

Send North America: Indianapolis

Mission Lesson: "C" is for Cookie

Kids learning to live "life on mission" in North America.

Items needed:

- Cookie sheet
- Oven mitt or potholder
- Spatula (kind used to dish up cookies)
- Cookies, at least one per child
- U.S. map
- Bible

Lesson Objective:

Through Indy church planter Barry Rager and his family, children will learn that even small acts of kindness show people we care. This opens the door to having a relationship with them, and then we can tell about the love of Jesus and what He did for us all.

Bible Verse:

"Let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Lesson:

Prepare to tell the children the story of Barry Rager and his family whom God called to move from their home in Kentucky to plant a church in Indianapolis, Ind. Barry, Amy and their four children delivered homemade cookies to their new neighbors as a way of making friends with them.

Put the cookie sheet, oven mitt and spatula in a bag or something similar. These items will be brought out one at a time. Put the cookies somewhere out of sight to be distributed after the closing prayer. Proceed with the lesson in a similar fashion as stated below:

Who has ever moved into a new neighborhood where you didn't know anyone? (Wait for a show of hands.)

How would you go about making new friends in a new place? (Wait for responses. Affirm answers.)

I have some things here in my bag that we may be able to use to make new friends. (Pull out the oven mitt.) What do you think? Can we use this oven mitt to make new friends? (Probably not)

How about this spatula? (Pull the spatula from the bag.)

What about this cookie sheet? (Pull out the cookie sheet.)

It may be that each of these items alone can't be used to make new friends, but using them all together might help us. What can we do with all these items together? (If the children don't guess "bake cookies" lead them in that direction.)

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That is exactly what the Rager family did. Barry and Amy Rager were living in Kentucky with their four children. (Bring out the U.S. map and show the children where Kentucky is located.)

Then God called them to go to Indianapolis, Ind., to start a new church. (Show the children where Indianapolis is on the map.)

They moved into a neighborhood where they didn't know anyone. But they wanted to be friends with everyone in their neighborhood so they could show them God's love and tell them about Jesus. So Amy baked lots of cookies, and the whole family went door-to-door, introducing themselves and giving away delicious homemade cookies. Now the people in the neighborhood know the Rager family cares about them and are very friendly.

God has blessed the good deed the Ragers did so much that they have been able to start a new church called New Circle Church. Indianapolis needs lots of new churches because so many people living there do not have a friendship with Jesus. They don't know that the most important friend they can have is Jesus.

Jesus wants us to do good deeds for others, and He tells us that in the Bible. (Read Matthew 5:16.)

"Let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Many times people see what Jesus is like by seeing what we are like. Jesus is everything good, and we need to work to be just like Him. That means doing good things for other people, even if they don't seem to appreciate it. That is love in action.

Action

What actions can we take to love the people in Indianapolis who don't know Jesus and who don't have a church family to love and help them? (Let the children offer some suggestions.) Here are some more things we can do:

1. Pray that the people in Indianapolis will seek God.
2. Pray that many people will go to Indianapolis to plant churches so more Hoosiers can have a church family.
3. Pray for the church planters and their families. (To learn about planters in Indianapolis, visit namb.net/indianapolis.)
4. Support ministry in Indianapolis through our generous offerings.
5. Prepare ourselves in case God wants us to one day serve Him in Indianapolis.

Close in prayer, inviting a child to pray for the items mentioned above. After the prayer, pass out the cookies!

For articles, video and more information on Send North America: Indianapolis, go to namb.net/indianapolis.