



## ASSOCIATIONS

**Aim:** Teach students about the role of Baptist associations in missions and church growth.

**Outcomes:**

- Students will learn about the historical role of associations in Baptist life.
- Students will learn about the work in their association, meet their missionary, and engage in local mission projects.

**Materials Needed:**

- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ Your associational missionary or director of missions

**Leader Preparation:**

A key piece of the Southern Baptist denominational organization is the partnership of local churches known as an association. An association is the voluntary cooperation of Southern Baptist churches within the larger cooperation found at the state level. Typically and historically, an association is comprised of churches that are geographically located near one another. However, an emerging trend is for churches to associate with others according to demographics, congregation size, or missions strategy. Regardless of which criteria are used to link these churches together, the purpose of an association is specifically for partnership in Great Commission efforts.

Commonly, associations receive their financial resources from the state conventions and from the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board (NAMB). Most associations have a person responsible for serving all the churches in the association. This person is typically called a Director of Missions (DOM) or an Area Missionary. He will regularly communicate with the churches to see how each local church can best take advantage of the opportunities that are available within the denomination. He will also preach in local churches as needed, coordinate training for churches, and coordinate mission opportunities. Larger associations may have multiple staff to carry out these responsibilities.

The association provides different value to the churches that participate in this level of partnership. For larger churches that have the financial and human resources to accomplish significant work independently, the association provides a way for them to help the smaller churches. For these smaller churches, it offers a way for them to be part of work that might have otherwise been unavailable to them. Churches are able to pool resources, share training opportunities, and partner in evangelistic and mission work that has a direct impact in their area of the world.

As you introduce Challengers to the work and structure of your local association, one of the best steps of preparation you can take is to familiarize yourself with the personnel

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

and opportunities that are available through your association. Most associations will be pleased to have their director of missions or other staff come and speak with your Challengers. The more you know about your own association, the more practical and useful the activities in this lesson will be.

To find out the history, statistics, staff, and opportunities available through your association, start by speaking with your church office to find contact information. Information is also likely available through the Internet or by contacting your state convention. It may be helpful to speak with your church's pastor, missions minister, or perhaps even your Baptist Men On Mission (BMEN) or Women On Mission leader for information about how your church has been historically involved in the association.

The best opportunity for Challengers will be to actually meet the area missionary. Call and arrange for him to come speak with your Challengers at this meeting. Be sure to inform him of the time, date, location, and amount of time he will have to meet with the students. Use this meeting to instill in Challengers the effectiveness of cooperation that exists within the association to accomplish the work established by Jesus before time began.

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5).



### One Big Happy

Use any or all of the following questions as discussion starters. Give the Challengers time to respond to each question. Do not insist that each boy answer the questions. Be sensitive to Challengers who are not Christians.

- What are some of the other Southern Baptist churches in our town?
- How about in nearby towns?
- What are some reasons why people choose to go to different Southern Baptist churches in the same town?
- What are some things these different churches do together even though they aren't single congregations?

Say: "You may not be aware of much of the cooperation that takes place between the different Southern Baptist congregations in the same town or in nearby towns, but the truth is, most closely-located Southern Baptist churches partner together for important work. Today we are going to explore those partnerships and see how our Challengers group can get involved."



### Word Association

Tell Challengers they are going to play a game of word association. Divide into an odd number of teams (three or five work best). Tell them you are going to give them a word, and each "team member" has to write down the first word that comes to mind. If anyone else writes the same word as another person, they receive no points. All players vote for the best association (which gets 2 points) and a person cannot vote for his own word.

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

Every other non-matched word gets 1 point. The first team to get 11 points wins. (A word list for you to use is found at the end of the lesson.)

After the game concludes, ask:

- What does it mean that a word is associated with another word?
- How is an association like a partnership? (They “go together,” without one another, the word is incomplete.)

Say: “Just like you think about salt and pepper or milk and cookies, Southern Baptists want you to associate lots of good things when you hear the name “Southern Baptists.” One way we accomplish this is by partnerships of the Southern Baptist churches in the area teaming up together to accomplish the Great Commission.”

Introduce your associational missionary as a key coordinator of that work, and allow him to share with the boys how your association functions cooperatively for Great Commission efforts.



### Meet Your Associational Missionary

If possible, arrange for your associational missionary or director of missions to come for a time of question and answer or interview with your Challengers group. Be clear about the amount of time he has to speak with the boys and encourage him to share not just information about the association, but ways the boys can get involved in the association’s efforts. If possible, you may want to invite other Challengers or youth groups in the association to attend. Help Challengers discover that the network of Southern Baptists also includes the students and their peers in the association and that they can partner to serve one another and the lost in their common area within the association.

Lead your Challengers to ask questions about opportunities for missions, for giving, and for service. Seek to discover what your association’s greatest needs are and how your group can help meet those needs.

### WHAT NOW?

Encourage Challengers to discover which churches are in their association. Encourage them to explore what some of these other churches are doing in terms of service or training, and see if there are opportunities for your church to help or volunteer to assist making their partners’ efforts more successful. Exhort your Challengers to excel in serving others.



#### Lesson By: Bryan McAnally

Bryan McAnally is a teaching pastor at First Baptist Church in Grapevine, Texas. He leads his church’s missions and evangelism teams.

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## Word Association Word List

Instructions: Write down the first word you think of when you hear the following words (most common answer in parenthesis):

Bacon (eggs) \_\_\_\_\_

Suit (tie) \_\_\_\_\_

Table (chairs) \_\_\_\_\_

Peanut butter (jelly) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies (gentlemen) \_\_\_\_\_

Shoes (socks) \_\_\_\_\_

Bread (butter) \_\_\_\_\_

Cream (sugar) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (address) \_\_\_\_\_

Cup (saucer) \_\_\_\_\_

Milk (cookies) \_\_\_\_\_

Salt (pepper) \_\_\_\_\_

Black (white) \_\_\_\_\_

Alive (kicking) \_\_\_\_\_

Dead (buried) \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus (Christ) \_\_\_\_\_

Missionary (foreign) \_\_\_\_\_

God (Father) \_\_\_\_\_



## BIBLE TELLING: SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH BIBLE STORIES

**Aim:** Engage students in developing Bible Telling skills for use in missions.

**Outcomes:**

- Students will learn about the role of Bible Telling in cross-cultural missions.
- Students will learn Bible stories and present the stories in a missional setting.

**Materials Needed:**

- ✓ Bibles

**Leader Preparation:**

Sharing Bible stories in an easy and understandable way is not only a skill needed in foreign countries, but also in the United States. There is an increasing number of people in America who are unfamiliar with the Bible. If we can teach Challengers to be ready to share the truths of the Bible in a simple, concise storytelling format, they will be ready to engage their culture with the gospel!

Matthew 13:34-35 indicates that Jesus taught mostly with stories or parables. Today's culture is full of stories and parables—we usually see them on DVD or at the theatre. As you help Challengers learn to tell stories, focus on a few of the events and stories of the Bible.

The story of Zacchaeus is one that is probably familiar to most church kids. Found in Luke, chapter 19:1-10, this event is the story of a man who out of curiosity went to hear Jesus. Because he was short, he had to climb a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus. To his surprise, Jesus called him by name, told him to come down, and went home with Zacchaeus. There the tax collector believed and was converted. As a result of his newfound faith, he restored with interest the money he had taken wrongly.

As you plan for Challengers to tell stories, you might look up story telling tips and ideas to share as well as becoming familiar with the stories we will be working with: David and Goliath, Creation, and The Birth of Jesus.

After you share the missionary story with the Challengers, share the following information about the missionary who shared the story:

Bill Reston is a Team Strategy Leader who develops strategy for planting churches among an unreached people group in Asia. He and his wife Susie share the gospel with people who have not heard about Jesus, train believers to learn from the Bible and how to share the gospel, and train people in how to start churches that meet in people's homes. The government sometimes causes problems and tries to intimidate people who are building church buildings or who share the gospel with people outside of the walls of the few official government church buildings.

Some prayer requests for the Restons are:

- That our family will be able to understand and adapt well to this very different culture where we live.
- For new workers and finances needed to continue producing the evangelistic broadcast, and for many people to hear this broadcast in their own language.
- Pray that new Christians will mature into strong leaders to take the gospel to their own people and become church leaders.
- Pray for churches in North America to come over and help us reach this people group.
- Pray that I can keep learning the 2 languages that I need to share the gospel with this people group.

Bill says, “Everybody likes to hear stories so it’s an easy way to talk to people. Tell them the story of your salvation testimony or an interesting story in the Bible. Or you can tell them the exciting story of what happened in the Bible from Creation to Christ in 5-10 minutes. We’d love it if you came overseas and helped us tell stories.”

## SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

“Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables, and He would not speak anything to them without a parable, so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will declare things kept secret from the foundation of the world’” (Matthew 13:34-35).



## Good Story or Great Story?

Use the following questions with your Challengers as discussion starters. Help students understand the appeal of stories and how Bible stories can be used to share the gospel.

- What’s your favorite story? OK, what is your favorite movie? Why do you like that movie or story? What makes a great story?
- What stories from the Bible have these elements? Which story or event in the Bible is your favorite?

Leaders, as Challengers respond to the questions help them see why certain stories are appealing and others are not. Begin to direct their focus to the events and stories of the Bible. How can these stories be engaging to people?



## How to Tell a Story

Share with Challengers the following explanation of Bible Storying and testimony from an International Mission Board missionary:

Bible Storying is teaching people the Bible using stories. About 70% of the people in the world are not literate, which does not mean they are not smart, but that they use stories, songs, and proverbs to pass on the important information in their culture. The Bible is full of stories to share with people. These stories help illustrate the important truths of the Bible. Missionaries in Asia and other parts of the world use Bible Storying to share the gospel and in discipleship. One missionary shares:

*“As I was riding a long distance bus to a village... I met the bus driver. Some friends and I were eating lunch at the only small restaurant in that part of the county so the bus driver sat with us before he left to drive back to the county seat. As we were eating, my friend told the Creation to Christ story while I translated. As he heard about the story of the Most High God creating everything in the world, his ears perked up. Then as we told how Adam*

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

*and Eve sinned and how sin affected the whole world, he agreed that everyone was a sinner and the world was now full of problems. After hearing the many stories of Jesus' teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection, my new friend the bus driver prayed there in the restaurant to place his trust in Jesus."*

Now, using the actual event of Jesus and Zacchaeus in the Bible, help Challengers learn how to tell a story. First, read the event (Luke 19:1-10) and ask Challengers to answer the following questions about the story. Some possible answers are in parenthesis.

- What is the point? (Jesus is willing to save and forgive all sinners.)
- What is the setting? (Jesus is walking down a road. Zacchaeus is looking from a tree. Jesus goes to his house.)
- Who are the characters? (Jesus, Zacchaeus, the crowd—"all" in verse 7)
- What happens? (Jesus walks, speaks to Zacchaeus, goes to his house)
- How does it end? (Zacchaeus offers to pay back everyone and chooses to follow Jesus.)

Leaders should assist Challengers in discovering ways to tell the story. Ask, "What part of the story would you emphasize for children? For adults? For Christians? For unbelievers?" Allow volunteers to share how they would tell the story.



### Story Time

Assign one of the following Bible events to teams of two.

- David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-54)
- Creation (Genesis 1- 2:3)
- The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)

Allow the teams to read the scriptural account and decide a way to tell the story to the rest of the group. Encourage them to ask the same questions as they asked about the Zacchaeus story. Provide options for their storytelling such as a song, rap, a poem, or a story.



### WHAT NOW?

Having previously set it up, allow those who are willing to tell a Bible story to children in your church. Encourage Challengers to put the tools they learned in action.

Encourage Challengers to share a Bible event or story with someone in the next week.



### Lesson By: Tim Shamburger

Tim Shamburger is the associate pastor at Parma Baptist Church in Parma, Ohio. He likes spending time with his family and hanging out with youth at his church.

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## STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

**Aim:** Teach students about the role of state/national Baptist conventions in missions and church growth.

**Outcomes:**

- Students will learn how their church supports their state/national Baptist convention and the services their state/national Baptist convention provides back to the church.
- Students will learn how they can be engaged in missions throughout their state/national Baptist convention.

**Materials Needed:**

- ✓ Two towels of the same size (beach or bath towels)
- ✓ Two balls of the same size (tennis balls, baseballs, or softballs will work best)
- ✓ Internet access or preliminary research on the Internet

**Leader Preparation:**

Since 1925, Southern Baptists across America have strategically pooled their financial resources through the Cooperative Program to fund missionaries and more effectively carry out the Great Commission. This plan allows the local Southern Baptist congregation to assign a portion of its regular tithes and offerings to be part of the collective effort. These resources are sent to the convention at the state level, which itself sends a portion of its collected funds along to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The state and national conventions are entities that have been established to help coordinate the Great Commission efforts that are often too large for a single church to undertake. The conventions offer support in wide-ranging ministries and missions including children's homes, colleges, seminaries, hospitals, year-round camps, evangelistic ministries, starting new churches, local church training, and much more.

The Cooperative Program funds from the Southern Baptist Convention also are responsible for the majority of funding for the two Southern Baptist missionary-sending entities, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) for missionaries to Canada, the United States of America, and their territories, and the International Mission Board (IMB) for missionaries to the rest of the nations of the world. Approximately 10,000 missionaries are sent between these two agencies to share the gospel to all peoples around the world. Each year, Southern Baptists collect offerings specifically for the work of NAMB and IMB, through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®, respectively. These proceeds are used to fund missionaries and provide evangelistic opportunities for people to hear the gospel of Jesus.

State and national conventions exist to help the local churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. They do not have authority over the local churches. Each local congregation is autonomous; meaning it alone has the right to make decisions for itself. The local church determines whether or not to voluntarily participate in Southern Baptist efforts, and also to what extent it wants to participate. The conventions have no ability to force decisions upon the local congregation.



## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

In an age that is sometimes labeled “post-denominational,” it is not surprising that understanding and awareness about the existence and purpose of Southern Baptist state and national conventions are not as prominent in the local church as they were in the past. Ironically, this is true even in a time of unprecedented access to information about the conventions and their efforts. Because the work of the Southern Baptist Convention remains urgent and requires more participation from the local churches than ever before, it is paramount for emerging generations to learn about the Southern Baptist denominational structure and to find their place in the many opportunities to partner in the work to advance the gospel around the globe.

This week’s Challengers activities are designed to help teens discover the scope of the work being undertaken by Southern Baptists. They will see that they have a part to play in the statewide, national, and international efforts. They will gain a sense of the participatory nature of Southern Baptist efforts and they will identify specific ways they can join in opportunities. Help Challengers understand that every bit of help and participation is important, and that together we can do more than we can alone.

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

“As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker serving you; as for our brothers, they are the messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 8:23).



### Partners with a Purpose

Use any or all of the following questions as discussion starters. Give the Challengers time to respond to each question. Do not insist that each boy answer the questions. Be sensitive to Challengers who are not Christians.

- What are some things you do really well?
- What are some things you do not do well?
- When have you had to do something you don’t do well, but with the help of others, you were able to do it?
- What are some difficult jobs you’ve had to do but were easier when others joined in the work?

Say: Today, we’re going to look at how Southern Baptists have learned the lessons of cooperation and some ways we partner to do the work that God has for us.



### Teamwork Relays

In an area large enough to run relay races, divide Challengers into two lines. Tell them the relay consists of having to carry a ball in a towel, but the participant cannot hold more than two corners at a time. The first team to go through their entire line wins. At the last moment, tell one of the lines that they can have two people go at a time (giving them an obvious advantage). After the relay is finished, ask:

- How did having two people at a time help?
- What did those two have to do to succeed?
- What are some things that Christians do on their own that they can do better with help?

Say: “Southern Baptists believe in the power of teamwork. In fact, our entire denomination is set up to use partnerships and teamwork to be on mission with Christ. Let’s explore some of the ways Southern Baptists partner in our state.”

## State of the Union

If you have access to the Internet where your Challengers meet, you can show teens state information online (access to your state convention can be found at [www.sbc.net/stateconvassoc.asp](http://www.sbc.net/stateconvassoc.asp)). If access is limited or unavailable, you will need to do the research beforehand and provide printouts of pages or articles of Southern Baptist work in your state or around North America. Show Challengers the work of Baptists in your state, including:

- Benefits of the Cooperative Program (for example: [www.csbc.com/cooperative](http://www.csbc.com/cooperative))
- Disaster Relief (for example: [www.nbcsbc.org/Disaster%20Relief/index.shtml](http://www.nbcsbc.org/Disaster%20Relief/index.shtml))
- Church Planting (for example: [www.coloradobaptists.org/cp/opportunities](http://www.coloradobaptists.org/cp/opportunities))
- Student and Collegiate Ministries (for example: [www.thestudenthub.org](http://www.thestudenthub.org))
- Hunger Relief (for example: [www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=652](http://www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=652))

Ask students:

- What are you surprised to find Southern Baptists in our state doing?
- Which of these do you think you might want to support or get involved with?
- How does knowing the work of Southern Baptists in the state and national convention shape your own involvement as a Southern Baptist Christian?

## WHAT NOW?

Tell Challengers, “As a member of this Southern Baptist church, you have all the rights and responsibilities to get involved in the good, life-changing work that is going on in our state/national convention.”

Lead Challengers to identify a work that interests them and to find more information about getting involved. Encourage the group to adopt a project to participate in and to champion. Exhort the boys to be involved and recruit others in the church to join. Keep this challenge before the group and as the group participates, share a report with the church of the Challengers’ efforts.

### Lesson By: Bryan McAnally

Bryan McAnally is a teaching pastor at First Baptist Church in Grapevine, Texas. He leads his church’s missions and evangelism teams.



## THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

**Aim:** Teach students how God's method and heart for missions originates in the Old Testament.

**Outcomes:**

- Students will learn how the missions mandate originates with Abraham.
- Students will learn about the Messianic promise that begins in Genesis 3.
- Students will learn about the prophetic role in proclaiming the gospel.

**Materials Needed:**

- ✓ 2 hobby rockets with parachutes (available at most hobby stores)
- ✓ Extra rocket motors (engines)
- ✓ Five Bibles
- ✓ A prize for the winning team (a trophy or candy will do)

**Leader Preparation:**

On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy stood before a joint session of Congress and said, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." This call to action is one of history's most far-flung reality stories. In the nine years that followed President Kennedy's challenge the United States threw its might behind the call to put a man on the moon. This amazing mission would call on thousands of people, millions of man-hours, billions of dollars, and the combined intelligence of a nation to bring it to reality. Each time a rocket would fail things were learned—this process was to be a challenge in more ways than one. As the Saturn V rocket engines roared to life on July 16, 1969 the hopes of a nation and the vision of a fallen President were coming together in the most ambitious project man had ever attempted. This would either be America's finest hour or her greatest failure. This was the moment of truth. Each moment of the mission had been painstakingly choreographed. Everything had to be thought out in advance and everyone involved—from the astronauts to the ground control crew—had to be on their "A" game. On July 19 the lunar module entered a lunar orbit. As the crew watched the moon over thirty orbits, they would see things that no human eye had ever seen. Once the Eagle, the name for the lunar module, separated from the command module this would be the moment of truth and everyone on earth held their breath. The lunar module overshot its landing zone by miles and finally landed on the surface of the moon with only 25 seconds of fuel remaining. Neil Armstrong, one of two astronauts on board the lunar module, announced to the waiting controllers on earth, "Engine arm is off. Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." It would have been tempting to call the mission a success at this point, but the original mandate from President Kennedy required that the men return to earth from the moon. And on July

24, just before dawn, the command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean safely returning the astronauts to earth and fulfilling the mission parameters.

This story of massive effort and enormous cost pales in comparison to the fantastic lengths God went to so that man could be reconciled with Himself. Immediately after Adam and Eve's failure in the Garden of Eden God began the gargantuan process of delivering His Son to earth at just the right time to rescue fallen man. It took thousands of years to orchestrate and cost more than anything has ever cost—the blood of His only Son, Jesus. In the process of preparing for this mission, God wanted to send word to the world of His love for them and His intention to save them from their sin. His mission officially began. God is still trying to reach each person on this planet with His message of love and forgiveness. As believers in Jesus, it is our responsibility to join His crew and guide the message of the cross to people who have never heard it before. This is our mission—a much greater mission than the lunar landing forty plus years ago. Today, you will guide your Challengers into understanding God's method and heart for missions.

By calling attention to the historic moon landing and playing off of the 40 plus anniversary of this event you can leverage the “to any length” idea that segues well into missions. A helpful resource for researching the moon landing is [www.wechoosethemoon.org](http://www.wechoosethemoon.org).

In many ways mission trips are involved and have to be choreographed, too. Just as President Kennedy challenged the citizens of the United States, Jesus challenged His own followers to carry His message to the world. Use this opportunity to bring in a missionary or someone who has gone on a mission trip to talk about the great lengths they had to go to so that they could carry the message of Christ to people who were far from God.



### SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

“Not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).



### The Hardness Test

Missions is at the heart of being a Challenger. For Challengers to be the kind of maturing followers of Jesus God wants them to be they must be developing a clear understanding of God's preferred method of carrying His message to the world—missions.

- President John F. Kennedy once said, “We choose to go to the moon, not because it is easy but because it is hard.” With this quote in mind, list several things that you would say made it hard for the United States to put a man on the moon in 1969.
- Is it easy or hard to go to your school and tell your friends about Jesus? If it's hard, what makes it hard? Is it as hard as putting a man on the moon?
- Is it hard to go to another culture or another country to tell the people there about Jesus? Think about our Southern Baptist missionaries and how they've had to leave their homes and their own country to follow God's call to tell His story in the country they're now in. What would be hard about doing that?

## That's One Small Step for Challengers

The spread of the gospel doesn't just happen. It takes great effort, planning, money, God's guidance, and obedient people for the gospel to reach its intended audience. To drive home how these things must come together to make missions possible assemble two hobby rockets with parachutes (available at most hobby shops or at discount stores). Divide your Challengers into two teams and give them the mission of successfully launching their rockets into the sky and landing their parachute in a "Moon Zone" that you designate (a circle, 10 feet wide, on the ground will work well). Find an open field or parking lot (be sure to get away from homes or businesses) with no power lines nearby to get this project going. You may want to purchase several more "engines" for each rocket so that you can try the moon landing several times. Each team must account for wind, elevation, and other factors in the process of successfully inserting their parachute into the "Moon Zone." Follow all of the recommendations listed on the packaging. Give your teams a time limit and minimal help—let them figure it out on their own. Once teams have launched their rockets and you've gone the number of times you planned, award a winner and debrief using the following questions.

- What can you learn about missions from this experience?
- How does our mission to send the gospel into the world parallel launching the rocket and hitting the target?
- Why is missions so important to God? Why should it be a big deal to us?



## Where Did It All Begin?

Just as the moon mission had a starting point in the speech given by President Kennedy in 1961 the mission to share the gospel with the world had its origins in the moments right after the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Divide your Challengers into groups of 3 to 5. Provide Bibles for your Challengers and direct them to Genesis 3:15. Tell them to read this verse with their group and come up with an explanation of what they think it means. Read the verse and ask them to comment on the verse. Once each group has shared their thoughts briefly explain that this is the first occurrence of the promise of the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Tell them that someone from among humanity, Jesus, will deal a final blow of death to Satan's head on the cross. This is God's declaration that He will fix the broken relationship between man and God.

Next, ask each group to go to Genesis 12:2-3 and read the promise made by God to Abram (later Abraham). Again, encourage them to determine what these verses are saying about missions and what God wanted to do through Abraham and his descendants. After each group has had a chance to explain their perspective, tell them that God wanted to use the descendants of Abraham to draw all men, in every country, to Himself.

Finally, ask your Challengers to turn to Colossians 1:28-29 and explore what Paul had to say about sharing the gospel. Pay special attention to the phrase, "We proclaim Him." Ask your Challengers what this means and why God keeps telling us throughout the New Testament to get the word out about Jesus. As you go through these passages remind

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

your Challengers that missions is God's idea. It's His way of making His name famous so that people who are far from Him will come to know Him. We get the privilege of sharing His name with everyone we meet everywhere we go. Ask them to tell how it makes them feel to know that God wants to use them.

### WHAT NOW?

If your Challengers are going to be on mission it is vital that they understand where missions began and why missions efforts are such an important part of Southern Baptist life. For starters, they can research our denomination's missions work at [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net) and [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org). These two Web sites offer a huge amount of information about missions and how to get involved. Just talking about missions isn't enough. Plan a mission project, or better yet, lead your Challengers to plan a mission project in your community. The bottom line is that knowing about missions isn't enough. Doing something is the point of studying missions and God's plan for missions work. Encourage your Challengers to explore ways they can be involved in missions through praying, giving, going, and gaining knowledge. Plan a local mission project that will engage your Challengers in missions.

#### Lesson By: Billy McDaniel

Billy McDaniel is the executive pastor at Fredonia Hill Baptist Church in Nacogdoches, Texas, and is married with two boys who are RAs. He's been a writer for Challengers for several years and loves to see young men passionate about Jesus.

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## GO GLOBAL

**Aim:** Engage students in planning an uttermost (international) mission project.

**Outcomes:**

- ➔ Students will plan an international mission project.

**Materials Needed:**

- ✓ Computer with Internet
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Bible

**Leader Preparation:**

It is amazing what happens when you get Challengers thinking about international missions. Some of your Challengers may have been on an international trip with their family or with your church. Others may believe they are too young to travel internationally. However, they can learn now about missions around the world. They can even take part in planning trips outside the United States. Being involved in an international mission project does not mean that you have to go personally. Challengers can help share Christ with other nations by planning, praying, and giving even if they cannot go.

Use the questions in “Thinking About Going Global with Christ Love” to get an idea of what country or region of the world your guys are interested in. Make sure they know they will be the ones helping plan an international mission trip or project.

The first objective after asking the icebreaker questions is to find a specific region or people group from the International Mission Board (IMB) Web site. Guide the Challengers through “Getting Prepared” as a group. This will help them get started thinking about a project they can work on.

One way to help your guys get involved in international missions is to start praying for a certain country or people group as a Challenger group. This not only enhances your guys view of other countries that need Christ, but also helps them learn about another culture. For example, David Pope serves as an IMB missionary on the engagement team in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso (West Africa). He said, “Where I live there are elephants, hippopotamus, and crocodiles that still roam. However, the greatest dangers do not come from wild animals, but from disease and thorough lostness. You see, most of Africa does not know Jesus as their Savior. Many have never heard about Christ. Life here is difficult: hot, dusty, and strange and I did everything I could to prepare for it. For example, I learned two languages. Like you the people want to hear the truth in their



## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

native tongue. Even with all the preparation the thing that has kept me in Burkina Faso is God's call upon my life.”

When you hear about missionaries like David Pope who have left everything to follow God's call you see that it takes preparation. Learning two languages had to be tough. As Challengers plan this mission project, they will learn more about the preparation international missionaries make to reach people throughout the world for Christ. Once your group has chosen a specific people group or country and prayed specifically for that people group or country, focus on choosing a project. Your group can decide if they want to do something specific for the people group or country, contact a missionary from that region to help, or plan on going to the region and helping with the people on a personal level.

The project can be simply praying for the people group or helping the missionary working with a people group. You can find out more about how to do this by calling the IMB or looking on their Web site. Your group could decide to collect items for a certain missionary to use in their ministry. Talk to the missionary before doing this. Sometimes it is not cost effective to ship items to the missionary. Your Challengers may decide they want to plan a trip to the people group or country they have chosen. Have the Challengers complete the “Get Going” activity.

After the Challengers have finished looking at opportunities, read the focal verse Acts 1:8. Challenge them to pray this week for the people group or region they researched and also for how they can continue to help the specific missionary as an individual or as a group.

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).



### Thinking About Going Global with Christ's Love

Start by asking the Challengers the following questions. Allow the boys time to answer each question.

- If you could go anywhere in the world where would it be and why?
- What do you know about international missionaries?
- Would you be willing to help a missionary tell others about Jesus? How do you think we as Challengers could help now?
- What continent or country would you like to research to find missionaries we could help as a Challengers group?



### Getting Prepared

Have a computer with Internet access so you can go to [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org). Have the Challengers go to the Web site as a group or if you have several computers, they can break into groups. Have them go to the “Pray” tab at the top of the Web site and research different people groups they can pray for in the area they identified during the questions.

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

Make sure they have a piece of paper to write down any missionaries they are interested in contacting. They can also look at the “Go” tab to see different people groups and requests from missionaries. After they have found a few groups they are interested in, continue with the lesson.



### Get Going

This activity also requires the use of a computer with Internet access. To help the guys see how to become involved by going on an international mission trip they can check out [www.thetask.org](http://www.thetask.org). Have the boys look on this Web site for International World Changers projects, etc. Allow the Challengers to see if the country or people group they selected has any projects through International World Changers. This is a great opportunity for your Challengers to see how they can have a part in international missions now.



### WHAT NOW?

There are many different ways you can challenge your group in planning an international mission project. Help them continue praying for the people group they chose as a group. Also, have them brainstorm ways they can help specific missionaries in that region or plan a specific project for your group to complete. The resources below are priceless for getting more information about missions:

- ➔ [www.thetask.org](http://www.thetask.org)
- ➔ [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)
- ➔ [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)
- ➔ [www.challengerscentral.com](http://www.challengerscentral.com)

Prepare your Challengers to think about going global with the gospel of Christ.



### Lesson By: Brian Spearman

Brian Spearman is a student pastor at Marietta First Baptist Church in South Carolina. His wife's name is Angela and he has two sons, Nate and James Patrick.

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## MISSIONS STARTS AT HOME

**Aim:** Engage students in the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) missions emphasis.

**Outcomes:**

- Students will learn about North America as a mission field.
- Students will learn how giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® benefits the work of missionaries.
- Students will learn how they can be engaged with North American missionaries.

**Materials Needed:**

- ✓ Download the “Dreamer in Action” video from [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net). Click on Missionary Focus and then type Dreamer in Action in the search box. Click on Dreamer in Action and download.
- ✓ Equipment to show the video (laptop computer with a large monitor or a video projector)
- ✓ Obtain the current AAEO DVD
- ✓ Equipment to show video from the DVD (DVD player or a laptop computer with a large monitor or video projector)
- ✓ Print the handout “Missions Factoids” (end of the lesson). Make enough copies to have one factoid for each student

**Leader Preparation:**

It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking about missions in terms of “out yonder somewhere.” Missions is thought of as something you have to go somewhere to do. After all, we talk about mission trips. There are certainly many needs and opportunities “out yonder,” and we must do our part in that area. But we must also realize that missions needs and opportunities exist close to home as well. We cannot neglect the needs in our own territory.

In the focal passage in Mark 5, Jesus and the disciples have encountered a man who was viciously oppressed by demons. This demoniac was miraculously liberated by the power of Christ. His natural impulse was to follow after Jesus, and travel with Him. But Jesus had a different plan for him: He wanted the man to go home and tell the good news where he lived. His own community needed to know about Jesus, and the former demoniac was the perfect one to tell them. Like the woman at the well in John 4, he had a dramatic story to tell about his encounter with Jesus, and he had a natural audience because they were his friends, neighbors, and relatives.

We must realize that North America, and our own communities, are just as important as mission fields as those faraway places. There are an estimated 251 million unbelievers in the United States and Canada (the statistics for your state or area can probably be found on the state convention’s Web site, obtained from your pastor or association, or from [www.namb.net/research](http://www.namb.net/research) and click on Knowing Community). According to the

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

United States Census Bureau, there are 38 million foreign-born people in the United States, bringing the world to our doorstep. It is not an either/or situation. Acts 1:8 includes both “Jerusalem” and “the ends of the earth.” We must maintain mission work in our own country, our own state, our own community.

An important resource in maintaining vital missions work in North America is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO). Named for a tireless woman who was an early promoter of Southern Baptist missions work, 100 percent of this offering goes to assist missionaries in North America. More than 5,000 missionaries are serving in North America, and the AAEO is a vital resource that enables them to be more effective and creative in reaching the lost population.

Southern Baptist churches need to maintain an awareness of the needs in North America and their own areas and to recognize the importance of the AAEO in meeting those needs. As the rising generation of the church, our students must gain an understanding and appreciation of the role the AAEO plays in Southern Baptist missions.

As you prepare to lead this study, determine how your church supports the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®. How much did your church give last year? How strongly does your church promote the offering and the North American missions emphasis? Hopefully you will choose to use this study as the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® approaches. Your pastor or missions leader should have received information about this year’s emphasis, with updated figures for North American missions work. Ask them for materials you can study and share with the students.

### **SCRIPTURE FOCUS:** Mark 5:18-20



#### **Hitting Close to Home**

To engage the students in this study on the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, use this activity and questions:

- Download the video “Dreamer in Action” from [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net). Click on Missionary Focus and then type Dreamer in Action in the search box. Click on Dreamer in Action and download. View the video with the Challengers. Discuss the important role Annie played in Southern Baptist missions.
- In your opinion, what is the greatest crisis facing the United States right now? Why?
- What percentage of the students at your school would you estimate are not Christians? Is that good or bad?



#### **Scope It Out**

Call on a volunteer to read Mark 5:18-20 aloud. Discuss the instructions of Jesus for the man to return home as a witness. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages he might face. Ask: “Do you think it would be easier for you to witness to people you know, or to strangers? Why?” Remind the students that being a witness close to home is just as much a part of the Great Commission as going to the ends of the earth.

## CHALLENGERS LESSON MISSIONS

Print and cut apart enough copies of the “Missions Factoids” (at end of the lesson) so that you have one factoid for every Challenger. Give each youth one factoid and a sheet of paper. Instruct the students to seek information from others until they have at least five different factoids recorded. After everyone has gathered the required factoids, read them aloud. Ask Challengers to share which factoids surprise or impress them the most.



### On Campus, On Mission

Share this information with the Challengers. Michael McQuitty works with college students in New York. He appreciates the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) for several reasons. He notes, “We work on several colleges throughout New York state, where we have Bible studies, campouts, worship events, and do other things to talk with students about Jesus. The AAEO makes it possible for me as a career missionary as well as some US/C-2 and semester missionaries to be on the campuses every day.” The AAEO encourages him because it reminds him that many Christians are praying for him, and support his passion for reaching students in New York with the gospel. He says, “I am more effective because I do not have to spend my time working at another job or raising funds to keep me on the various campuses.”

Mike McQuitty is one of the featured missionaries in the 2010 Week of Prayer emphasis. Your pastor or missions leader should have a DVD with a segment about his ministry. If not, download the video from [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net), click on the video gallery, and then on Annie Armstrong. Scroll down to the video “How Missionaries Are Made” and download it. Show the video segment. Then have the students offer sentence prayers for Mike and his ministry to students in New York.



### WHAT NOW?

The ministry of Mike McQuitty to students can serve as an inspiration to your Challengers to be witnesses (missionaries) on their own campuses. The North American Mission Board Web site [www.studentz.com](http://www.studentz.com) provides information on becoming a “campus missionary” to one’s own school. Provide that link to the students, and encourage them to begin thinking of themselves as missionaries.



### Lesson By: David Tuten

David Tuten, pastor of Valley View Baptist Church in Cleveland, Tennessee, is the father of two teens, and has written youth Sunday School materials.

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# Missions Factsoids

**There are an estimated 251 million lost persons in the United States and Canada.**

**The 2011 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$70 million.**

**There are 38 million foreign-born persons living in the United States.**

**Three out of every four persons in the United States and Canada need to hear about Jesus.**

**Over 5,000 missionaries serve Southern Baptists in the United States and Canada.**

**The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® provides funds for starting new churches, evangelism on college campuses, inner-city Baptist center, associational workers, interfaith witness training and ministry, resort ministries, and many other ministries.**

**One hundred percent (100%) of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® goes directly to missionaries to use in their ministries.**

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® funds depend on the faithful giving of members of Southern Baptist churches.**

**Forty-six percent (46%) of the North American Mission Board's budget comes through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®.**

