

Word of the Night: *Intercede*

Character: *All Christians*

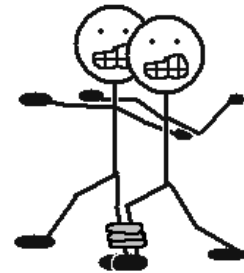
Key Verse: *2 Thessalonians 3:1*

Theme: *Praying for our missionaries*

Lesson Summary: *This lesson reminds us of some of the things we can do to have a part in evangelizing the world. Not everyone is called to go abroad, but all believers can do something to reach the world.*

OBJECT LESSON

Walking in Step – This is a simple three-legged race. Choose four children from the audience (four boys or four girls) that are approximately the same height, and split them up into two teams of two. Have the two children stand side by side and tie a rope or large rubber band around the right leg of one child and the left leg of the other. (See the picture to the right for further explanation.) Do the same thing for the other two children. Have the children work together and race to see which team can walk around a cone and back in the fastest time. Give the winners a prize.



LESSON OUTLINE

2 Thessalonians 3:1 - Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

How many of you have ever been to the ocean? How many of you have ever seen a beach full of sand? Let's pretend that I told you to move all of the sand from one of the beaches into your backyard, and that you could only move it one little grain of sand at a time. Do you think it would take a while to get all of that sand into your backyard? Yes, you might say it's impossible. When you look around the world at all of the people that need to be saved, you might also say it is an impossible job. God doesn't expect you to reach every person in the world yourself, but just like in our object lesson, we need to work together with missionaries to help them reach the world. Last week we talked about the first way we could help them. How were we supposed to help them? Interact! Remember, we are talking about things that start with "I." Those "I" words can remind me how "I" should be involved in missions.

Last week we talked about interacting with our missionaries. The second "I" that we can do to help missionaries is to intercede for them. What does intercede mean? It means to **pray** for them. Praying is a wonderful thing to do. We can pray for ourselves, or we can pray for others. Prayer for others is called intercession. Many times, we get so busy praying for the things we want or need that we forget to pray for others. This year, the missionary that we have chosen is _____. Our missionary needs our prayers in order to do what God has asked them to do.

(Explain the game) – Interceding is asking God to do something for others. In order to help us to remember to intercede for our missionaries, I have two small bowls up here. One bowl is labeled "row number," and the other bowl is labeled "seat number." Each one of the bowls has several pieces of paper with numbers written on them. Throughout my lesson, I am going to call some children up here, and they get to pick a row and seat number out of the bowls and then ask me for a piece of candy to give to the person in that seat. And for helping me, they get a piece of candy as well. I am not trying to say that I am God, but hopefully this little game will remind us that just like you will ask me for something (a candy) for someone else, interceding is asking God for something for someone else (our missionaries). So pay careful attention.

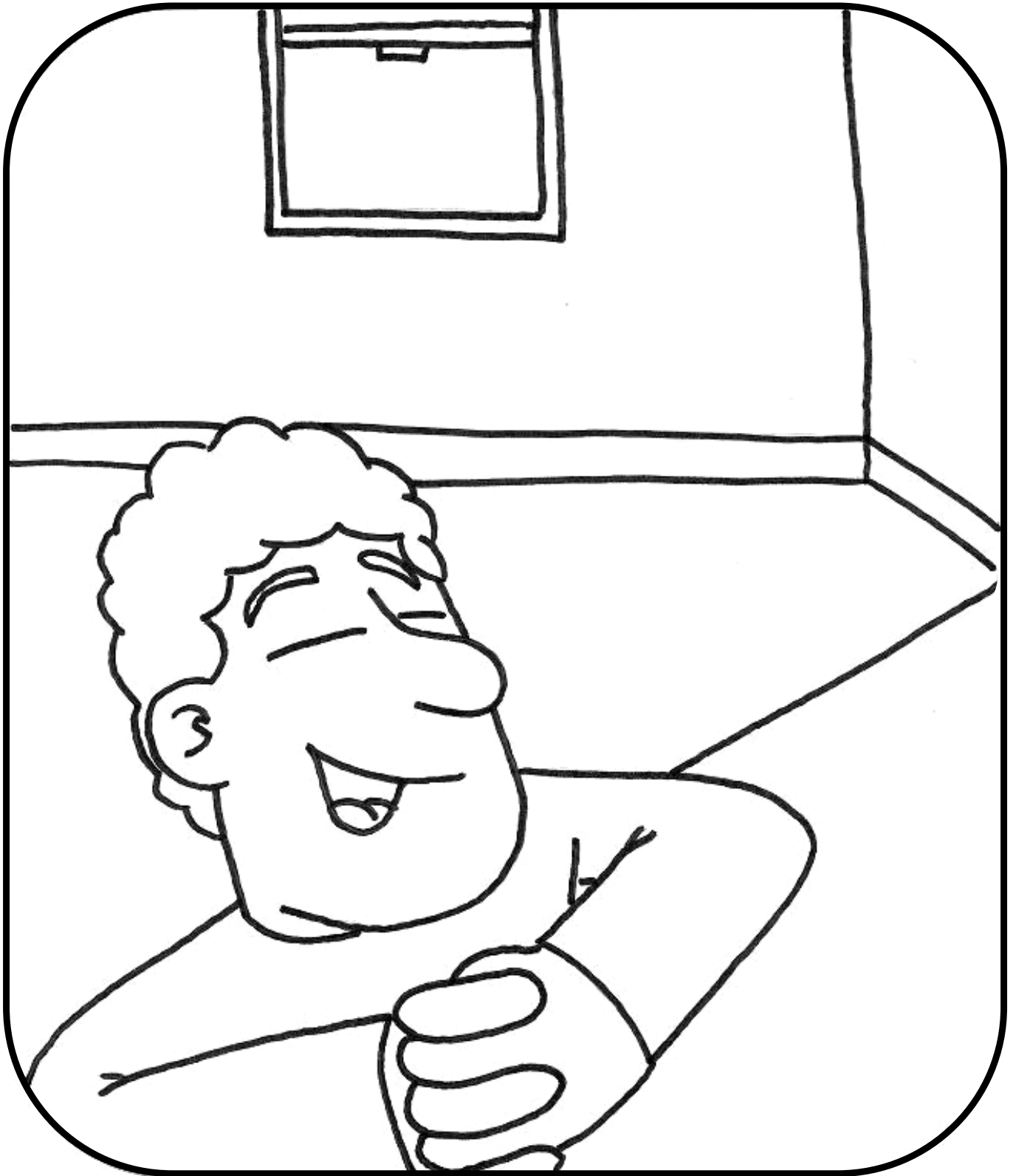
- **The Practice** – Interceding for (or praying for) our missionaries around the world.
 - (1.) The Purpose of Interceding – Why should we intercede for (or pray for) our missionaries?
 - The Bible reminds us to pray for other believers. Paul asks for prayer in all of these verses:
 - 2 Thes. 3:1 – “*Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.*”
 - Heb. 13:18 – “*Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.*”
 - Rom 15:30 – “*Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;*”
 - 1 Thes 5:25 – “*Brethren, pray for us.*”
 - *Now, let's choose an interceder.*
 - (2.) The Plan for Interceding – How can we intercede for (or pray for) our missionaries?
 - What are some things we can pray about for our missionaries?
 - **Guidance** - Just like a seeing-eye dog would guide a blind person, God directs missionaries to the places they need to go and also to the people who need to be saved. We can pray that God will guide the missionaries to the unsaved. We can also pray that God will help the unsaved people to see their need to be saved.
 - *Now, let's choose an interceder.*
 - **Protection** – In some places around the world, missionaries can be put in jail, or have their houses burned, or their families injured. We must pray that God will keep our missionaries safe while they are on the field.
 - *Now let's choose an interceder.*
 - **Provision** – Missionaries need supplies to keep serving God. Sometimes they need cars to be able to drive to places to tell people about Jesus. Sometimes they need some new clothes or some money. We can pray that God will provide what is needed for the missionary, their family, and their church.
 - *Now, let's choose an interceder.*
 - **Encouragement** – Missionary work is hard work. Missionaries don't get to see their families and friends that live in the United States. This can make them sad at times. We can pray that God will encourage them and give them the strength to keep serving Him.
 - What did our missionary from our church ask prayer for in his letter this year?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Just because you are a child doesn't mean that you can't have a part in missions. I can do something to help out right now. What is the second “I” that we can do to be involved in missions? Intercede! We can pray for our missionaries. Next week, we will talk about another “I” that we can also do to be a part of missions.

(Assignment): We are going to have a competition to help us remember to intercede. Tonight, I will be sending home a flyer with you (see the “Fun Night Ideas” section of our website to download a free copy of this flyer. To access this portion of our website, refer to the last page of this Leader's Guide). Between now and the next time we meet for Expeditions, I want you and your parents to pray three times for our missionary. Bring your flyer back in next couple of weeks signed by your parents showing that you did this. There will be a prize for the class/grade that brings the most signed flyers back. *(Note to the leader: In the end, base this on the percentage of the class rather than the number. If 7 out of 10 first graders wrote a letter and 8 out of 16 second graders wrote a letter, first grade had a higher percentage that participated).*

INTERCEDE



You can help in missions around the world right now
by **PRAYING** for a missionary.