

Travel Bag

Description: pack a bag with items a missionary needs

Aim: general mission education and learning to pray

Audience: 2-5 year olds, any size class with adequate helpers

Time: 10-15 minutes

Equipment: overnight bag or small suitcase, items listed on pages 2-4

Scripture to Study:
2 Timothy 4:13
Philippians 4:19

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Bright Ideas!

Leader's Instructions:

Pre-class Preparations:

1. Find a lightweight overnight bag or small suitcase that a small child can carry.
2. Collect the items listed on pages 2-4. Store them in your classroom and be ready to put one more in the bag each week.

Class Time:

1. Let your children decorate the bag with travel stickers available from stationery and toy stores. Choose a theme like African animals, foreign buildings, or ethnic faces.
2. Tell the children that when missionaries go to tell other people about Jesus, they sometimes have to travel a long way. They have to pack a bag. Have one child hold this week's item as you discuss why it is necessary.
3. Focus on one missionary family for the entire suitcase full of items by centering the discussion around that family. Then pray for the area represented by the item. Preschoolers can hold an item and pray a short prayer. Keep it short and they'll love to be full-fledged prayer partners. Teach them to pray, for instance, by having the children repeat the simple prayer, "Lord, please give the Smiths good sleep tonight in Africa," while someone holds the pillow.
4. Next week take the item out, review and ask questions about why a missionary needs this item. Then add another item. Each week you'll review and add another item.
5. When you finish, start all over with another missionary. Preschoolers learn well through repetition and delight in pulling familiar items out of the bag again and again. They'll learn how to pray and 'meet' several missionaries.
6. Teach the following simple concepts about missions:

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**Basic mission concept
plus a prayer suggestion for each item:**

Notes:

1. Bible

Missionaries bring God's Word to people.

"Dear God, please help the (missionary family's name) give your Word to the people in (country)."

2. Picture of Jesus

Missionaries teach people about Jesus.

"Heavenly Father, please show the (missionary family's name) good ways to teach people about Jesus."

3. Miniature angel

God puts angels around His people.

"Dear God, please put angels around (missionary family's name) to protect them."

4. Big plastic bug

Some bugs can give missionaries bad diseases like malaria.

"Dear God, please protect (missionary family's name) from bugs that can make them sick."

5. Empty pill bottle

Missionaries need medicine for some diseases. (In some places they even take medicine every day or week just to protect them from getting illnesses like malaria or filaria.)

"Dear God, please make sure (missionary family's name) have the medicine they need to keep them healthy."

Notes:

6. Small pillow

Missionaries need good sleep to keep them strong.

“Dear God, please give (missionary family’s name) good sleep tonight.”

7. Toy walkie-talkie and/or radio

Missionaries sometimes live far away from cities that have telephones and electricity. They need to be able to call for help if someone is sick or if they need supplies brought in by airplane.

“Dear God, please make sure (missionary family’s name) have a way to call by radio or walkie-talkie.”

8. Sun hat, sunglasses, long-sleeved shirt and long pants that look like they are from another country

Many missionaries live in hot, sunny places where they need to protect their skin from sunburns.

“Dear God, please protect (missionary family’s name) from getting too hot and sunburned.”

9. Wax lips (easily found in October)

Many missionaries have to learn a different language.

“Dear God, help (missionary family’s name) learn to speak another language.”

10. Ethnic food utensils (chopsticks, wooden bowl, etc.)

Missionaries often have to learn to eat different foods.

“Dear God, please help (missionary family’s name) learn to like the different foods they are eating.”

Notes:

11. Note cards, pencil and play stamps

Missionaries often move far away and they miss their friends and family.

“Dear God, please remind people to write to (missionary family’s name), so they won’t be so lonely.”

12. A \$1 bill

Churches and individual Christians send money so that missionaries can do their work of telling people about Jesus.

“Dear God, please remind people to send money for (missionary family’s name) to do their work.”

13. Gloves stuffed with batting and sewn together as praying hands

God answers when you pray for missionaries. You can help them do their work and be part of their team by praying.

“Dear God, please remind me to pray for (missionary family’s name), so they can tell people about Jesus.”

14. Other creative items you come up with! Are there items specific to your missionary families?