

Missions Lesson
IMB Affinity Group: North Africa and Middle East
June, Week 3
By Stacy Nall

Objectives:

- Children will identify countries of NAME (North Africa and Middle East).
- Children will learn about the pillars of Islam and compare them to Christian beliefs.
- Children will learn how Christian workers share the Good News to the people of the NAME (North African and Middle Eastern) Affinity Group.
- Children will pray for the needs of people of NAME and the Christian workers in that area.

Materials:

- Map of North Africa and Middle East (purchase or make your own on large paper utilizing an illustration from the internet).
- Small stones
- Chart paper, markers, tape
- Index cards

Preparation:

- Prepare a Comparison Chart with “Islam” on the left side and “Christianity” on the right side.
- Print the following on index cards:
 - Worship Allah
 - Think they are saved by doing good
 - Follow the Koran
 - Pray 5 times each day
 - Worship God/Jesus
 - Saved by believing Jesus is God's Son
 - Follow the Bible
 - Can pray anytime, anywhere
- Print Matthew 9:37 on a poster.

Optional Activity: Prepare a cup of hot tea for each child.

Procedures:

1. Lay a map of North Africa and the Middle East in the floor. Invite children to stand around the map. Give a stone to one child to toss onto one of the countries of North Africa and the Middle East. Identify the country. Continue with other children until all of the countries have been named

and/or every child has had a chance to toss the stone. Lead children to sit down.

2. Say: *We will be talking about the people in these countries and the Christian workers who are trying to share the Good News of Jesus. Missionaries are not allowed in this part of the world, so sharing Jesus can be difficult.*
3. Ask: *What are some jobs adults do? Christian workers can do most jobs that your parents do in the United States in North Africa and the Middle East. This helps Christian workers share the Good News of Jesus. They also try to make friends so that they can share about Jesus.*
4. Say: *Most of the people in North Africa and the Middle East are Muslim. They follow the religion of Islam. Less than 20 percent of people in this area have even heard of Jesus. It is difficult for Christian workers to share about Jesus because of Muslim beliefs.*

Help volunteers to place the cards you have prepared, one at a time, on the Comparison Chart. Discuss each card.

<u>Islam</u>	<u>Christianity</u>
Worship Allah	Worship God/Jesus
Think they are saved by doing good	Saved by believing Jesus is God's Son
Follow the Koran	Follow the Bible
Pray 5 times each day	Can pray anytime, anywhere

5. Say: *Christian workers learn the Arabic language so they can share about Jesus. Teach children to say "Jesus loves you" in Arabic.*
To males: *Yasuwa yuhibbik*
To females: *Yasuwa yuhibbukki*
6. Lead children to read Matthew 9:37 from the poster. Tell children that millions of people do not know Jesus in North Africa and the Middle East. Ask: *How can we help? (prayer)*

Share these prayer requests from NAME:

- Pray for more Christian workers to go to NAME.
- Pray for Christian workers who are trying to learn a new language.
- Pray that Muslims will have access to Bibles so they can learn about the One, True God.

Pray for NAME.

Optional Activity

Explain that Muslims practice hospitality or welcoming of people. They often serve tea. Ask children to sit on the floor as you serve tea. Practice hospitality by asking questions about each other's day and family.

Leader: If you would like to learn more about IMB work in North Africa and the Middle East, go to: <https://www.imb.org/north-africa-middle-east/>

Please note that available pictures, videos, and resources change frequently.



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