Send North America: Los Angeles Mission Lesson: Home Is Your First Mission Field

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

Items needed:

- Family photo album or pictures
- Bible

Lesson Objective: Children will learn that their first mission field is their family and extended family. They will learn that we are to witness to those who don't know about Jesus through our own personal experiences and to disciple and encourage family members who do know Jesus.

Bible Verse:

"... they must learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God" (1 Timothy 5:4).

Lesson:

Paul Sasis is a young church planter in the Los Angeles area. Through Paul's after-school Bible study God started a new church, beginning with students, who in turn told their parents about Jesus. The students know their first mission field is their home. Now entire households will one day be together in heaven.

Prepare to tell the children the story of Paul and Nina. Watch the following video to become familiar with their story: namb.net/video/kids-today. Gather the children, a Bible and a family photo album or pictures.

Use the following paragraphs as a guide to teach children that they can help their family members, even their parents, come to have Jesus as a friend and to understand the love He has for us by demonstrating that love. Address the children (adjust to suit you and your group):

Do you all like to look through old family photo albums? I sure do. Look, here's a picture of my brothers and sisters and me when we just little kids. Sometimes we fought, but we really loved each other then and still do.

Oh, and here are my grandparents. I used to love going to visit them. They would spoil us by letting us stay up past our bedtime, watching movies and eating popcorn.

But this one is my favorite. It's a picture of my parents when they were first married. Don't they look young? Do you have pictures of your parents when they were young? You have probably seen baby pictures of yourself, too, haven't you? My mother always liked to tell me about everything that happened the night I was born. Those are some special memories.

We share some things as families that we don't have with other people. And did you know we also are responsible for the wellbeing of our family members? What does that mean? (Invite responses.) That means we are to help each other, provide for each other and respect each other. We are to love each other. This is the way God wants even children to behave toward their parents. Our first mission field is our home.

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The Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 5:4 to practice godliness toward our own families first and to repay our parents, for this pleases God. One of the best things we can do to repay our parents for the sacrifices they have made for us is to help them have a close friendship with Jesus. We can do this by behaving in a way that pleases Jesus and by encouraging them to come to church to learn about Him. Kids can even get their parents and other relatives to come to church, if they don't already.

Let me tell you a story about a girl named Nina who did just that. Nina is a highschool student living in the Los Angeles area. She pretty much did what she wanted to do and kept secrets from her parents.

She had a friend who kept inviting her to an after-school Bible study. She told him "no" many times, but he kept asking until she finally accepted. The Bible study was at the home of a young man named Paul and his brother. Paul was learning to be a pastor. Paul's parents let Paul teach the Bible at their home to friends from school.

Nina came to the Bible study and soon gave her life to Jesus. She began to change and no longer kept secrets from her parents. Nina's parents noticed the change in their daughter. Nina invited her parents to the Bible study so they could see that a relationship with Jesus had caused the change. Soon Nina's parents placed their faith in Jesus as Savior, too.

Other kids who were coming to the Bible study were also inviting their parents to come. More and more families were coming—so many they had to move from Paul's parents' home to a bigger place. They had formed a church without even trying. God had used the kids to help the parents know and love Jesus so they could all have a relationship with Jesus.

Maybe your parents already know and love Jesus. But most families have a membermaybe an uncle, cousin or even a brother or sister—who doesn't know and love Jesus. Though you are a child, you can help them learn about Him. What are some things you can do? (Brainstorm some things, such as: invite them to church, tell them that Jesus loves them, write notes of encouragement, pray for them, show them Jesus' love, etc.)

Many families in Los Angeles are coming to Jesus because of church planters like Paul, but many more need to come. Millions of people in the Los Angeles area don't know or care anything about God. They don't know that God sent Jesus for them. We can help them know.

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Action

What actions can we take to love the people in Los Angeles 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 Los Angeles will seek God.
- 2. Pray that many people will go to Los Angeles to plant churches so more Angelenos (rhymes with Caminos) can have a church family.
- 3. Pray for the church planters and their families. Visit namb.net/losangeles to learn names and view profiles.
- 4. Support ministry in Los Angeles through our generous offerings.
- 5. Prepare ourselves in case God wants us to one day serve Him in Los Angeles.

Close in prayer, inviting a child to pray for the items mentioned above.

For articles, video and more information on Send North America: Los Angeles, go to namb.net/losangeles.