

Assemble the Team



Description:

A team contest and cultural modules

Aims:

- Recognize the need for different members of the Bible translation team, and the need to work together cross-culturally.
- Pray that God would supply members of the Bible translation team who know how to work well together.
- Consider and pray about their role on the worldwide Bible translation team.

Audience:

Kindergarten-grade 6

Space Needed:

A gymnasium, classroom with large open area or outdoors

Country/Area:

General

Minimum Time Requirements:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| • Game | 10 minutes |
| • Scripture discussion | 1 minute |
| • Activity page | 5-10 minutes |
| • Closing discussion and prayer | 2 minutes |

Scripture to Study:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Materials:

- Rope for tug-of-war, preferably soft
- Big, strong adult
- Holy Spirit sign (included in Tug of War Activity following this lesson) for big, strong adult
- Ethnic clothing (optional)
- Job-related costumes
- Job-related signs, available on *My Volcano Adventure* Resource CD available at: http://www.wycliffe.ca/store/book_kids.html Lesson 4 (optional)
- Copies of activity page 7
- Pencils

Pre-class Preparations:

- Make copies of activity page 7.
- Collect job-related costumes and / or make “job signs”, using the “Tug of War” activity that follows for suggestions.
- Print out job-related signs, available on *My Volcano Adventure* Resource CD available at: http://www.wycliffe.ca/store/book_kids.html Lesson 4 (optional)
- Prepare “job signs” by punching holes in the top corners and looping yarn or string through them so that children can wear the signs around their necks.

Class Time:

GAME

Play Tug of War (directions found on pp. 5 & 6). Include a national translator on the team, dressed in ethnic clothing, with a closed pen tucked behind his or her ear. Make the doctor or pilot a national teammate, or from another missionary-sending country, too.

Save questions three and four, of this activity, for the end of the lesson.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Ask the following questions and allow children to respond.

- According to these verses, does God recommend working alone or as a team? Why?
- Can you name the members of the Bible translation team in our tug-of-war match?
- Did the team need all the members? Why?

Materials:

- Rope for tug-of-war, preferably soft
- Ethnic clothing (optional)
- Job-related costumes
- Signs, available on Resource CD, Lesson 4
- Bible

ACTIVITY PAGE

Talk about the cross-cultural aspect of mission work and Bible translation. Ask,

Did the team all come from our country?

Allow children to respond, and then continue,

You are right. They did not all come from our country. People from all over the world take part in the Bible translation task.

Do people from different countries all do things the same way?

After children respond, add,

We have many similarities, but we also have many differences. That means we need to learn to work together when we all work as one team.

Read and complete activity page 7 together (Answers : C, F, E, A, B, D). Ask,

Do you think it would be easy to work on a team with people from many different parts of the world? Why?

After children give a few ideas, explain,

It can be difficult working with people who do things very differently. With God's help we can learn to lovingly work together. Let's look at some basics that help teammates work well together when they come from different cultures.

Teach the children some culturally correct ways to do things in other countries. Let them try these actions with you, or with each other. Examples:

- How do people greet each other—handshakes, bows, etc.? (In most African countries a person shakes hands with every single person when he or she enters a room. In some parts of Eastern Asia, people bow to each other, but do not make physical contact.)
- What is the proper way for a child to interact with an older person? (In East Africa a child speaks softly only when spoken to by an older person, keeping his or her eyes down. In the US a child should look an adult directly in the eye and speak right up!)
- What things do we do in our country that would cause miscommunication, or even an offense, in certain cultures, like ways of pointing, sitting or giving? (In some parts of

Materials:

- Copies of activity page 7
- Pencils
- Ethnic clothing (optional)

Kenya, a person may point with the chin or tongue, but never with the index finger. Also, women should never cross their legs when sitting in a chair. In some West African countries, like parts of Cameroon, never beckon someone with palm up while pulling only your index finger toward you. Instead, hold your hand palm-down and draw all your fingers toward yourself in one motion.)

- Perhaps allow the children to try on ethnic clothing from your country of service.

CLOSING DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

Ask the children to consider the last two questions in the Tug of War activity. They can pray and ask God how He wants them to be involved in sharing His Word with those who don't have it. Assure them that they can be part of the team!

Lead the children in prayer. Pray that God will build the Bible translation team. Pray also that the different members of the team will work together well so that every person in the world can read God's Word one day soon, and can choose to worship Him.

Materials:

- Last two questions from "Tug of War" Activity page 6

Tug of War

Description: a team contest with audience participation

Aim: to demonstrate difficulties of Bible translation, the need for a team, and God's power

Audience: grades 1-6, 10 or more kids

Time: 10-15 min.

Equipment: a rope and costuming (Signs can replace costumes.)

Scriptures to Study:
2 Chron. 32:7, 8;
Jer. 17:5-8; 1 Sam. 17:45-47; Gal. 6:12



www.wycliffe.ca
phone: 1-800-463-1143
Wycliffe Canada

©Wycliffe Bible Translators 1997.
No part of this activity sheet may be republished without prior permission from the copyright holder. *Copying for classroom use is encouraged.

Leader's Instructions:

1. Stretch a rope on the floor at the front of the room. (No one touches it yet.) Ask a volunteer to stand at one end of the rope and play the part of a missionary. Perhaps there is a child who thinks God may be calling him or her to be a missionary. (Dress this volunteer in pith helmet, canteen, or khaki jacket & Bible, or just a sign to hold that says 'missionary'.)
2. Ask audience what challenges/difficulties the missionary will face. As they think of some of these below, choose a slightly **larger** child to represent each difficulty. Have each 'difficulty' take his or her place along the rope to form an opposing team for tug of war. Give each an appropriate prop or sound effect:
 - learning a new language** (wax lips from toy store or stuff mouth with large marshmallow and recite John 3:16)
 - money** (baseball cap with dollars taped on & blowing around)
 - diseases** (balance an ice pack on this child's head)
 - travel to remote areas** (put a heavy backpack on this child's back)
 - rebel uprisings & wars** (camouflage clothing, play rifle like an empty super-soaker, gauze wrap head bandage)
 - fitting into a new culture's way of dressing and behaving** (ethnic dress of your choosing)
 - lions & tigers & bears** (stuffed vicious creature or roar)
 - spiritual warfare** may or may not come up (scary costume, mask or suit of armor)
3. Now ask the audience if the missionary can win. "**No way!**", they'll likely shout. Still, let the two teams play tug of war. The missionary will easily be pulled over the line. Ask audience what the missionary needs. Yes! Some help--a team of his own. Ask what kind of person he needs, for instance, for the problem of learning a new language?
4. Call up volunteers for each of the following. Make sure to choose slightly **smaller or weaker** members for this team. (You are stacking the deck so the missionary team still can not win.)
 - language school teacher** (this child repeats "uno, dos, tres" endlessly, hopefully without drowning you out)
 - financial supporter/s** (purse, checkbook, piggy bank)
 - medical worker** (stethoscope, lab coat, or needleless syringe!!!)
 - 2 or more prayer partners** (hands clasped to pray, unless pulling)
 - pilot** (pilot wings pin, dark glasses, Red Baron scarf, captain's hat)
5. Play tug of war again and the missionary's team still loses. Suggest that problems on the mission field are just **too big!** Even

with one more person on his team, the missionary still could not win. Maybe it's hopeless? Someone in the audience should challenge you on that point. If not, ask them if anything is too difficult for God.

6. Declare, "What the missionary needs is **power!**" From the back, call your big, strong man who has been hiding the sign (included) around his neck all this time. As he strides to the front, flexing his muscles, the children will see "**Holy Spirit**" written in bold letters.
7. Now play tug of war again and the missionary team wins! Applause!!

Discussion and Application:

1. Ask, "Can a missionary get the job done all by himself?" Emphasize that missionaries need a team to get the job done.
2. Ask, "Can people, if they're a big enough team, get the job done by themselves?" No, we need the Holy Spirit. God's power puts us on the winning side even when the problems are too big!
3. Ask the kids which of these jobs they could do right now on the '(fill in the blank with a missionary name) Team'. Children may be too young to be pilots, nurses, or teachers just yet. But they can pray for missionaries supported by their church, give financially, or write letters to keep them from being so homesick. They **can** be part of the team right now!
4. Encourage them to discuss this in class with their teachers and form a plan of action. Kids really want to **do missions**, instead of just being entertained. Give them a chance to join a missionary team. (See "Projects to Do", another *Bright Ideas!* page available at www.wycliffe.org/kids/curriculum, for inspiration.)

Closing Song: "Jesus Loves Me" (We are weak, but He is strong!)



"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

Notes:

KEY

stitching

Assemble the Team

Bible translation is a team effort. Team members often come from different cultures. They might come from a nearby village, or from another continent on the other side of the world! Some team members encounter cultural surprises!

Match each action to what it means.

What does it mean when...

- A** ...elderly Gabbra men in Kenya spit lightly on your arm and rub it well?
- B** ...the Canela people of Brazil say that you have no ears?
- C** ...a Borana girl from Ethiopia turns her face and looks down when speaking to the village elders?
- D** ...Rendille nomads in Kenya rub fat on your legs?
- E** ...when you run around yelling, "Help! My house is on fire!" and a Machinguenga woman of Peru laughs?
- F** ...Borana villagers in Kenya always ask your mother, "Do your children smell good?"

- ___ She is being polite.
- ___ They are concerned about your health.
- ___ She is frightened.
- ___ You are being blessed.
- ___ You are a lazy person.
- ___ You are being welcomed home after a long trip.



Livva Karelia

population:

75,000

location:

Asia

Old & New Testament
 in progress