missions displays from around the world.

Missionary Speaker

Having a missionary speaker in your church is one of the most effective ways to educate members in what is happening on the missions fields. The church hears about the needs and the work and how mission money is being used. Hearing information firsthand is almost always more effective than hearing it secondhand.

Missions Field Trip

An informative way to teach missions is to hear about and see missions work locally. A missions trip will accomplish just that. Reserve a date on the church calendar. Arrange for transportation in the church bus or van or ask church members to provide transportation.

Library Missions Corner

As a WMU group, donate missions books to the church library. You may want to get WMU members to write a brief synopsis of a missions book for the church newsletter. During the summer, sponsor a missions read-a-thon for children and youth. Set a start and end date. Ask the pastor for an opportunity to recognize participants during a worship service. Give special recognition to persons who read 5, 10, and 15 books.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are an effective way to publicize missions events and activities. Keep the information current. Be creative. Think outside the box. Put mini-posters on doors in restrooms. Hang posters in stairwells.

Video Clip

Play a short mission video clip before the worship service begins. Some are downloadable for free. Visit www.imb.org, www.actstone8.com, and www.OneMission.tv.

Host a WorldCrafts Party

New churches and existing churches alike can use WorldCrafts to develop vision for missions education. Seeing is believing, and by holding a WorldCrafts event, you can help them see. Put a date on the church calendar and enlist friends to help. Publicize through invitations, bulletin announcement, flyers, newsletters, etc. Pick a theme such as African safari, world traveler, or international holiday. For more information on holding a WorldCrafts event, visit www.WorldCraftsVillage.com/events.asp.

It's All done with Mirrors

Write missions facts backwards on large sheets of paper. Tape the sheets with the backwards missions facts around the room. Give each participant a mirror to help her read the facts. The participant writes a response to each missions fact as she goes from one large sheet to another. The large sheets with backwards facts are mini graffiti walls.

Let's Hear from the Panel

Divide the participants into small teams. Give each team a different topic of study. The teams should choose a moderator and three or four panelists to present the material. The remaining team members could prepare questions for the panelists. After each panel discussion, the participants should have a chance to ask questions. For this activity to be effective, set time limits for each presentation.

TV or Radio Programs

The participants gain or review missions information as they prepare and act out a TV or radio program. In advance

1. Decide on the type of format to be used. For example:
 - A game show is a fun way to review missions information.
 - A news program is one way you can share current missions news.
 - A day in the life of a missionary would make a good dramatic presentation.
 - On the street interviews with people involved in mission action projects can motivate participants.
 - This Is Your Life would be a good way to present information about one particular missionary.

2. Next, decide if you will write the script yourself or if the script will be written during the meeting.
3. If the script is going to be written during the meeting, you can divide the participants into small groups. Each group can use a different format like news show, drama, or game show when they write a script.
4. If you write the script before the meeting, choose the cast ahead of time so they have a chance to prepare.
5. Secure any props required for the show like a microphone, costumes, backdrop, etc.

Shopping Spree

This activity is to stimulate interest in the needs of the hungry and to help the participants understand their responsibility for people who are hungry.

In advance

1. Secure newspaper ads and grocery store circulars. The ads should be from several different grocery stores.
2. Provide pencils and paper. One or two pocket calculators would be helpful if available.

At the meeting

1. Give the participants several sheets of grocery store ads, paper, and pencil.
2. Explain that each participant is going on a shopping spree; they are to feed a family of four on \$5 a day. Give the participants ten minutes to spend \$35. Thirty-five dollars represents seven days of grocery buying. The participants will use the grocery ads to make their food selections. They should list each item they are buying. No one can spend more than \$35.
3. The participants can work in teams.
4. After the teams have completed their shopping spree, discuss the purchases. Talk about the small amount of food that can be bought on \$5 a day.
5. Ask the participants to spend two minutes deciding on what they would buy to feed their family of four if they could only spend \$1 on today's meals.
6. Discuss what they would buy.
7. Help the participants understand that many families worldwide have less than \$2 a day to spend on food.
8. Discuss ways the participants can save at least \$1 a day for world hunger.
9. Have the participants list five ways they can save \$1 or more a day. Then ask them to write down the amount they are willing to save each day. Ask the women to save this sheet as reminder of their commitment.

Christ Cared for Everyone Except

Participants will be reminded of Christ's love for all people and the need for Christians to provide ministries to people in need.

In Advance

1. Clip newspaper and magazine articles that give examples of the special group your material focuses on. Put these around the meeting area.
2. Circle outstanding words. Examples: robber, cocaine dealer, hit-and-run driver, rapist.

At the meeting

1. Ask participants to tour the room and make a list of people circled in articles.
2. After a few minutes, read lists.
3. Say: Now underline each one listed to whom you would have a hard time ministering. Wait for a response then say: Now circle each one Christ did not die for. At this point, share ways Church and Community Ministries help these people.

Note: This would be very effective with programs on criminal justice and substance abuse.

Sources:

Missions Plan Book

www.AnnieArmstrong.com

www.imb.org

Past WMU publications

Missions Leader

WMU Leaders