

NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Missions in North America



www.namb.net

Leader Preparation

Today's Word

Compassion (showing kindness for others in distress by offering help whenever possible)



Study focus

To help kids learn about the many different kinds of mission work sponsored by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and how these ministries express compassion for people – both Christians and non-Christians. The Cooperative Program plays an important part in reaching people through NAMB.



Bible Passages

- > **Matthew 9:37-38 (HCSB)**—
The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.
- > **Deuteronomy 5:29 (HCSB)**—If only they had such a heart to fear Me and keep all My commands, so that they and their children will prosper forever.

Things to have ready for Session 4:

Warm Up

- Dry erase board (or chalkboard)
- Markers (or chalk)
- Blindfold

Take the Challenge

- Make 5 North American Mission Board Ministries Posters
 1. Church Planting
 2. Evangelism
 3. Mission Service Corps
 4. Chaplains
 5. Mission Volunteers

Huddle

- Make copies of the “ABC’s Booklet” pages (Resources for Session 4, Item 1)
 - > Sheets of colored construction paper
 - > Scissors
 - > Stapler
 - > Colored markers
 - > Bibles

We're a Team

- Choose a recreational activity for this session

Home Team

- Copy the letter to be sent home to parents (Resources for Session 4, Item 2)



Warm Up

(Activities for early arrivers)

ART IN THE DARK



Ask for a volunteer.



As “Mary” comes to the front of the group, place a blindfold securely to cover her eyes. Position her in front of the dry erase board and place a marker in her hand.

Ask her to follow your instructions without removing the blindfold.

Tell Mary to draw as you give instruction:

Draw the head of a cat.

Next, draw the cat’s tail.

Now draw the four feet of the cat.

Finish your cat by drawing its body, connecting all of the parts.

Now draw a saucer of milk under the cat’s nose to finish the picture.

Ask Mary to remove her blindfold and enjoy her artwork!

Let Mary describe how she felt as she drew her picture without being able to see.

Ask her how she felt as the other children reacted to her drawing.
(The others probably laughed, made fun, etc.)

WHAT IS THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD (NAMB)?

Like the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board was organized with the birth of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845. Originally it was called the Domestic Mission Board and later changed to the Home Mission Board.

In 1997 the North American Mission Board (NAMB) was created when the resources of the Home Mission Board, the Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission were combined. The primary responsibility of NAMB is to assist Southern Baptist churches in reaching people who live in the United States, Canada, and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands) with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are more than 5,600 North American missionaries whose efforts are coordinated through NAMB and individual state conventions. Though their areas of service may differ, they are all on mission together to share the love of God with all people. Some of those different areas of service include:

CHURCH PLANTING. The majority of missionaries are starting new Southern Baptist churches, approximately 1,578 each year. Mission pastors serve English-speaking and “foreign” language speaking churches in rural and urban settings. Southern Baptists in North America worship in 210 languages in more than 7,000 ethnic congregations.

EVANGELISM. The gospel is shared by ministering to people’s needs in many different settings. These include senior adults, nonreaders, non-English-speaking people, substance abusers, families, people in the criminal justice system, homeless people, disabled people, migrant workers, and even people on vacation.

MISSION SERVICE CORPS (MSC) missionaries serve more than two years and provide a majority of their own funding, although they may receive some NAMB support.

CHAPLAINS. In addition to missionaries, Southern Baptist endorsed chaplains minister in many of the same ways as do missionaries. Over 2,800 Southern Baptist Convention chaplains serve in the military, in institutions such as prisons and hospitals, and in corporate settings.

MISSION VOLUNTEERS. Our mission efforts are also supported by 225,000 volunteers each year. This number includes Mission Service Corps, youth volunteers, and World Changers groups.



For additional information about the ministry of the North American Mission Board, visit www.namb.net.
Kids will enjoy the site www.kidzplace.org.



Take the Challenge

(Large group learning)

Ask the children if they know what the word “compassion” means. (A good answer is showing kindness to other people who may need our help by offering to help them.) In our game “Art in the Dark,” our artist was blindfolded so she could not see how to draw. Because it was a game, we were not allowed to help her. How did you feel while you watched her struggle with drawing the picture of a cat?

ASK: *Can you think of people or groups of people who live in the United States who need our help?*

> (Wait while the children answer the question.)

THEN ASK: *What kind of help do they need?*

> (The answers will be varied, but lead the children to see how Christian ministry to these people can be an expression of our compassion for them.)

SAY: *The ministries of the North American Mission Board help people all across the United States and in Canada, too. Here are just a few examples:*

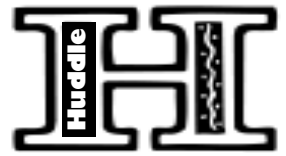
- > **The Graffiti Center** in New York City offers after-school programs that provide a safe and fun place where kids can know that God loves them.
- > **The Rachel Simms Mission** in New Orleans, Louisiana, helps children and teens with school work and also provides recreational activities for them.
- > **The Seaman’s Ministry** in Charleston, South Carolina, shows compassion to sailors from around the world as their ships dock at Charleston Harbor.

These are just three of the hundreds of ministries that our church helps support as we participate in the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Other ministries sponsored by the North American Mission Board include (refer to the information found in “Leader Preparation” for this session):

- > **Church Planting**—starting new churches in areas that need a church
- > **Evangelism**—telling others how they can know Jesus
- > **Mission Service Corps**—volunteers who serve more than two years
- > **Chaplains**—special missionaries who serve in the military, hospitals, and prisons
- > **Mission Volunteers**—adults and youth who serve as short-term missionaries

Give five volunteers each a poster with one of the five North American Mission Board ministries printed on it. Have the children holding the posters stand as you explain the work of each of these ministry areas.

Lead the group in voicing sentence prayers—each child who is willing, pray aloud for those who tell others about Jesus in North America. After those who wish to pray have finished, close the prayer time. Dismiss the group to their huddle(s).



Huddle

(Small group learning)



Make an ABC’s Booklet

Remind the boys and girls that everyone can share the good news even though they may not be considered a missionary. Ask the group if they know of people who do not attend church.

SAY: *Today we will make booklets we can use to tell people about Jesus. We can be missionaries where we live.*

Explain that the ABC’s Booklet will contain information about knowing Jesus.

Give each child a copy of the sheet (Resources for Session 4, Item 1).

Guide them to cut each of the five pages of the ABC’s Booklet. Encourage them to decorate the pages if they wish.

From colored construction paper, cut front and back covers for the booklet.

Print “A B C” on the front cover.

Assemble the booklet and staple on the left side.



We're a Team

(Recreational activities)

Has there been a favorite game the group has enjoyed during this study? If so, repeat the game at this time. If not, choose one of your favorite games or one the kids have enjoyed from VBS or another activity at church.



Finish Line

(Closing)

Gather the children to wrap up today's study. Remind them that people serve the Lord in many ways. God calls

some people into His service as their career (i.e., pastors, missionaries, etc.). But He calls all Christians to serve Him and to share the good news with people. Ask for a volunteer to share how participating in the Cooperative Program helps share the good news with people across North America. Encourage the kids to give away their ABC's Booklet to an unchurched friend this week. Lead the group in prayer.

As the children leave the meeting place, make certain they take their ABC's Booklet and the letter to parents with them.



Home Team

(From learning to action)

This activity is suggested to be done at home to reinforce what was learned in this session about working

together. Make copies of the following letter to send home with each child. (Resources for Session 4, Item 2)

Resources for Session 4, Item 2. Duplicate one per child. Send home with child at end of Session 4.

Dear Parent,

In this session, we learned how the Cooperative Program reaches people through the work of the North American Mission Board and how missionaries share the good news of Jesus on our continent. We learned that every Christian can be a missionary by sharing Jesus with others.

Your child made an ABC's booklet about knowing Jesus. Please review the book with your child and encourage sharing the booklet with a friend or family member this week.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

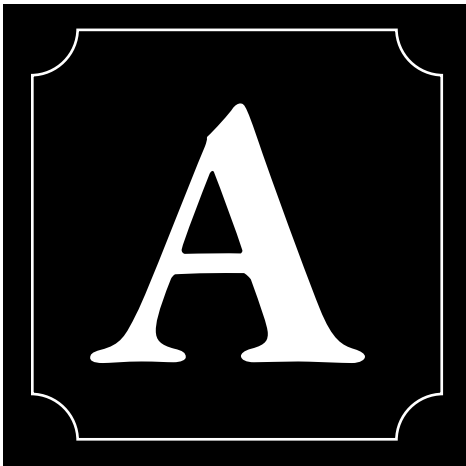
Love In Action

www.sbc.net/cp

**God loves you and wants to have
a relationship with you.**

Turn the page to find out how.

PAGE 1

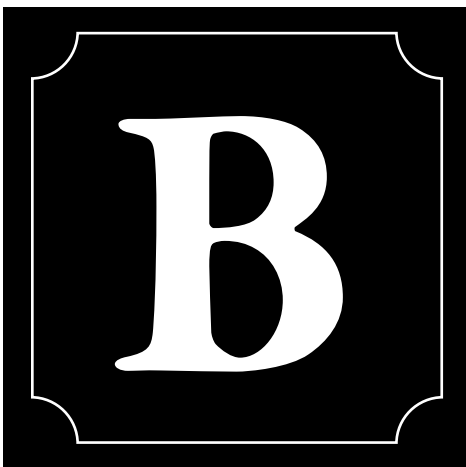


Admit

**to God that you are a sinner.
(Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)**

**Repent, or turn away, from sin.
(Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9)**

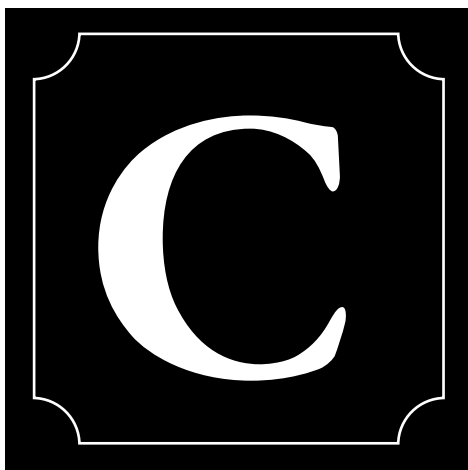
PAGE 2



Believe

**that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent
Jesus to be the Savior.
(John 3:16; John 14:6; Romans 5:8)**

PAGE 3



Confess
your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
(Romans 10:9-10, 13)

PAGE 4

**Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world.
Will you accept Him as your Savior today?**

PAGE 5

This ABC's booklet is

From: _____

To: _____
