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An introduction to the *Salvation* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Salvation introduction.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Salvation* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Salvation* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit [www.matthiasmedia.com.au](http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au).

# Praying for missionaries

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**Bible reference...** Romans 1:1-17, 10:13-17; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-4

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**Lesson aim...** To help the children understand the need for people all around the world to be told the Good News about Jesus. Also to talk about the role and work of missionaries, focussing on one particular missionary, missionary couple or missionary family. In the lesson we will be encouraging the children to pray and we'll be talking about the value and importance of this.

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**Main message...** Missionaries tell people about Jesus. We can help them by praying for them.

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**Memory verse...** 1 Peter 3, verse 8, 'love one another, and be kind and humble with one another.' See page 97 for instructions and pages 98-101 for a copy of the verse.

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**Vocabulary...** missionaries—tell people the good news about Jesus. They often go to live in another country to tell people there about Jesus.

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**Story preparation...** It would be great, if it is possible, to get a brochure about the missionary you will be talking about and maybe even some pictures or brochures about the country that they are in.

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**Please note...** For this lesson we are going to focus on one particular overseas missionary, missionary couple or missionary family so the children can be encouraged to pray specifically for them. I use the term 'missionary' to include couples, families and singles (as I realise that there are single and married/family missionaries). It would be ideal to talk about a missionary linked to your church. If you don't have a missionary linked to your church, then contact a missionary organisation and find the details of a missionary you could talk about today and pray for.

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## Introduction...

“Have you heard of ‘news’? ‘News’ is something that’s important to hear about. We have newspapers which write about news. We have ‘news’ on the radio which tells us about news. We have ‘news’ on the television which shows us and tells us about news. We also have ‘news’ in the Bible. The New Testament part of the Bible talks about ‘Good News’. We’ve heard about Paul this term, and the book in the New Testament called Romans. In Romans Paul talks about God’s Good News—he says the ‘Good News was promised’ (Romans 1:2) and written about in the Bible, and that it is about God’s Son (1:3). Paul says that he really, really wants ‘to preach the Good News’ (1:15)—preach means to tell the Good News. Paul wants lots and lots of people to hear the Good News.

“The Good News about Jesus is also called ‘the gospel’. When people ‘say the gospel’ they talk about the Good News about Jesus. The Good News is also called the ‘message’ about Jesus.

“Paul was someone who told people the Good News about Jesus. He went to lots of different places ‘preaching’ or telling people about Jesus. That was hundreds and hundreds of years ago. We’re going to hear about other people who tell people the Good News about Jesus now.”

## Story...

“It’s wonderful that we can come to Sunday School and hear about Jesus and learn from the Bible. There are many people in the world who haven’t heard about Jesus. There are people here in our country who haven’t heard about Jesus, and there are people in other countries all over the world who haven’t heard about Jesus. It’s the best news ever to hear about what Jesus has done for us, so we want lots and lots more people to know about Jesus.

“We’ve read some verses from the book of Romans. Paul talks about people who haven’t heard about Jesus. Paul says, ‘how can they believe if they have not heard the message?’ (Romans 10:14). People need to hear the good news, or the message, about Jesus. They can’t believe in Jesus until they hear about him. And for people to hear the Good News about Jesus, there needs to be people to tell them about Jesus.

“Missionaries tell people the good news about Jesus and how Jesus died so that they can be forgiven and be friends with God. They often go to live in another country to tell people there about Jesus.

“We’re going to talk about one missionary/missionary family...”

Go on to tell the children the name of the missionary, missionary couple or family, and the country that they are in.

Show the children a photo of the missionary and introduce the family members to the children.

Explain where your missionary works—what the country is like and where they live. Explain what the missionary does—a doctor/a student worker/a pastor/a teacher—and who they work with. Explain how they tell people about Jesus—talk to big groups of people/talk to people they meet/run Bible studies. If possible, tell the children a little about what the people in that country are like (eg. very poor, scared because of fighting and war etc) and what they believe (eg. they worship statues instead of the real, living God; they don't think that God is there) and why they need to hear about Jesus.

“Missionaries do something that is very important—they tell people the Good News about Jesus, just like Paul told people the Good News about Jesus. When Paul went to places telling people about Jesus he asked Christians he knew to help him. And do you know one of the most important things he asked them to do? He asked them to pray. Paul wanted Christians to pray that he would be able to tell people the Good News about Jesus and that he would tell it so that people understood it. We can pray this for all missionaries.

“We can pray for... [name of missionary, missionary couple or missionary family] that God will help them to tell people about Jesus. We can pray that the people they are speaking to will understand the Good News about Jesus.” *Also talk about any specific prayer points that your missionary has requested.*

“Missionaries who work in other countries need to learn the language of the new country that they are now living in. They also have to learn about how people live there. So there are lots of things that they need to learn, and there are lots of changes that they need to make.”

Now give some examples of changes that missionaries need to make. You might be able to talk about the changes that your missionary has had to make. For instance their housing (they may be living in something very different from accommodation where your Sunday School is, eg. a mud hut or a tall apartment block), their transport (they might not be able to have a car and have to get around some other way), schooling (the missionary children may go to a very different school from where they have come from—even if the ‘school’ isn’t different, the ‘language’ probably is and it can be hard for them to make friends), food (they might now eat very different food to what they are used to), buying and cooking food (there might not be supermarkets where they live, and the kitchens may be completely different), health (where they live there might be sicknesses like malaria which can make people very, very sick) ...I could go on and on. Children need to be told of these differences so that they can realise that missionaries need prayer to help them get used to all these changes and that they need prayer for living day to day. Some missionaries might not have many changes to make, but are still far from family and friends.

“So there are lots of things that we can pray for our missionary. We can also write to them or send them some pictures, so that they know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.

“We can also pray that lots more people will hear the Good News about Jesus and that there will be more missionaries to tell people the Good News.”

## Conclusion...

“Missionaries tell people about Jesus. We can help them by praying for them. We can help...(name the missionary you’ve talked about today) by praying for them and the people that they will be talking to.”

## What about us?...

“We can pray for our missionary here at Sunday School. We can also pray for our missionary at home.”

Talk about how the children can pray for the missionary at home and remind them of the things that they could pray for them and the people where they live. You could use the prayer card from activity #2 for this.

## Prayer...

“What could we pray for our missionary?”

Ask the children for ideas, maybe writing (or even drawing) a list down as you go. Include things like safety, being able to speak to people about Jesus, reading the Bible themselves, understanding the language better etc. Then pray. Each child, or children who offer, could pray for one of the things mentioned.

You might want to go around the circle with each child praying one thing. If a child doesn’t want to say anything they could tap the next child, so that they know to say something next (explain this beforehand).

## Activity suggestions...

### 1. *Egg carton stand*

This activity is suitable for younger children. Each child will need an egg carton (a half dozen carton would be fine) and some cardboard rolls. The children 'dress' the cardboard rolls as people from the country that you have been focussing on and attach a caption along the lines of... 'People in [name of your country] need to hear the Good News about Jesus' (you could print page 102 and fill in the name of the country you talked about today).

### 2. *Prayer card*

This will require some work from you in order to give the children something related to the missionary you talked about today. To help the children remember to pray for this missionary/country it would be great to make a prayer card. If you contact the relevant missionary organisation for your missionary, they may be able to send you enough brochures for each of your children. You may be able to get old travel brochures about the country where they are living. Write a message on a piece of paper or cardboard for the children to paste/draw/decorate around the message. You could print page 103, 104 or 105 and cut out an appropriate caption or write your own caption.

### 3. *Flag*

The children colour in a paper flag (that you have drawn and copied) or draw a flag, for the country you have talked about. Paste a message (you could print page 106 or write your own caption) on the other side and, using a straw for the flag pole, attach the flag to the pole.

### 4. *Letter writing*

Give each child a piece of paper for them to make their own contribution to a class envelope to be sent to the missionary. You will need to write a letter to the missionary explaining that you have just been talking about them at Sunday School. The children can contribute as follows:

School children with limited writing ability—copy the name of a child/children/missionary the picture is for, draw a picture, write their name and maybe have them dictate a short message for you to write.

School children who can write—may like to write a short message as well as, or instead of, a picture.

Please note:

It would be great if you could continue to remember (over the remaining weeks of the term) the missionary/country that you talked about today.

## Memory verse...

1 Peter 3, verse 8, 'love one another, and be kind and humble with one another.'

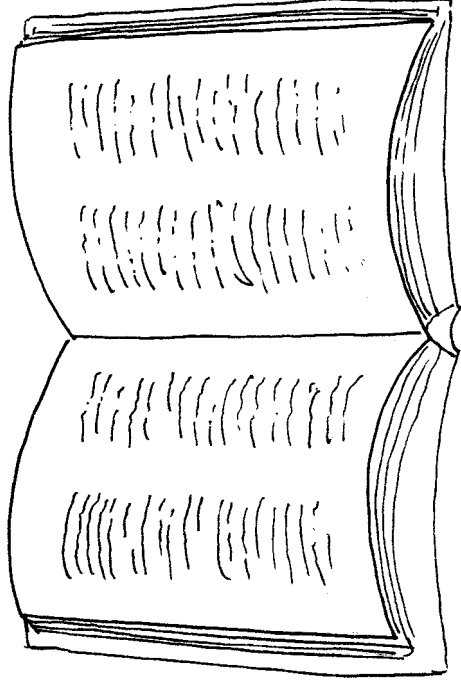
Learning the verse:

We are using cards to help learn the verse. Print pages 98 to 101 for today. We are not assuming that the children can read, but they will be able to recognise the pictures that accompany each part of the verse.

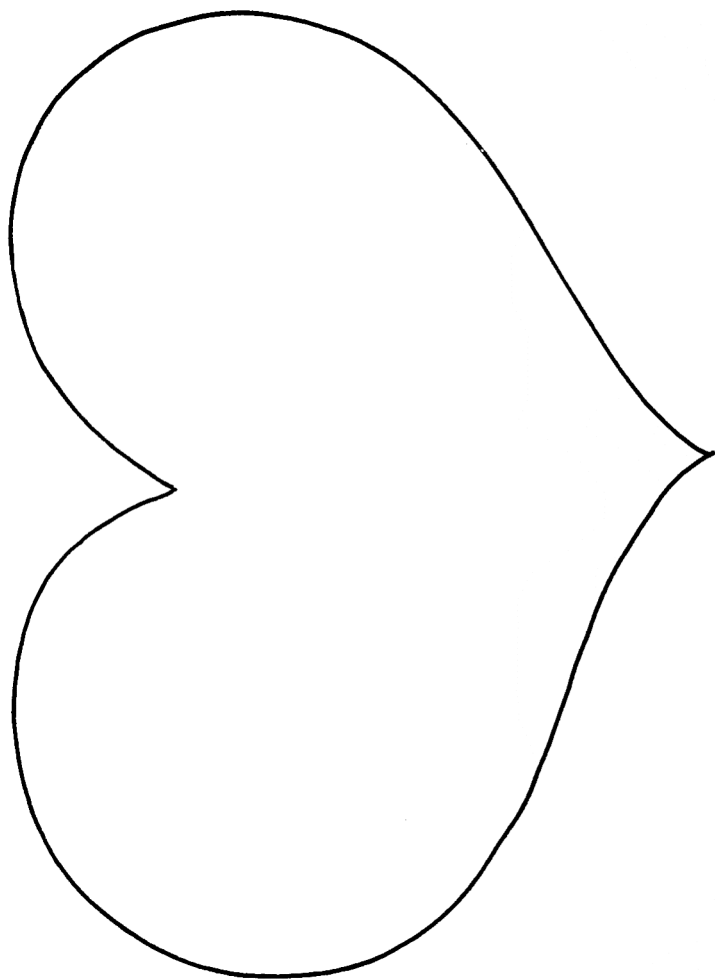
Attach the cards to a wall (with blu-tack) or a board, or they could be held by some children.

You could cover parts of cards (ie. text or picture), or cover whole cards (if children are holding them, they can turn cards around) and see if the children can remember. You could also mix up cards and see if the children can put them in the correct order.

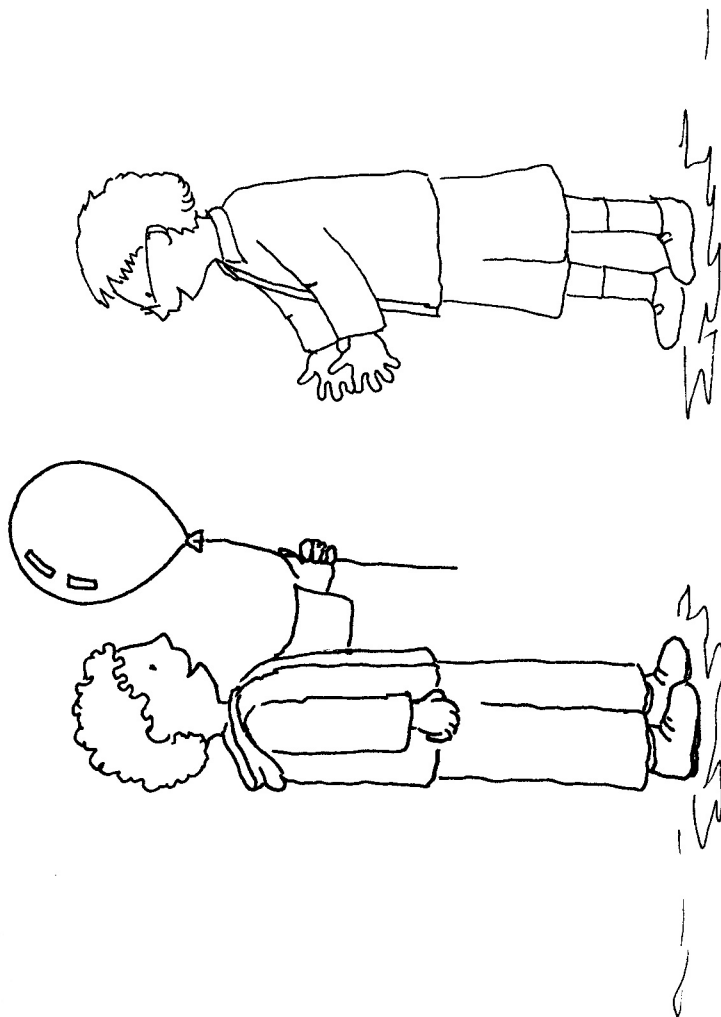
# 1 Peter 3, verse 8



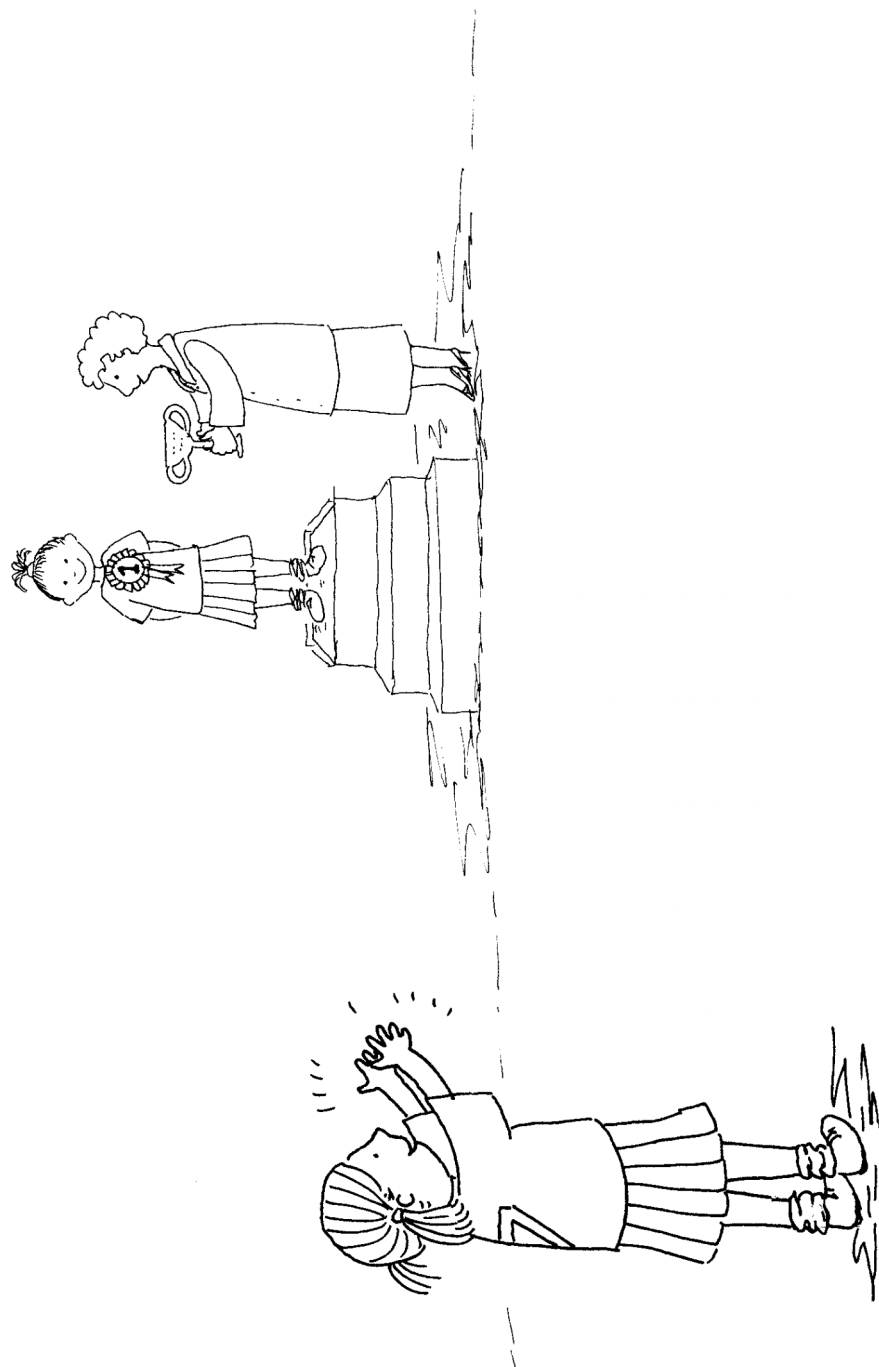
**love one another**



and be kind



# and humble



*Caption for activity #1:*

People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
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People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.
People in need to hear the <i>Good News</i> about Jesus.

*Caption for activity #2*

*For a single missionary:*

<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. This is a missionary from our church.</p>	<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. This is a missionary from our church.</p>
<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. This is a missionary from our church.</p>	<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. This is a missionary from our church.</p>
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*Caption for activity #2*

*For a missionary couple or family:*

<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. These are missionaries from our church.</p>	<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. These are missionaries from our church.</p>
<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. These are missionaries from our church.</p>	<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. These are missionaries from our church.</p>
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<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. These are missionaries from our church.</p>	<p>Missionaries tell people about Jesus. They often live in other countries to tell people there about Jesus. We can pray for missionaries and the people they are talking to. These are missionaries from our church.</p>

*An idea for a more personal caption for activity #2 (which you complete with the name of the missionary and country they are in)  
For a single missionary:*

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.  
We can pray for  
who is a missionary from our church  
and lives in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.  
We can pray for  
who is a missionary from our church  
and lives in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

*For a missionary couple or family:*

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.  
We can pray for  
who are missionaries from our church  
and live in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.  
We can pray for  
who are missionaries from our church  
and live in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

*An idea for a caption for activity #3 which you complete with the name of the missionary and their country (which needs to be written twice).*

*For a single missionary:*

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.

We can pray for

who is a missionary and lives in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

This is the flag for

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.

We can pray for

who is a missionary and lives in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

This is the flag for

*For a missionary couple or family:*

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.

We can pray for

who are missionaries and live in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

This is the flag for

Missionaries tell people about Jesus.

We can pray for

who are missionaries and live in  
to tell people there about Jesus.

This is the flag for