

Send North America: Miami

Mission Lesson: What's Important

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

Items needed:

- Swim fins
- Swim mask or goggles
- Snorkel
- Swim ring
- Beach Ball
- Bible

Lesson Objective:

Children will learn that we can often be distracted by fun things but we should not allow having fun to keep us from pursuing what is important to God. Those things that serve only to entertain us don't last. Millions of people live in and visit Miami, Fla., who don't have a relationship with Jesus. What can they, as children, do to help the people of Miami learn about Jesus? (Support church planters, demonstrate Jesus' love through actions by praying for them, through offerings and by preparing themselves in case they are called to Miami as a student missionary or other)

Bible Verse:

Matthew 22:37-39

Lesson:

In an effort to entertain, the leader should do as many of the beach items listed above as possible. Place the Bible nearby. He or she should say something similar to the dialog below:

Guess where I'm going! That's right—to the beach! But not just any beach. I'm going to Miami. Do you know where that is? (If none know, tell them it is in southern Florida. Maybe show on a map.)

Did you know there are so many fun things to do in Miami? It might take me the rest of my life to do them all! I can go swimming, fishing, boating, roller blading, parasailing, to the zoo, to restaurants, to the Everglades ... Whew, I'm getting tired just thinking of it! I probably won't have time to do anything else—like go to work or school or even church. I probably won't even have time to pray or read my Bible!

Do you think that's OK with Jesus? (Wait for a response) You are right. That's not OK with Jesus. Did you know that's one of the devil's favorite tricks to use against us? He wants us to be so distracted having fun that we don't think about God and how much He loves us. And did you know that millions of people in Miami fall for that trick? They are so busy having fun they never think about God and don't know anything about Jesus.

What can we do about that? Well, we can put down some of our own distractions and ask God what He would have us do. (Take off the gear, and pick up the Bible.)

Let's look at what Jesus tells us to do in Matthew 22:37-39. "... Love the Lord your God with

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all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus is first telling us not to put anything, including fun things, higher than God. Our love for and our obedience to God must be number one in our lives. And second, we must love others as much as we love ourselves.

We love ourselves a lot, don't we? If someone had good news, we would want them to tell us, right? If we were in danger, we would want someone to warn us, right? Loving others includes telling them the good news of Jesus and that they are in danger of being forever lost without Him as their friend and Savior. We need to love the people in Miami as we love ourselves.

Action

What actions can we take to love the people in Miami 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 Miami will seek God.
2. Pray that many people will go to Miami to plant churches so more Miamians can have a church family.
3. Pray for the church planters and their families. (To learn the names of church planters in Miami, visit namb.net/miami.)
4. Support ministry in Miami through our generous offerings.
5. Prepare ourselves in case God wants us to one day serve Him in Miami.

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

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

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