Hello Nǐ hǎo!

Let us introduce ourselves. We are a mission group that supports missionaries from China.

“But wait,” you may think, “Jerusalem is not in China. And aren’t missionaries going to China? Why do you support missionaries from China?”

These are good questions. The super-short explanation is this. The gospel was first preached in Jerusalem. As it spread around the globe, it came to China. The church in China grew. They felt God call them to preach the gospel in the countries between China and Jerusalem. In these countries are many millions of people who have never heard of Jesus yet. So, they take the message ‘Back to Jerusalem’ and to all the places in between. We support them in this work.

Now you know who we are, but why this course?
God wants his good news to be heard everywhere. He told his church to go and tell and help people become followers of Jesus. You are part of God’s church and have a place in his plan. We want to take you on a journey to discover what missions is and how you can become part of it. And we are excited to tell you more about the church of China and how we can work together with them!

We begin with *The Story of Missions* to show you where this whole mission idea began and why it matters. Next, we will take you to the places where the fewest people know about Jesus in our *10/40 Window Flyover*. Then we go back a little in history to show you how the church in China was born and grew in *Seeds Planted in China*. And did you know that most Christians in the world are not free? We will explain more in *The Hidden Church*. Do you love to learn about other cultures? Great, because in missions, culture matters, and we tell you more in *The Color of Cultures*. And finally, we challenge you to come with us on this journey in *Ready for Mission*.

Are you ready? Let’s dive in!

**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**

*Mark 16:15*
Questions to help you think and talk

1. What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word missions?
2. Do you know any famous missionaries from the past? If you do, what are their names? (If not, don’t worry, we will introduce you to some of them later!)
3. Do you know any missionaries today? If so where do they work?
4. Do you know what kind of work they do?

Activities

1. This is what hello looks like in Chinese characters: 你好
Try to copy the Chinese characters!
2. Google “Amazing Grace in Chinese” and listen to the song. How do you think it sounds? Try to sing along!
3. These are the outlines of three large nations between China and Jerusalem.
One is a Buddhist nation, one is a Hindu nation, and one is a Muslim nation.
Find out what these countries are called and label them.
Right at the very beginning, God had a plan. He created people so He could love them, and they could love Him. They would live on the beautiful planet He made and be happy every day with the good things God gave them. He would be like a father to them, and they would grow, learn, discover, create, and rule over everything God made on earth. Together men and women, adults and children, and people of every shape and color would reflect the goodness of God in all they did. They would love each other and enjoy closeness with God.\(^1\)

When sin entered the world, that plan seemed lost forever. But right there, God started the rescue mission, which we call His plan of salvation. God promised the women that one day, out of the children and grandchildren that would be born of her, a very special Person would come. And this Person would crush evil.
The King has come

The promises of God kept ringing through the ages. Abraham, Moses, King David, the prophets, all of them were assured by God that the special Person would come. He would bless all nations. He would be a King who would reign forever. He would deal with sin and guilt.  

When at last Jesus was born, the angel declared that this was the one the world had been waiting for. He preached about a new Kingdom. This Kingdom would not rise and fall, like other kingdoms, but last forever. His Kingdom was not a place on the map and had no borders. Everyone in the world who believed in Jesus could be part of this Kingdom. He gave His life and died for the sins of the people, so that their sins could be forgiven. He became alive again, beating death, and giving His people a new life that would last forever.

The church on the road

Then Jesus sent His followers into the world. He told His people to go to every place, to tell the good news of God’s Kingdom in every nation and to people of every language. We call this the Great Commission. In this way they could also be forgiven and receive eternal life. And then they could start to follow the King and live as people of God’s Kingdom.

After Jesus went back to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of the believers, to make them strong and brave and wise, so they could go everywhere and tell this good news. From the day the Holy Spirit came, the believers have gone out and told this good news to many different people. This is what we call mission work.
The coming Kingdom

Still there are places where people have not heard this good news of the Kingdom of God. There are people groups that do not know the God who made them and loves them, about forgiveness of sins, and eternal life. But God’s Kingdom is growing. And God is still calling His people to go and tell everywhere what He has done for them. When all people groups have heard about Jesus, He will return. His Kingdom that is now growing around the world in the hearts of people will then fill the whole earth. All sin, all God’s enemies, and all the powers of evil will be crushed as God promised long ago, and Jesus will be King forever. Death and tears and danger and fear will end. God’s plan of salvation will be complete, and we will be His people, loving Him and each other, and enjoying all the good things He will give, forever.

BIBLE VERSES

THE STORY OF MISSIONS

Genesis 1:27-28

1 “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them,

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
(2) “Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

(3) “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(4) “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

(5) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”
Questions to help you think and talk

1. God’s Kingdom has no borders and it is not a place on the map. Right now, it is only visible in the lives of people who belong to God’s Kingdom. How do you think you can see if someone is part of God’s Kingdom?

2. Mission work is both Gods work and our work. What part does God do? What part should we do?

3. If someone said to you “Explain the gospel to me in three sentences,” what would you say?

Activities

Look up the following Bible verses. What do they tell you about God’s plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis</th>
<th>22:17–18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psalm</td>
<td>72:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians</td>
<td>3:8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 is a verse to memorize! So, why not put it somewhere you can see it? If you are a low-tech person, make a bookmark with this verse, so you can see it whenever you read your book or your Bible. If paper books are not your thing, color the hand lettering version of this verse, and take a picture to use as a screen saver on your phone or other device, until you have memorized it!

To solve this puzzle, you will need the five Bible verses that are used in this chapter. See if you can guess any of them without looking at the verses. Then complete the rest.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE
Activities - continued

1. Of the greatness of His ________________ and peace there will be no end.
2. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all ____________.
3. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with __________ and righteousness.
4. “I am making everything ____!”
5. Be _______ and increase in number.
6. He will reign on David’s throne and over His ____________.
7. Therefore go and make ________________ of all nations.
8. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the _____.
9. Look! God’s ____________ place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them.
10. So God created mankind in His own __________.
A 10/40 Window Flyover

In the past 2,000 years, believers in Jesus have preached the gospel in many places. But still there are millions of people who have not heard. And most of those live in an area we call the 10/40 window.

What is the 10/40 window?

On world maps, you can often see lines that indicate how far North or South something is. You may have learned about the equator, which runs round the globe, exactly in the middle. The line above that is 10 degrees North of the equator. If you go up a few lines, you get to 40 degrees North of the equator. The area of Africa and Asia that is between 10 and 40 degrees North of the equator, we call the 10/40 window.
What is a people group?

In the 10/40 window, there are many different people groups. A people group is a group of people that are different from others and belong together. They speak the same language, have the same culture, or look the same. Other words for people group can be tribe or minority. A people group is not the same as a county. Some countries, like China and India, have many people groups. Maybe you have heard about the Tibetan people in China for example. Many people groups are spread out over different countries, like the Hmong people, who live in Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.

What is an unreached people group?

We say a people group is unreached when there are very few people who know about Jesus. Also, unreached people groups have no (or not many) places like churches where people can hear about Jesus. Most unreached people groups have another main religion, such as Islam, Buddhism, or Hinduism. Also, for most people in unreached people groups, it is difficult to become a Christian, because Christians are persecuted. That means they are treated badly, and sometimes they are arrested or killed. Most, but not all, unreached people groups are somewhere in the 10/40 window.

Who tries to tell unreached people groups about Jesus?

Missionaries from different countries go to the 10/40 window, but because billions of people live there, there are far more missionaries needed than the number that are there now. Also, the work is hard and dangerous, so many have to give up after a while. God has called the church of China to send missionaries especially to these unreached people groups. Chinese missionaries believe it is their turn now to take part in the work of telling all people groups about Jesus. Let’s pray for them and work together with them!
Questions to help you think and talk

1. Do you know any people groups, besides your own, that live in your country? (Look back at the definition in the text or the glossary, if you need help.) Are they native in your country (have they been there for as long as we can go back in history) or do they live there as immigrants (did they come here in recent generations)? Are they a minority group (smaller than the largest people group) or the majority group (the largest people group)? How are they different from your people group? How are they the same?

2. What do you think it is like to be one of the very few Christians in and unreached people group? How would your life be different if your family and friends were not Christians and there was no church near you?

3. If you would travel over land from China to Jerusalem, which countries would you want to go through and why? Which countries would you avoid and why? (You may need a world map to answer this question.)

Activities

1. Look up the Joshua Project online (www.joshuaproject.net). Here you can use an interactive map to find different unreached people groups and lots of information on these people groups. Choose one of these groups and complete this little profile for your chosen people group:

   Name of people group:

   Country/Countries:

   Population:

   Main Language

   Main Religion:
2. In the Word Search below are twelve names of countries in the 10/40 window. How many can you find in ten minutes? If you cannot find at least five, look up the names of these countries next to the puzzle.

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I Y R N N A T S I K A P A C
R T D E A M A E G Y P T K T
M S H P D M A B N A M N D H
I N T A A I L Y A A A A A A
D I I L O G I Y R G N I R I
T A A T I G C H I N A I I L
A I D N I T P A T K N H E A
S N V A F G H A N I S T A N
C V L S N V I E T N A M I D
N A A L V Y A A I A S P C A
M M A T I A S I A Y N E A N
C A M B O D I A R M H N R E
E A A E P A I I R A Q I H A
I L N D F R A I P Y Y I P I
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Copy the profile of an unreached people group you made in the first activity on a little card or take a picture of it with your phone. Pray every day this week that this people group may hear about Jesus and churches will be formed among them.
Today there are more than 100,000,000 (that’s one hundred million) Christians in China. But how did that happen? Let’s go back a bit in time!

This is the oldest church in China. It was built by Nestorian Christians, who came from Syria, a country in the Middle East. This was a long and dangerous journey over land, which would take months. The first Nestorian missionary to China is known by the name of Alopen, and he came to China in 635. That is almost 1400 years ago! These Nestorians also translated many parts of the Bible into Chinese for the first time, but these were later lost as the churches disappeared from China in a time of war and changes in leadership. In the 12th century the Nestorians were allowed back in China and established new churches. These disappeared when in the 14th century there was persecution from Muslims against Chinese Christians and a new emperor expelled foreign Christians from China.
Another famous missionary to China was a man from Italy, called Matteo Ricci. He came to mainland China in 1583. He was a great scientist, and amazingly intelligent. The Chinese emperor even invited him to the court so Matteo Ricci could advise him on matters of science. He learned Chinese, both speaking and writing, which no other European had yet been able to do. He also studied the Chinese classical works and became an expert in the Chinese philosophy of Confucianism. His most important work was a book called The True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven. The Chinese people knew about God, whom they called the “Lord of Heaven.” Matteo Ricci used their basic knowledge about God to explain the gospel of Jesus to them in this book.

In 1854 an English man named Hudson Taylor arrived in Shanghai, China. In those days, European nations did not treat the Chinese people very well. They did not respect their culture much and forced China to allow them to sell opium to the Chinese people, a dangerous drug similar to heroin. Hudson Taylor and the organization of missionaries that he started campaigned against the opium trade, and they respected the Chinese culture. They learned the language, dressed like Chinese, and ate Chinese food. They started many schools and hospitals all over China. Hudson Taylor himself spoke several Chinese dialects and helped translate the New Testament in two of them.

Through the centuries, God called people to China to tell the good news of Jesus. Now, missionaries from China travel to many countries to do the same!
Questions to help you think and talk

1. Why do you think it is important to translate the Bible into the language of the people you share the gospel with? If the Bible was not translated into a language you could understand, what do you think would happen to the church?

2. China is a very big country. If you were the first missionary, where would you start? In a big city or in a village? With rich and important people or with poor people? In temples and other public places or in people’s homes? Why you would make these choices? It is not a right or wrong answer!

3. Matteo Ricci wrote a book to build on the knowledge the Chinese people already had about God. The apostle Paul did something similar when he saw people in Athens worshipped and “Unknown God.” He used their beliefs as a starting point to tell them about the God of the Bible. What religious beliefs do people in your country have that you can use to begin to tell them about Jesus?

Activities

1. Read this chapter once more carefully, and without looking try to answer the following questions:

   a) What was the name of the first missionary to China?

   b) What country did he come from?

   c) How did the Nestorian churches disappear?

   d) Where was Matteo Ricci from?

   e) What was the name of the book he wrote?

   f) What drug did the European people sell to the Chinese?

   g) What did Hudson Taylor do to show his respect for Chinese culture?

   h) What did Hudson Taylor help translate into several Chinese dialects?

Check your answers!
Three or more is good. Five or more is excellent!
Activities (continued)

2. "Jesus loves you" in Chinese is:

耶稣爱你 Yēsū ài nǐ

Now look up on YouTube the song “Jesus Loves Me” in Chinese. The chorus in English is

“Yes, Jesus loves me. (3x) The Bible tells me so.”

Now listen carefully to the chorus in Chinese, and with the help of the sentence above, work out the following questions:

What is the word for **LOVE** in Chinese?

What is the word for **ME** in Chinese?

3. There were also several famous women missionaries to China. One of them was Gladys Aylward. Learn about her super scary and exiting story! Do one of the following three things:

a) Google her name, look at her pictures, and read about her life.

b) Read a book about her. There are many to choose from. The Christian Heroes series has done a children’s story on her.

c) Watch the movie (with your parents’ permission!) The Inn of the Sixth Happiness.
The Hidden Church

In many countries, there is no freedom of religion. That means that you cannot just believe what you want or worship how you want. Christians in those countries are persecuted for what they believe. Sometimes persecution means that Christians are discriminated against or bullied. For example, they cannot get good jobs, or they have to live in the bad parts of town. It can mean that their faith cannot be visible. For example, they cannot build churches, gather in groups, or own Bibles. Or they are not allowed to become Christians at all. If they are found out, they can be kicked out of their families, arrested, or even killed.

The wrong faith

In Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist countries, Christians are persecuted because they believe differently from others. They are seen as having the “wrong” faith. In India, Hinduism is accepted by many people as the national faith. For these people, if you become a Christian, you betray your country and culture. In Islamic countries, the Jewish and Christian faiths are seen as early and incomplete faiths. Islam came later and is seen as the “perfect” faith in the eyes of Muslims. So, if you become a Christian, you are falling away from their idea of the “perfect faith.” You no longer believe in Muhammad, and with that you offend every Muslim. In some Muslim countries, you can get the death penalty for becoming a Christian.
Every faith is wrong

Some countries are officially atheist. That means that any faith in God is seen as something bad or backwards. Atheist governments want people to obey them above all. Christians should of course be good citizens and keep the law. But for a Christian, what the Bible says is more important than what the government says. That is why they are seen as a threat to the system. In atheist countries like China and North Korea, Christians and people of other religions are persecuted in many ways. Churches are raided, people are arrested, Bibles are burned, and sometimes Christians are locked up in labor camps.

Church at home

Persecuted Christians often cannot gather in church buildings, so they meet in homes. We call them house churches. Meeting in homes is not a bad thing in itself. It can be a very good thing. If Christians meet in homes, they don’t have to use their time and money to build buildings, and the church can grow quickly. You see this in China and Iran. As the church becomes too big to fit in a house, half of the people move to a new house to meet. What you get is a network of many small churches spreading out. In this way, they stay hidden and are harder for the government to close down. The hardest thing about living in a country where there is no freedom of religion is that you are not allowed to tell others about Jesus. Pastors, missionaries, and evangelists often get arrested, mistreated, and even killed. Still, people take that risk. In some of the most dangerous countries for Christians, the church is growing quickly, because people love Jesus so much, they cannot keep quiet about it.

One family

The free church and the hidden church are one family, and we need each other. We can help them by our prayers, by encouraging them, by advocating for them, and by helping them get Bibles and other things they need. They teach us how to be brave, how to love God first, and that following Jesus is worth everything we have.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
Questions to help you think and talk

1. Why do you think it is important that people should be free to believe what they think is true and practice that belief?

2. Would you like to have a home church rather than a church building? Why or why not?

3. What do you think it is like for children to grow up in a Christian family that is persecuted? What kinds of challenges would they face?

Activities

1. Google “Open Doors World Watch List.” You will get a list of countries where persecution is worst. Write down the top ten nations and look them up on a world map. How many of them are in the 10/40 window?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>10/40 window?</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>10/40 window?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities (continued)

2. Christians who are persecuted are often not allowed to have a Bible, especially when they are in prison. They often memorize many verses of the Bible, and when they can they write them out to share with other believers. On a small piece of paper, write a verse or song that you know by heart, as tiny as you can make it. Now think of ways you could give it to someone without anyone else noticing. Example: You could roll it up tightly, make a small cut in the wrapper of a chocolate bar and slide it in there. Then carry out your plan and see if it works!

3. Do something! Here are some things you can do to learn from and help the persecuted church. Choose one or do them all if you want!

a) Online there are always petitions circulating to call for the release of someone in prison for their faith. Google “petition for persecuted Christians” to find a petition. Ask adults in your church or family to add their name!

b) Go to YouTube and search for “Brother Yun.” There are several videos where he talks about his experiences in prison. Listen to his amazing story!

c) Do a fundraiser for the Back to Jerusalem Bible fund. We make small electronic Bibles that are easy to hide for persecuted Christians! See www.backtojerusalem.com/support.

d) Pray regularly for persecuted Christians. Our Back to Jerusalem app has a section for prayer requests if you are looking for ideas.
The COLOR OF CULTURES

If you have ever been on a trip to another country or to big cities with people from different countries, you will notice many ways in which people are different. People from other countries dress differently, they eat different foods, they speak different languages, and they live in different kinds of houses. All the things people do, say, and think, that set one group apart from another group, we call culture.
Outside and inside
Things like dress, food, and language are only the outside of the culture. But there are many things that you cannot see, smell, or hear. People from different countries often think about the world very differently. They have different things that they find important.

In some countries the opinion of a person matters, while in other countries, the harmony in the group matters more. That means you don’t always say what you think, but you try to make everybody feel good. In some countries, people respect old people for their experience and wisdom. In other countries people respect young people for their beauty and health. In some countries, people want to be independent and live by themselves, while in other countries, people live together with their wider families and take care of each other. These are just some examples of how people see the world differently and do things differently as a result.
Strong and weak

Every culture has strong and weak points. It is often much easier to see the weak points in other cultures because your own culture is so normal to you. So, it is easy to think that how you do things is obviously the best way and what other people do is strange. But when you go to live in another culture, you often find that things that once seemed strange to you make sense within that culture or in their situation. You may even start to prefer their way!

In every culture, including our own, there are things that go against the Bible. For example, in some cultures work is so important that people think resting is a sign of weakness. But God gave His children a whole day to rest every week, because to God, people are more important than the work they get done. So, we should follow God and not the culture when culture goes against the Bible. But there are also things that are just different. For example, in India parents often help their grown child find someone to marry. You may not like that idea, but it is not bad in itself. Or some countries have no bedtime and children can sleep when they want. That is also not bad, but it can be difficult to get used to!
Learning and serving

When Jesus was born, He was born in a country with its own culture, and He lived as a man of that culture. He did not take part in the sins of that culture, but He lived as a Jewish man, and kept the Jewish laws and customs. He really understood their lives and their way of thinking, and He was one of them. When we want to share the gospel as missionaries, we should follow Jesus’s example as much as we can. That means we have to learn to really understand people’s culture and adapt our lives so that we can become close friends. It means adapting to the outside culture, like learning language and trying new foods, but also to learn how to talk and live and work together in a way that is right in that culture. Because missionaries should be like Jesus, they should serve people in the way that helps them most. Also, a missionary’s purpose should be to help people follow Jesus within their culture, not to change their culture so it looks more like the culture of the missionary.

A faith with many faces

Christianity does not “belong” to any culture. People of every culture can follow Jesus in their own way. Look at the ways people worship. Some chant, some dance, some shout, some are quiet, but all of this can please God, because it shows all the richness of cultures and nations. And when we see these different ways of worship, we see a little bit of what heaven will be like.
“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. . . . I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.
Questions to help you think and talk:

1) What culture or cultures are you part of? What do you think are strong points in your culture?

2) What do you think are weak points in your culture, or things that go against the Bible?

3) What is something you like in another culture you know about? Give one example of “outside culture” and one example of “inside culture.” What would be the hardest thing for you to give up from your own culture if you moved to another country or lived with people from another culture? What would be the hardest thing for you to learn or adapt to in a new country?

Activities

1) Every culture has their beauty, riches, and knowledge that they can contribute to the cultural “treasury” of the church. Do an image search on “nativity around the world” to see all the ways Christians around the world express the nativity story in art. Save the most interesting one on your phone or computer so you have a wallpaper ready for Christmas! Or print it out to hang on your wall.

2) To solve this puzzle, you will need the five Bible verses that are in this chapter. See if you can guess any of them without looking at the verses. Then complete the rest.

a) The Word became ________________.

b) He humbled himself by becoming ________________ to death.

c) I do this for the sake of the ________________.

d) He made himself ________________.

e) I made myself a ________________ to everyone.

f) After this I looked, and there before me was a great _______ that no one could count from every nation, _______, people and language, standing before the throne. We have seen his ___________.
3. One way in which Christians from different cultures show their love for God is through worship songs. Often songs are translated from English, but most cultures also have their very own worship songs in their own language and with their own style and instruments. Do you want to know how the house churches of China worship? On YouTube you can find the documentary *The Canaan Hymns* which tells the story of a very special Chinese lady who wrote hundreds of Chinese songs. Go and check it out!
You have learned many things about missions so far. What it is, how it works, and where it is most needed. Maybe you have wondered if there is anything you can do. The answer is easy. Yes, there is! Because you, whatever your age, are part of the church. And as child of God, you have been given the Holy Spirit to live in you. That means that God’s great plan involves you. And starting from today, you can become involved in the work of mission.

Your spiritual superpower

Did you know that from God’s point of view, your prayers are just as good and strong and effective as the prayers of adults? Because what matters is not how good your words are, but how sincere your heart is. The Bible says that the prayers of a righteous person are powerful. We don’t always know how our prayers work out, but we know God hears them and will act. So, what can you pray for?

You can pray for unreached people groups. Pray that missionaries will be able to go there and tell them about Jesus. You can pray for missionaries who already work in different countries. Pray that God will protect them and pray that many people will believe in Jesus because of their work. Pray also for the children of missionaries. They grow up with two or more languages and cultures. That can be hard. Pray they will feel safe and loved and that they can make friends. It is good to get some names! Pray for missionaries you know, look up unreached people groups on the internet, or look at our Back to Jerusalem website or app for people and situations you can pray for.
A powerful brain

One of the most difficult things for missionaries is often to learn another language. Did you know that learning a language is much easier when you are still a child or a teenager? The younger you are, the better! There are so many (often free) language-learning apps and internet courses. So why not start learning a language?

This is not just useful if you ever become a missionary in another country. Millions of people from the 10/40 window move to other countries, and you will find many of them in the larger cities of your own country. Their children may be in your school. These migrants and refugees may need help with getting settled or could be looking for friends. They may never have had a Christian friend before, let alone one that speaks their language a little! These are some of the languages that are most useful to learn: Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, French, Hindi, Urdu, and Persian.
Help missionaries

Do you know any missionaries? Does your church have any missionaries? Ask what you can do to help! Sending cards or care packages is a great way to encourage them. Maybe they need help with fundraisers or other practical things. Also see what kind of mission projects your church has, perhaps in your own town, and ask what you can do to help.

Experience and learn

To be involved in missions, we need to always learn. Of course, learning more about the Bible comes first. But also think about how you can learn about other cultures and religions. Ask your parents for books or movies about missions. (Back to Jerusalem has a whole series of mission stories for children!) If you want to do more than read or watch movies, a great way to experience another culture is visiting an immigrant church. Try to make friends with people from other cultures. Eat new foods and try to cook them yourself! Learn with an open mind and an open heart and be ready to let God use you!

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

James 5:16
Questions to help you think and talk:

1. Have you already done any of the things mentioned in this chapter? What kind of things would you like to start doing?

2. Does being a part of God’s missions plan make you excited or nervous (or maybe both)? Why?

3. Praying is a superpower, but it can be hard to keep up. Can you think of creative ways to pray for missions that will make it easier for you to remember and keep it up?

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19,20
Course Wrap up

You have learned many things about the Bible, mission and culture. Choose one of the following assignments to bring together things you have learned! If you send evidence of your work to training@backtojerusalem.com we will send you a certificate of completion.

Pray Make a mission prayer plan for a week. Include countries in the 10/40 window, unreached people groups, and missionaries you know about. You can do it on paper or digitally and be as creative as you like, including pictures, maps, graphs, and specific prayer points. Send a picture of your work to our office! And don’t forget to pray.

Languages Look up a Christian song you know in another language. Learn to sing it in this language. Also look up a Bible verse in another language and learn to read it out in that language. Send us a video of you reading and singing!

Study Read a (children’s) biography about a missionary you are interested in. Write a summary about the story of this missionary and include a picture. Email it to our office!

Meet Interview a Christian from another culture. Ask questions about the differences between your culture and their culture and churches in your country and churches in their country. Ask what you think Christians in your culture could learn from them. Record or transcribe the interview and send it to us!

Experience Visit an immigrant church or a church from a different cultural group in your country and make a short video about your experience with some shots from the service and from you telling what you thought about it. Email it to us!

Join Join one of the mission activities of your church and write about what you did, how it went, and what you learned. You can also make a video if you prefer!

We hope you learned something new during this course, and we would love to hear your feedback. But most of all, we hope that God will use you to bless people all over the world as you come along with us on this journey into missions.
## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10/40 window</strong></td>
<td>The area of Africa and Asia that is between 10 and 40 degrees North of the equator, which is the area of the world where most people who have never heard the gospel live</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atheist</strong></td>
<td>Someone who does not believe in any religion or supernatural beings like gods or angels</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Buddhist</strong></td>
<td>A group that follows the teachings of the Buddha, and their goal is to be “enlightened.” They live mostly in East Asia.</td>
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<td><strong>Culture</strong></td>
<td>All the things people do, say, and think that set one group apart from another</td>
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<td><strong>Freedom of Religion</strong></td>
<td>Being able to believe what you want, worship (or not worship) how you want, and publicly share your faith with others</td>
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<td><strong>Great Commission</strong></td>
<td>The charge Jesus gave to his followers to go to every place in the world to teach others to follow Jesus (Matthew 28:19)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hindu</strong></td>
<td>A group that believes in many different gods and that people who die are born again on earth as a different person. Most live in India and Nepal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>House churches</strong></td>
<td>Groups of believers who have no official church building, but meet in houses or other ordinary places</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor camp</td>
<td>A large prison complex where people have to work very hard and are usually treated very badly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission work</td>
<td>The work of making the gospel known to people who have not yet heard</td>
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<td>Muslim</td>
<td>A group that believes Mohammad was God's prophet. They follow Islam, the religion he founded. They live mainly in the Middle East, Central Asia, South East Asia, and North Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>People group</td>
<td>A group of people that are different from others and belong together because they share a language, a culture, or look the same.</td>
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<td>Persecuted</td>
<td>Christians who are treated badly because they believe in Jesus. They can be discriminated, excluded, imprisoned, or even killed.</td>
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<td>Plan of Salvation</td>
<td>God's rescue mission to save people, destroy evil, and renew the world</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unreached</td>
<td>A people group that has few or no believers in Jesus, few or no churches, and few or no missionaries telling them about Jesus</td>
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