

Deciding Where to Go



Description:

A demonstration, a discussion and a game

Aims:

- Learn that thousands of languages still wait for God's Word.
- Consider valid reasons for choosing a language group.
- Pray for translators who are deciding where to serve.
- Ask God how you can help in Bible translation.

Audience:

Kindergarten-grade 5

Space Needed:

Classroom with some open space available

Country/Area:

10/40 Window

Minimum Time Requirements:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| • Demonstrating the need | 1 minute |
| • Displaying the need | 2 minutes |
| • Discussing Scripture | 3 minutes |
| • Story | 3 minutes |
| • Game | 5-10 minutes |
| • Activity page and prayer | 5 minutes |

Scriptures to study:

Acts 1:8, Ephesians 2:10

Materials:

- Map
- Masking tape or marking pen
- One paper, or balsa wood, toy airplane for every two or three children
- John 3:16 in a language that is unfamiliar to the children
- Bibleless Peoples Tumbler (available from **Wycliffe Media Resource Center**: toll free 1-800-WYCLIFFE, 1-800-992-5433) ext. 3778 or at: <http://www.wycliffe.org/Shop.aspx>
- Copies of activity page 6 for each child
- Enlarged 10/40 Window Rhyme, found on p. 9

Pre-class Preparations:

- Assemble or fold airplanes.
- Mark out the 10/40 Window on your map with masking tape for a cloth map, or with a black marking pen on a paper map (if you are willing to mark it permanently). See the activity page for the location of the 10/40 Window.
- If necessary, practice reading John 3:16 in the (unfamiliar) language you will use.
- Ask a group leader to stand ready to gather up the Bibleless Peoples tumbler when you have finished with it.
- Make a copy of the activity page 6 for each student (and adult leaders, too).

Class Time:

DEMONSTRATING THE NEED FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

Act very excited as you tell the children,
I have good news for you today. Here it is!

**Read John 3:16 in a language with which you are familiar
(not English) or in Swahili below. Be animated, showing
that this is indeed good news!**

*(Swahili) Kwa maana jinsi hii Mungu aliupenda ulimwengu,
hata akamtoa Mwanawe pekee, ili kila mtu amwaminiye
asipotee, bali awe na uzima wa milele.*

Continue,
Wasn't that good news?

**When they complain that they couldn't understand what
you said, ask,**
What? You didn't understand it? How come?

Then offer,
Here, is this better?

Read John 3:16 in English. Go on,
That is good news, isn't it? How did it feel to try to
understand the good news in a language you
didn't know?

Materials:

- Bible

Allow for a few responses.

DISCUSSING SCRIPTURE

Read Acts 1: 8 and then say,

Isn't it good to know that wherever you go, the Holy Spirit will be there to give you power to share God's love? That would be important to know if you were deciding where to go help translate the Bible. Would anyone like to tell the class how the Bible makes a difference in your life?

Allow a few volunteers to share.

DISPLAYING THE NEED FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

Ask,

Did you know that more than 2,000 language groups still don't have even John 3:16, or any other verse, in their language? They don't have God's Good News in a language that they can understand. Let me show you, in black and white, what *that many languages* looks like.

Pull out the Bibleless Peoples Tumbler and show them that each line of single-spaced type stands for one language group. Let the tumbler fall, page by page, or have one child take the end and walk away from you until you are holding the very last page.

Explain,

All of those language groups need the Bible in their own languages. Many times God asks people to go to another country to help give His Word to a language group like one of these.

If you have time and space, allow the children to study the list for a minute or two. They often find this fascinating.

Allow a few volunteers to share.

Ask,

If you believed that God was asking you to go and help write the Bible in another language, how would you decide where to go? I am going to read a list of reasons that people might use when deciding where to go work as missionaries. When I read a reason you think is a good one, stand up straight. If

Materials:

- Bible

Materials:

- Bibleless Peoples Tumbler

you think it is a bad reason for going to a place, squat down on the floor. Are you ready for some exercise? Here we go!

Read the list below:

- The people in that country believe they can go to heaven by being good. (stand)
- The people cook your favorite foods. (squat down)
- You like the pretty clothes the people wear. (squat down)
- The country has no churches. (stand)
- The people don't know about Jesus. (stand)
- You like the really nice homes there. (squat down)
- The people have no Bible in their own language. (stand)

Say,

We surely need to think about a lot of things when deciding where to go. We need to think logically, with the brains God gave us. God also uses wise Christians to help us decide. Most importantly we need to ask God, listen and then go where we really believe He wants us to go.

STORY

Read Ephesians 2:10. Tell the story of how you decided to go where you serve, or tell the story below. At the end, ask the children to identify the things that helped you (or the Bible translators in the story below) decide where to go.

Should We Go North or South?

"*When* will the strange people from a faraway country come and help us find the book of God again?" asked a young goat herder. The villagers sat and talked, as usual, around a very small fire that brightened the starlit desert night.

"I do not know *when*," answered the elder, "but I do believe that the angel who gave that promise to our ancestors, long ago, told the truth. You remember I have told you the story many times. My father told it to me, and his father told it to him. My children, we must faithfully watch and wait. Remember, these people will not look like us. The angel said they will seem very strange. When they come, we must treat them kindly and work together. Then we will receive the book of God, once again. In that day we will truly know how to please God."

Far, far away, another discussion started. "Where do you think we should go?" *Alan and *Dora talked about Bible

Materials:

- Bible to read
Ephesians 2:10

translation needs with people groups to the north and to the south of their home. Almost finished with Bible translation training, they wondered where God might direct them to work.

“Well, I look very much like the people to the south of us. Sometimes they walk up and just start speaking to me, in their language, because they think I am one of their countrymen,” Alan reasoned, “and I have always wanted to reach out to these people. My parents say we do have distant relatives there. With your bright, blue eyes, though, you would *never* get by as one of the village people, Dora!” he teased his wife.

“And our three little blond children would certainly tip *someone* off,” she teased back.

“Then, maybe we should go north. It’s awfully cold up there, but maybe God created our family to fit in better there than in the south. Our family’s mixed appearance might make us more easily accepted by that culture,” Alan suggested.

Say,

It does sometimes help if those whom God sends to other countries blend into the different culture. If you think going north or south *only* because of the family’s appearance is a good enough reason for them to make their final choice now, please cross your arms. If not, fold your hands in your lap.

Continue,

Alan continued, “I think we should pray and ask God to lead us. Maybe we could never help translate the Bible for the *wrong* people group, since millions of people still wait for their very first Bible. Maybe we could go anywhere and do God’s will. Still, let’s ask God and then listen to what He says.” Dora agreed. They prayed and listened, but nothing seemed to happen over the weeks and months. God did not send a strong message to them through His still, small voice. They didn’t see any burning bushes, or hands writing on the wall. They continued to study, pray and listen for God to speak.

“Let’s ask the elders of our church where they think we should go,” they thought one day. The elders said they would pray and ask God for direction, but in the end God did not seem to speak directly to the elders either. They encouraged Alan and Dora to wait and see where the Wycliffe Bible Translators needed them most desperately.

Ask and then allow a few responses to this question:

What do you think Alan and Dora should do now?

*not their real names

Alan and Dora graduated from school, and requested that the organization leaders send them to work in the north or in the south. Then they waited. They decided, ahead of time, that they would go wherever the leaders asked them to work, since God had not spoken through any other means.

Say,

If you think God will send them north, cross your arms.
If you think He will send them south, keep your hands still.

“You want us to go *east*? This was not our first or even our second choice! Are we not good enough students to qualify for the other areas?” Alan asked the organization leaders. “Actually,” one leader answered, “for eight, long years the government has begged us to send translators to work alongside these people. For eight years, no one has been willing to go. That’s why we asked you. We didn’t even *look* at your choices.” Stunned and silent, Alan and Dora stared at each other.

Ask and then allow a few responses to this question:

Do you think Alan and Dora will go east, or will they ask the leaders to reconsider and send them to the north or south?

Alan answered confidently, “Yes, we will go work with these people. They deserve a Bible in a language they can read and understand. We had already decided that we would go wherever you suggested.” The leaders looked shocked! They had not expected such a quick and positive answer.

Say,

If you think Alan and Dora chose wisely, nod your head “yes”. If you think they chose poorly, shake your head “no”.

Today, this people group can read the Bible in their own language. The angel in the dream, long ago, did tell the truth! Alan and Dora’s family looked strange to this group of people, and came from a faraway land. God didn’t need them to fit in at all!

Now pastors read the Bible in churches, and people read the Bible at home. Many accept Jesus as their Savior. They can understand how to please God with their everyday lives.

As you serve God, pray, ask for wise counsel and go wherever God leads, even if it’s in a very different direction than what you expected. Remember, Ephesians 2:10 says

Materials:

- Activity page 6

God created you to do good works, which He prepared ahead of time!

GAME

Give the children activity page 6 and say,

Let me tell you about the part of the world containing more language groups without the Bible than any other place in the world. It's called the 10/40 Window. Not many Christians live in this part of the world. Most of the language groups here do not have a Bible translation in their own languages, either. You can see the 10/40 Window outlined in red on the map on this page.

Explain the information from "Flying into the 10/40 Window" below to the children.

Flying into the 10/40 Window

The 10/40 Window is this area (point to the "window" on their activity page) with the largest population of non-Christians in the world. Most of the people groups without a Bible in their own language also live in the 10/40 Window.

The 10/40 Window reaches from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China.

Most of the people who live in this part of the world belong to one of the following five major religious groups.

We can remember these groups by thinking about the word, "THUMB":

"**T**" stands for traditional religions. Traditional religions are religions that people have followed for generations. Sometimes they include the belief that spirits live in everything, and people must try not to make the spirits angry.

"**H**" stands for Hindu. Hindus believe that thousands of different gods exist. They believe that after death, they come back as other people, or even animals, depending on how well they lived. They want to become so holy that they stop being re-born, but can never be sure if they have done everything right.

"**U**" stands for unreligious. Unreligious people believe God does not exist. They believe this life is all they have.

Materials:

- Airplane
- Map
- Enlarged 10/40 Window Rhyme, on page 9

“M” stands for Muslim. Muslims worship a god named Allah. They believe that they need to do many good things so that they can go to heaven, but they are never sure if they have done enough good things.

“B” stands for Buddhist. Buddhists believe that they will stop suffering through endless rebirths if they stop desiring anything and use self-control. They want to reach a state called “nirvana” which means “nothingness”.

After telling the children about this needy part of the world, lay out the map on which you outlined the 10/40 Window. Be sure to place it on the floor where flying “airplanes” can’t damage anything. Allow children to take turns flying “airplanes” into the 10/40 Window.

Young children will enjoy repeating the rhyme included on page 9. You can prop that page up near the map and everyone can read it together before flights begin. When children have difficulty landing their airplanes within the outline on the map, point out that missionaries also have difficulties reaching people in the 10/40 Window with Jesus’ love.

Flying into the 10/40 Window Rhyme

I’m aiming “just so,”
For the 10/40 Window,
Where millions wait,
Without God’s Word.
Ready, set, go!

ACTIVITY PAGE AND PRAYER

Tell the children,

Now, look at the map on your activity page. Mark three places in the world where you might like to learn more about Bible translation needs. Ask your parents and teachers to help you research the areas! You can start at www.wycliffe.org Then ask God what part He wants you to take in reaching those who still wait.

End with prayer for Bibleless people groups.

Materials:

- Airplanes
- Map
- Enlarged 10/40 Window Rhyme, found on p. 9

Materials:

- Activity page

I'm aiming "just so",
For the 10/40 Window,
Where millions wait,
Without God's Word.
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BIBLE TRANSLATION

STEP
1

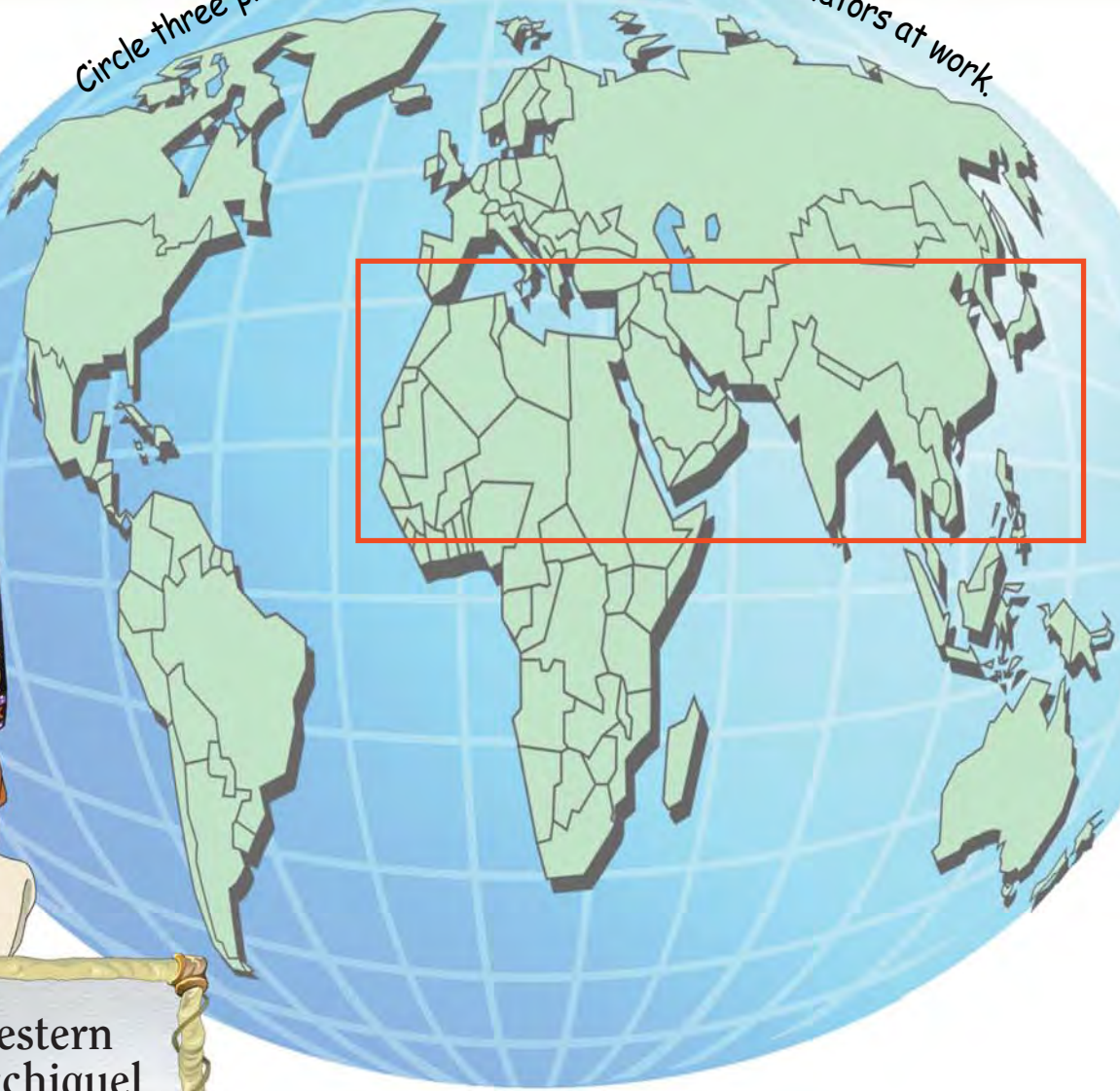
Decide Where to Go

Every day, people help to translate the Bible into other languages. Christians are presently working on over 1,500 different Bible translations. Their first step is to decide where to go.

Circle three places you might like to go see Bible translators at work.



**Western
Cakchiquel**
population: 77,000
location: *Guatemala*
New Testament
completed 1992



Find out more about one of those regions.

The area outlined in red is known as the "10/40 window,"
Most of the world's unreached people live there.