

Missionary Work

Scripture: Doctrine & Covenants 19:14-15 "(14) Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people. (15) And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!"

Opening Song: I Want to Be a Missionary Now – Children’s Songbook #168

Lesson: Begin by discussing with your children the value of the gospel in your lives. What blessings are in your life because of the gospel? (Some ideas include: eternal families, temples, scriptures, prayer, and revelation) Then explain to your children that there are lots of people in this world who don’t know about Jesus Christ and how much he loves us. Ask if they think it would be important for these people to know the gospel too.

Heavenly Father has asked us to share the gospel with people who don’t have the gospel. One way that he has asked us to do this is by serving full time missions. Missionaries are given the responsibility of sharing the gospel in different places. In May of 1981 President Spencer W. Kimball said, "Every worthy young man should fill a mission." The Lord expects it of him. And if he is not now worthy to fill a mission, then he should start at once to qualify himself."

Use the flannel board pieces to explain what missionaries do. Explain that missionaries can be 19 year old young men, 21 year old young women or retired couples. First they must be living worthily and keeping the commandments. Then they meet with their bishop so they can fill out their mission papers, these are special forms that the bishop fills out to say the person is worthy and wanting to serve a mission. When those papers are filled out they are sent to the prophet in Salt Lake City. One of the apostles looks at the person’s picture as well as all the information on those papers and asks the Lord where to assign them to serve. This assignment is called a mission call. This mission call is then sent back in the mail to the prospective missionary and they find out where and when they are going to serve. It takes a lot of faith for them to be willing to go wherever the Lord wants them to go. They’ll put everything in order and then leave their homes and families for 18 months – 2 years. Missionaries are assigned companions to help them go do missionary work. They knock on doors and try to find people who want to hear about the gospel. They hand out Books of Mormon to people. They serve people who need help. Most importantly they teach people the gospel and help them get baptized.

Give your kids the Future Missionary tags. Tell them that when they’re old enough you will have the chance to serve a mission. But you can be a missionary right now by being a good example & sharing your testimony with your friends. Think about some friends who might like to hear about the gospel and discuss how you might share your testimony with them.

Bear your testimony about missionary work. If you or your spouse served a mission share some cool mission experiences that you had, or what you learned from your mission.

Closing Song: Called to Serve – Hymn #249

Activity: Write a letter to a missionary, or make a treat for the missionaries in your ward.

Treat: Make a treat from where a family member or friend served a mission.