

Small Group Experience

LESSON 3 - “What Can I Do?”



Whatchagaddaknow?:

“If You Matter To God, then You Matter To ME!”



Power Verse:

“And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”

-Matthew 24:14

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* Missions Story Pictures (provided; print one set)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Missions Story Pictures and review the story highlights so you are familiar with the talking points. Once small group begins, review the Missions Story by holding up the pictures one at a time and discussing the events of the story together as a group. This story is inspiring and challenging. Be prepared to guide the discussion time. Listen to the kids' thoughts, and allow God to use you as the next generation is prepared to reach the world for Christ!

Say - I am so excited because today we are discussing MISSIONS! For every follower of Jesus, missions is essential. Let's begin by taking a closer look at our story with an unlikely hero. I am going to hold up pictures from the story, and we will discuss them together. Share your thoughts and feel free to ask questions!

-Review the pictures together. Use the story highlights as a guide, if needed-

The Guardian Imam Story Highlights:

- An American man went to Africa to help build a church.
- He was excited to share Jesus with the villagers.
- He knew it would be a difficult task since many villagers didn't want him building a church.
- God showed the missionary a piece of land outside the village that was perfect for the church.
- The missionary gathered the members of the church, and they committed to help build it.
- Some villagers were very angry about the church being built, including the village elder.
- He did not believe in God and did not want a church in his village.
- While the missionary was away, the elder showed up and screamed, “Stop building at once!”
- The village elder was a powerful man, but another powerful man was about to step in and help.
- That man was the village Imam. He was the Muslim teacher in the village.
- Muslims are usually against Christians.
- The Imam went to the village elder and said, “This work must go on!”
- It was crazy, and almost impossible to believe, that a Muslim leader would help Christians.
- That is exactly what happened - the Imam helped the Christian leaders as the church was built.
- The Imam stood guard and made sure the work on the church was never disturbed or stopped.
- The village was so excited to have a new church building that they gathered for service.
- The Imam also came to the church service, excited to be in the building he helped build.

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Say - What an amazing story! God did a true miracle. A Muslim Imam stepped in and helped a Christian missionary build a church. All of this happened because one man believed that every soul matters to God and was willing to share Jesus with everyone.

Ask - What if the missionary had turned the Imam away because he was Muslim? What do you think might have happened?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Would God really use someone who doesn't believe in Him to help build His church?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How does this story show us God's feelings towards all people, and what does it teach us about how we should treat all people?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Paper (*plenty for each team*)
- * Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. Teams should use the provided supplies to design their own commercials to inspire others to be involved in Missions. They must each present a commercial that covers this lesson's three main points - "Pray," "Give," and "Go." Encourage the kids to be creative and have fun with this task.

Say - Missions stories like the one we just heard are inspiring. They make us want to do more and be involved in what God is doing around the world. There are three things every follower of Jesus should do to support missions - "Pray, Give, Go." I am dividing you into teams. Your job is to come up with a commercial to inspire others to be involved and do their part! There aren't a lot of rules, except that your commercial must include the three points I just mentioned.

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Ask - Who would like to share their commercial with the group?

-Allow time for the teams to share their commercials-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Pray, Give, Go Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

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TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Pray, Give, Go Print Pieces. Once group sharing begins, give each kid a print piece and something to write with. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say - Our Missions Story is inspiring. This missionary left his home in America to move to a difficult place in Africa. He committed to building a church in a village where not everyone wanted a church. When their team was told to stop working, a Muslim Imam stepped in and helped. This missionary understood that every soul matters to God and that God could absolutely use the Muslim Imam to help build His church.

Ask - What stands out to you about this story? What did you learn?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - All too often, we forget that WE are God's plan to spread hope in this world. WE are the ones who should share Jesus with the hurt and lost. God loves everyone, and He has a plan to bring His Word, hope, and life to the world. It doesn't matter how young or old we are, WE are the plan!

Ask - When you think about the fact that YOU are God's Missions plan, how does that make you feel? What do you think about that?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Does God really love everyone?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Now, let's talk practical steps. How do we share Jesus? I want to talk about three specific ways that you can share God's love and His saving message. The first is PRAYER. Write "PRAY" in the blank on your paper, across from the picture of the person praying.

Ask - Why does PRAYER matter? How does PRAYER help share the love of Jesus?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - The second way you can be a part of God's plan is by GIVING. Write "GIVE" in the blank on your paper, across from the picture of the person giving.

Ask - Why does GIVING matter? How does GIVING help share the love of Jesus?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - The third way to be a part of God's plan is to GO! Write "GO" in the final blank space on your paper, across from the picture of the person who is ready to GO!

Ask - Why should we GO? How does this help share the love of Jesus?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

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Say - The missionary in our story was committed to sharing the love of God, even when it seemed impossible. His commitment made a huge difference! His commitment changed lives. At the bottom of your page is a statement of commitment. By signing your name, you are committing to obey God's voice. When He tells you to pray, you will pray. When He tells you to give, you will give. If He asks you to go, you will go. If you are ready to make that commitment, sign your name in the blank space by the phrase, “I will pray, give and go to fulfill God's plan.” Take this page home with you as a reminder that every soul matters to God and you can make a difference.

-Allow kids time to sign their names-

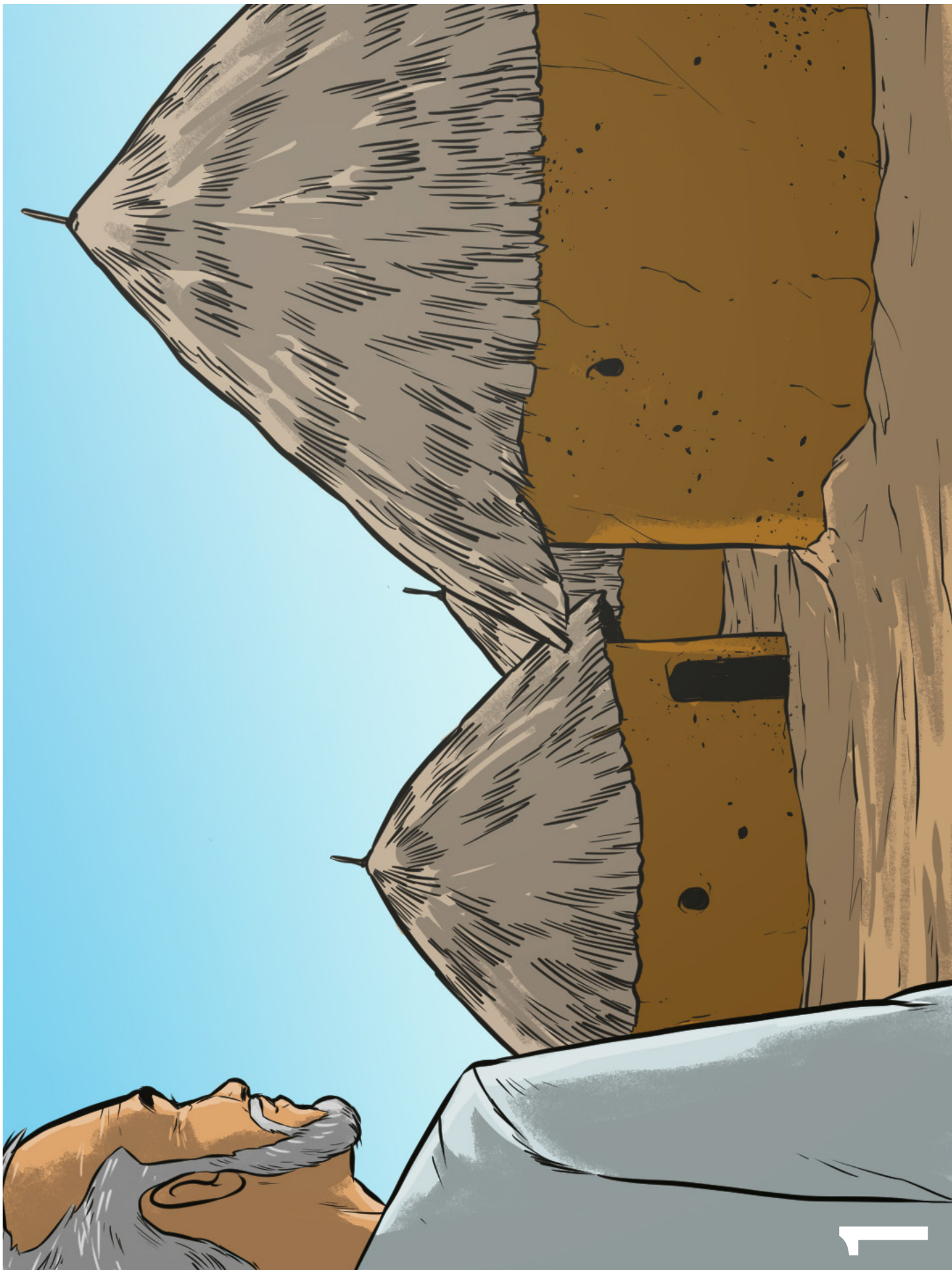
Prayer Time

Say - I am thankful to be a part of God's plan for Missions. What an honor! Let's thank God for allowing us to be a part of His plan and ask that He help us to listen and obey as we PRAY, GIVE and GO!

Pray

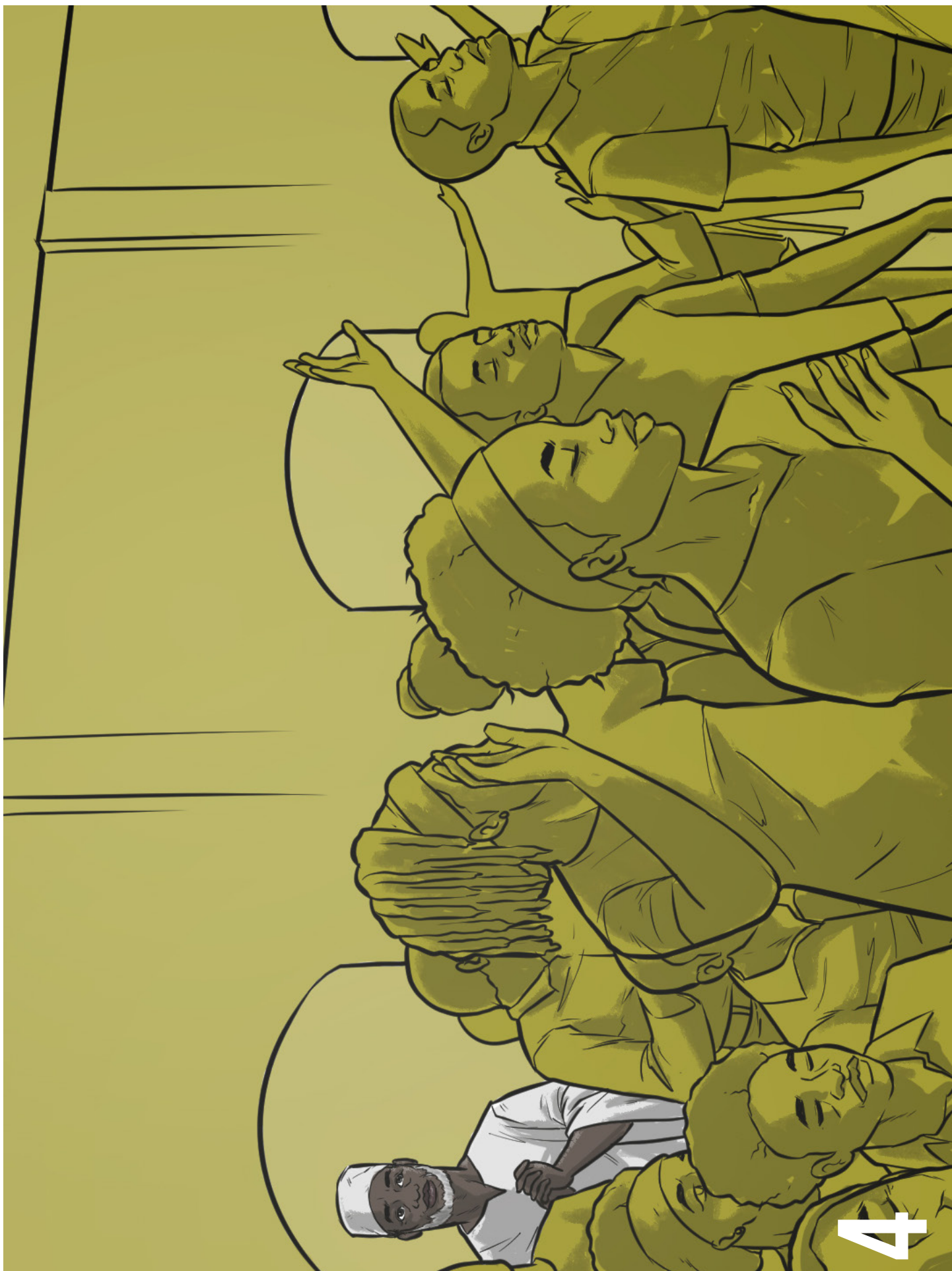
Closing

Say - The missionary in our story was determined to show the village that every soul mattered to God. Because of one man's commitment, God's church was built and lives were changed. He obeyed God and showed the villagers, including the Imam, that they mattered to God. You might wonder what you can do. Never fear - God has a plan to use you, too! God has called you to pray. When you pray, it makes a difference. God has called you to give. When you give, it makes a difference. Finally, God might ask you to go. When you go, you make a difference. You might not think that God can use you like He used the missionary, but He absolutely CAN and WILL use you! God's plan is to use you to reach the people of the world. You are God's plan to show the world that every soul matters! Obey God! Listen to His voice! Pray and give! And, if God asks you to go, say yes and GO! Thank you for coming today. I will see you again soon.

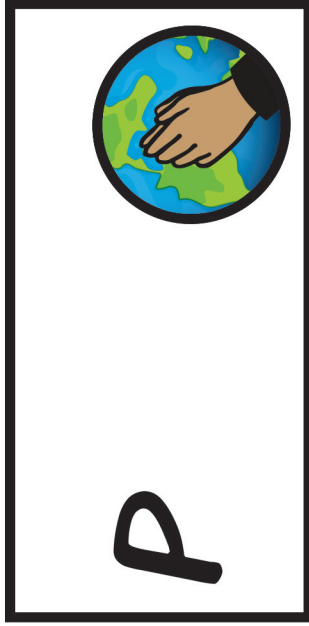








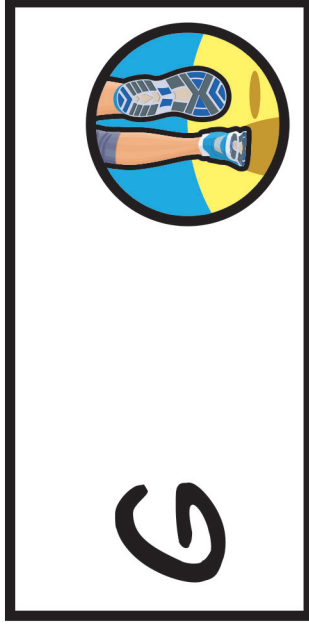
I WILL OBEY WHEN GOD TELLS me TO PRAY, GIVE, AND GO! _____



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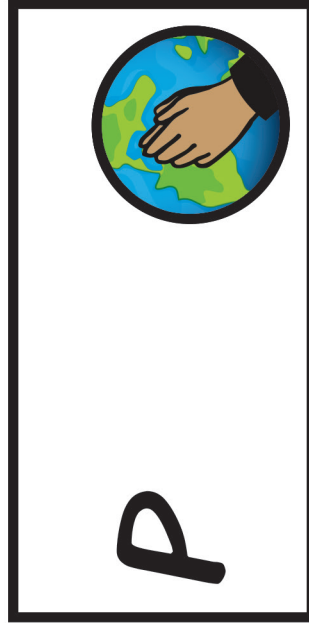
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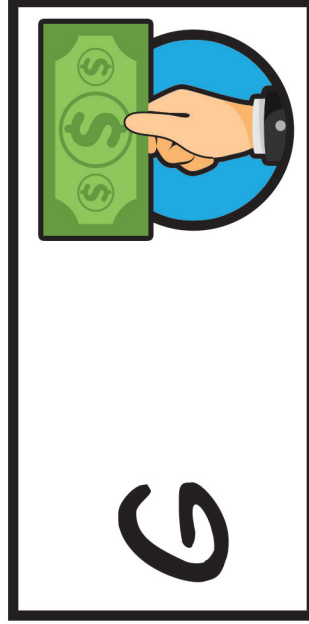
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AND THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD, SO THAT ALL NATIONS WILL HEAR IT; AND THEN THE END WILL COME.” – MATTHEW 24:14

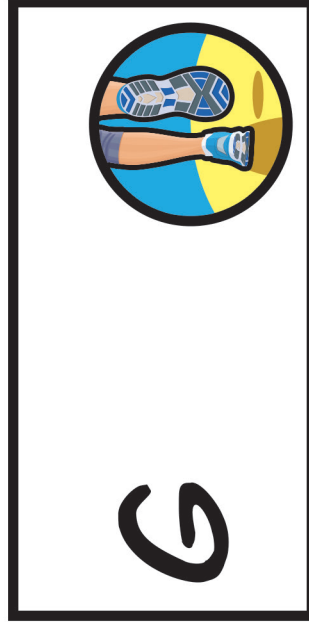
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