

## TITLE

WHO'S BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS TO THAILAND?

## OBJECTIVE



Students will meet missionaries from Thailand and hear what life is like in Thailand. Students will hear about the needs of Thailand.

## SCRIPTURE



## BACKGROUND

In 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul says, “Now you are the body of Christ and each one is a part of it” (NIV). People in the body of Christ have different gifts and perspectives. If we are willing to listen and learn from each other, we show true wisdom and humility. As we set out to learn about the culture in Thailand, we have the privilege of hearing from people who live there.

## MATERIALS

MISSIONARY VIDEO

POSTER PAPER AND MARKERS

CHARADE ASSIGNMENTS

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

How will I know this lesson was effective? Do you see evidence through student responses of a broadening of their understanding of what it means to be a missionary?

## Outline

### INTRODUCTION

- Create Poster
- Reflection Sharing

## Details

- Have a poster sheet and pens set up on a table or on the wall (you could use the prayer chart already set up).
- Invite students to write down the comments they encountered from any Thai neighbors/friends during the week or things they learned from the Internet.
- Invite students to remember and share what they learned about Thailand last week.
- Ask, what words or pictures come to mind when you hear the word “missionary?”
- Tell students that today they will meet some missionaries. Remind students about the video they watched last week. Have students make a list: (as one group or as two groups competing) of all the things they saw in the video that were different from life in their own town. When they are finished, ask:
  - What do you think would be fun?
  - What do you think would be hard to live with?

### STORY

- Introduction to Missionaries

- Show “Meet the Missionaries of Thailand” video.
- Remind students of Luke 15:8-10 from week one.
- In the Luke parable, the women searched everywhere, turning her house upside down to find the lost coin. Jesus will do what it takes to seek and to save the lost. Part of his plan is to send missionaries to Thailand to serve and share the good news of Jesus with the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the oppressed. Many people in Thailand worship other gods. Jesus wants them to worship the one true God.
- John 1:14 (in *The Message*) tells us that Jesus (the Word) moved into the neighborhood. These missionary families have moved into the cities of Thailand. They are living Jesus out to their neighbors.
- Share stories of how God has been at work in Thailand (see additional notes).

### ACTIVITIES

Tell students that they are going to play charades. Break students into small groups and give them one scenario to practice (see ideas below) - if you have done this in another unit, you could use any unused scenarios, alternate scenarios, or a different activity of your choice.

- After about 10 minutes, have the class come together to share their skit and have the rest of the class guess
- Ask if anyone has other ideas for sharing Jesus with people in their communities?

## Outline

### CLOSING

- Close with prayer

## Details

- Revisit the students' first impressions of the word, "missionary." Invite them to add to their comments/understanding.
- Invite students to give prayer ideas for the missionary family and record them on the chart from last week (keep for next week).
- Tell them that next week they'll have a longer opportunity to pray for the missionaries in Thailand.

## Additional Notes

### STORY

#### 1. Jesse's Tears

By Corina Reimer

The other night, our son, Jesse, started crying as I was putting him to bed. I asked him what was wrong and he began to express just how deeply he missed living in Canada. He begged for us all to go "home." He poured out his heart to me, saying how much he wanted to see his cousins and speak English again. As a parent, it broke my heart.

God had called our family to Thailand, but the weight of the responsibility lay upon us as parents. To hear Jesse talk about the hardship that we have placed upon him was very difficult for me. But as I prayed for him that night, I felt strongly that God wanted to do something special for Jesse at school the next day. I prayed and asked God to provide something meaningful just for him.

We called others to pray for Jesse also. We were confident that God wanted to prove his faithfulness to our son. The next day, so many people let us know that they were praying for him. It was overwhelming. When Jesse came home from school that day, I was expecting a miracle. I asked him, "How was school today?"

"Good," he responded.

Pleased but still unsatisfied, I tried to prod him a bit more by asking the same question I ask him every day, "What was the best thing that happened today?"

"Everything," he replied simply, an answer that I had never heard him give before. That response was strong enough and unique enough for me to know that God had met him. God had received Jesse's tears and answered our prayers for him.

"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life."

Mark 10:29-30 (NIV)

#### 2. A Party for Gope

By Becky Ouellette, missionary in Phuket, Thailand with her husband, Greg.

Over the past couple of years, God has opened my eyes to the poor, particularly those who beg every weekend at the night market in our neighbourhood. I have sought them out, befriended them, and offered them a cold drink, a meal, a prayer, whatever they would be open to receive. I have longed for these precious people to feel valued, accepted. The trouble is, they are so accustomed to being marginalized that they are often very difficult to get close to.

Gope is a different story. She is only about three and a half feet tall. Her physical disabilities have prevented her from ever attending school and the only employment she has ever known is begging. When I started to interact with her, she quickly received me as a friend. We exchanged phone numbers. We shared lunch together, went out together. She opened her heart to me, and in the course of time, we shared the gospel with Gope. It was all so strange, so new to her, but she began to listen and to watch.

In July, Gope turned forty-five. It was a perfect opportunity to celebrate her life. We gathered a dozen people together for a party – a meal, some cake, and a simple gift. We thanked God for Gope's life, and for her friendship. And we sensed that God was present, celebrating with us.

A week later, when my husband, Greg, and another church member were at her house doing some repairs, Gope responded to an invitation to receive Jesus, to join the family of God!

So often we view someone like Gope as if she has nothing to offer, but God views her so differently. In many societies, people like her are considered worthless and insignificant, but in the kingdom of God, she has value, significance, and all heaven.

## ACTIVITIES

### Charade Scenarios:

- 1) A friend from school invites you for a sleepover on Saturday night. You really want to go, but you know that your family usually goes to church on Sunday morning. What can you say?
- 2) You have noticed lately that an elderly neighbor's yard is getting more overgrown day by day. What could you do or say to show her the love of Jesus?
- 3) You and a group of students are waiting for the bus. A group of kids start laughing at a person that is struggling with a flat bike tyre. What could you do to love like Jesus?
- 4) A classmate shares with the class that his parent's are getting a divorce. He seems very quiet and sad about it. How could you show Jesus' love to this fellow student?
- 5) You get partnered with someone in your class that you don't really like. You want to ask the teacher if you can change partners, but you wonder if God has put you two together for a reason. What do you do?
- 6) You and a friend are playing ball outside. By accident the ball lands in your neighbour's flowerbed and breaks off many flowers. Your neighbour is not too friendly, but you don't think he saw the accident. What should you do?
- 7) You and a group of friends are talking about how nervous you all are for the big test you are going to write at school today. How could you encourage your friends?