

Send North America: Philadelphia

Mission Lesson: True Freedom

Kids learning to live “life on mission” in North America.

Items needed:

- American flag, any size
- Bible
- World map or globe
- Dollar bill (optional)
- Whiteboard or poster board
- Appropriate markers (permanent or whiteboard)
- Laser or stick pointer

Lesson Objective:

Philadelphia, Pa., is a city rich in U.S. history. The children will learn that people first came to America (and Philadelphia) to escape religious persecution and to worship God freely. Sadly, most modern-day Philadelphians have forgotten about God. Children will learn that true freedom can only be found in a strong relationship with Jesus Christ.

This lesson assumes knowledge of the Send North America strategy and NAMB’s Send North America cities (namb.net/cities).

Bible Verse:

Luke 4:18-19

Lesson:

The leader will pretend to lead the children in a history/geography lesson on Philadelphia. Set up the learning area as a school classroom. The leader should place the flag and Bible within easy reach. If desired, the leader may also want to wear reading glasses and have a whiteboard and markers handy, pretending to lead a U.S. history class—anything that gives the appearance of a classroom environment. If a whiteboard is not available, use poster board. Seating the children in rows classroom-style will also add to the fun.

Write the word *Philadelphia* on the whiteboard or poster board. Say something to the effect of the following:

Children, please prepare for a short lesson in U.S. history. Today’s lesson is on the city of Philadelphia. (Using the pointer, point to the word *Philadelphia*.)

Where is Philadelphia located? (Hopefully they will know it is located in the state of Pennsylvania. Show them on the map, using the pointer. Remind them that Philadelphia is a NAMB Send City located in the Northeast Region. Use the pointer to locate the Northeast Region.)

Philadelphia is a city rich in U.S. history. The word Philadelphia comes from the Greek word that means “brotherly love.” William Penn, who named the city, wanted his colony to be a place of religious freedom. Many events having to do with the birth of

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the United States of America happened in Philadelphia, and they were all about one thing. (Write the word *freedom* on the board.)

(Hold up the flag.) This is an American flag. The first one was made in Philadelphia more than 200 years ago. For most Americans, it is a symbol of freedom.

Many other symbols of freedom originated in Philadelphia, such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Liberty Bell. (Write those words on the board, also.)

Nearly 400 years ago, people sailed in ships across the ocean from England to North America and landed in what we now call New England. (Using the pointer, find Great Britain and track a path to New England.)

They came to North America so they could worship God freely without the English king's interference. Then 200 years later the people living there wanted to be *totally* free of the English government. They wanted to start their own country and government. They fought the Revolutionary War to gain freedom to do that.

They wrote many documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, while they were setting up the new government. Those documents were rooted in God's law. (Hold up the Bible.) The words *In God We Trust* are even printed on our money. (If desired, the leader can show the children those words on a dollar bill.)

The writers of those documents knew that true freedom is found in honoring God and trusting our lives to Him through faith in Jesus. Jesus even tells us in the Bible that He is the way to true freedom.

Let's read what Jesus said about Himself in Luke 4:18-19. (Read the passage.)

Jesus came so we could be forgiven of our sins. When we are forgiven, we are set free from the curse of eternal death. Because of Jesus we are free to join Him in heaven when we die. We are no longer prisoners of the devil.

Many people believe freedom means a person can just do whatever he wants without a thought as to how much what he does hurts himself or other people. They don't understand that God wants to love them and help them see that His ways are the best for them.

Hundreds of years have passed since Philadelphia was the center of the American government and many things have changed. Today many of the beautiful church buildings in the city don't have people in them. Most of the people don't think they need God and don't have Jesus as a friend. They don't even know they are prisoners of their sin.

To help the people in Philadelphia see their need for God, many Christian families are moving to Philadelphia to plant more churches. There are many people in Philadelphia so it will take many church planters planting many churches to provide a church family for everyone. Jesus wants everyone in Philadelphia, and in North America, to have an opportunity to accept Him as their Savior and have a church family to love and help them.

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Action

What actions can we take to help Philadelphians see that true freedom is found in a relationship with Jesus? How can we love the people in Philadelphia 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 Philadelphia will seek God.
2. Pray that Christians will move to Philadelphia to plant churches so more Philadelphians can have a church family.
3. Pray for the church planters and their families. (To learn about planters in Philadelphia, visit namb.net/philadelphia.)
4. Support ministry in Philadelphia through our generous offerings.
5. Prepare ourselves in case God wants us to one day serve Him in Philadelphia.

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

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