

Missions Lesson

Literacy Missions in Kentucky

September, Week 4

By Stacy Nall

Objectives

Children will learn how literacy volunteers share Jesus with nonreaders as they help them learn to read.

Children will discover ways to help nonreaders.

Children will learn how to pray for nonreaders.

Materials

- Pencils, lightweight cardboard, colored pencils or markers, magnetic tape, scissors
- “I Can Read – Can You?” printed from kywmu.org/pluginliteracy
- Optional: Copies of “Use Me Book” (printed from kywmu.org/pluginliteracy), pencils, sticks of gum, balloons, new crayons, and clear tape

Preparation

Gather materials and print needed items from the web site.

Cut a 2” x 10” strip of lightweight cardboard for each child.

Procedures

1. Give each child a copy of “I Can Read - Can You?” and a pencil. Challenge them to “read” the Bible verse. After children have had a chance to decode the verse, read it together. Ask: *Why was it difficult to figure out the verse? What would have made it easier?*

Say: Some children and adults find it just as difficult to read English as you found it to read the code.

Ask: Why is it so important to learn to read?

Explain that literacy volunteers want to help people read so that they can understand things such as street signs, news reports, and job applications. Most importantly, they want people to understand the Bible and how much Jesus loves them.

2. Share the following information from literacy volunteer, Rebecca Carnell.

Many adults living in Kentucky cannot read. It is hard for them to get along in society where they have to read directions, signs, menus, and medicine labels. Some children in school need special help in reading. School is hard for them because they cannot read well. Many people from other countries who live in Kentucky do not understand the English language. It is hard for them to get a job, to go to school, travel, or even watch TV. Literacy missions can help.

I lead workshops that train volunteers how to teach someone to read. A volunteer must take sixteen hours of training to become a literacy missions teacher. At the workshops, I help volunteers get the training they need to help people learn to read and write or speak English. They are taught how to use the material, how to use the Bible, and how to tell others about Jesus.

Literacy missions volunteers help school-aged children and youth with their homework and help adults learn to read important documents. Volunteers have an opportunity to tell nonreaders about Jesus. They help them learn to read the Bible and memorize verses. Many people have become Christians through this ministry.

I hope you will pray that more literacy volunteers will be trained so that more people can learn to read and come to know Jesus as their Savior.

(For more information about Literacy Missions in Kentucky, contact Rebecca at ekyrebecca55@gmail.com or visit the “Literacy Volunteers in Kentucky” Facebook page.)

3. Allow children to discuss ways they could help nonreaders. (Help with homework. Make flashcards. Be a friend.) Encourage children to look for opportunities to help.
4. Ask children how we should pray for Literacy Missions. Invite children to say sentence prayers. Give each child a cardboard strip. Instruct them to fold it in half and write a prayer request for Literacy Missions on the outside. Decorate with colored pencils or markers. Cut two one-inch pieces of magnetic tape for each child. Guide children to attach the magnetic tape to the inside bottom edges of the bookmarker. Encourage the children to use the bookmarker as a reminder to pray for Literacy Missions.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Make “Use Me” Books. Contact an ESL teacher from a local school or another organization that helps non-English speaking children. Ask if they can distribute the books.

1. Instruct children to write a friendly letter under “**Read** me.” Be sure to check spelling.
2. Tape a pencil onto the “**Write** with me” page.
3. Tape a stick of gum onto the “**Chew** me” page.
4. Tape a balloon onto the “**Play** with me” page.
5. Tape a new crayon onto the “**Color** with me” page.



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