

World Missions 1

Sharing with people of different beliefs

God is our Redeemer, Life and Peace

Spiritual Awareness: God is Saviour

Jesus has commanded us to go into all the world, taking His message of redemption to the lost. Who are the lost?...those who do not acknowledge Jesus as their Saviour. As Christians we believe that other religions and cults are derived from the tower of Babel dispersion. Each contains some truth depending on how far they have deviated from Yahweh's revelation and instructions. Jesus alone is the truth.

What happens to those who have never heard the Gospel? Romans 1:20 tells us that the very creation speaks of the one true God, so that people are without excuse. God will judge everyone on the basis of obedience to revealed truth.

Don Richardson, in his book, *'Eternity in their hearts'*, explains that within the cultural foundations of every people group, there are parallels with Christianity. He believes that these parallels can be used to as a starting point for sharing Gospel.

Our response to 'God is our Redeemer'

Because God is my redeemer I will...
Ask Jesus to forgive me for my sin
Invite Him to live in my life
Make Jesus Lord of my life
Live with Him forever
Thank Him for what He did on the cross
Thank Him that I am His child
Tell others that they can have eternal life

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Love): God loved the world so much that He sent His Son

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Truth): Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

Themes for Christian Studies 7, (Truth): Those who seek the truth will find it

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Peace): God is a reconciler

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Servant): Spreading the Good News

Information on global missions

Operation World, 21st Century Edition, by Patrick Johnstone & Jason Mandryk
<http://www.operationworld.org/>

Information on other religions

*Yoga, the truth revealed, by Paul Reid – See **Secondary Christian Studies***

Visual Language Units –*Beliefs; Christianity* - See **Science & Social Studies Student Activities**

Biblical references

Bible stories

Acts 13 & 14 - Paul and Barnabas spread the Good News

Acts 16 - Timothy, Paul and Silas

Acts 17 - Paul in Athens - 'to the Unknown God'

Acts 19 - Paul in Ephesus

Memory verses

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20 - The Great Commission

Romans 10:14; Ephesians 6:15 - Feet to spread the Good News

John 14:6-7 - Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

1 Corinthians 7:23 - We were bought with a price

Romans 5:10 - We were God's enemies, but He made us His friends through His death on the cross.

John 3:16 – For God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.

Romans 1:20 - God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has set eternity in the hearts of men.

Key Questions

What did Jesus ask us to do in Matthew 28:16-20?

Why are other religions different to Christianity?

Where can we go to share the Gospel?

What is the best way to share the Gospel?

What happens to people who have never heard the Gospel?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- understand Christ's mission and purpose
- describe and illustrate the wide variety of roles, mission groups fulfill and explain the requirements of a missionary
- study the geography of countries in which missionaries are currently working.
- research the work of famous missionaries or the past

Skills

- identify the most effective ways of presenting the Gospel to particular groups
- categorize some of the major belief systems on earth - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, tribal, Marxist
- deliver a short-spoken testimony
- share the Gospel with a peer
- compare Christianity with other faiths

Values

- show compassion towards those who do not know Christ
- desire to share the Gospel
- understand that people have different and unique giftings, and all can be used for serving God
- show generosity in giving to the work of missions

Activities

- Research statistics on world missions, world religions and needs of particular nations.
- Colour a map of the world according to predominant religions.
- Interview mission representatives.
- Pray for specific missionary endeavours.
- Read Don Richardson's story, *'Peace Child'*, (*Themes for Christian Studies 6, Peace*). This is an amazing story of his experience in West Papua (New Guinea).
- Discuss ways in which we can bring the Gospel, using their cultural foundations as a starting point.
- Read the story, *A King Discovers the True God*, (*Themes for Christian Studies 7, Truth*), and discuss the cultural parallel with Christianity in this case.
- Read Acts 17, and explain why Paul decided to present the Gospel by beginning with 'the Unknown God'.
- Compare Christianity with other religions.
- Read the story of a Hindu who became a Christian, (*How Can I Find the True God, Themes for Christian Studies 7, Truth*).
- Present a project on a country of choice and describe the work of missionaries.

Assessment:

- Write a report on an interview with a missionary, or a biography of a missionary.
- Write an argument in defense of Christianity versus other religions.

Learning connections:

Geography: continents, countries and cities

History: History of religions

English: class presentations; discussions on various faiths

Mathematics: Use *'Operation World'* as a resource for statistics on populations, percentage of population belonging to different religions etc. Convert these statistics to table and graph form.

<http://www.operationworld.org/>