

THE NATIONS AS OUR NEIGHBORS

2009

Five Minute Mission Moments

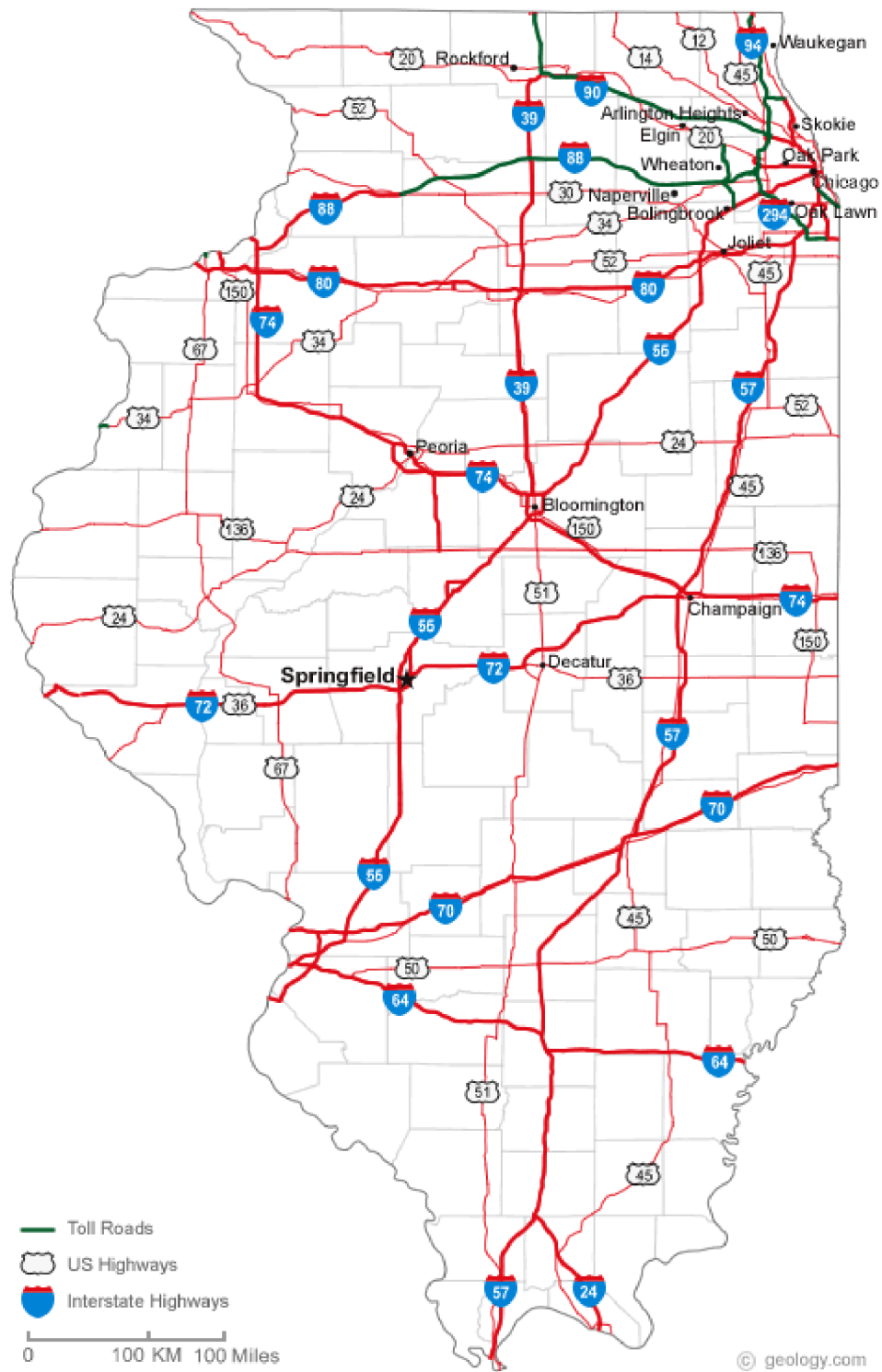
For VBS, Sunday School and Church

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF”

(Luke 10:27)



Church of Illinois



- Marantha E.C. Church - Highland Park,(Chicago) IL

LESSON ONE

PREPARATION: You will need to make the maps of Pennsylvania and Illinois larger so that all the children can see them. You will also need some way to mark locations on the map, with stars or stick pins of some sort.

Have some type of travel bag to use like on a journey (just as a prop). In this bag, put items needed for a journey: maps, hat, sunglasses, book, jacket, gloves, passport, soup can, etc.

LESSON:

1. Introduce yourself and the “Mission Moments” time of your VBS. Tell the children: “this will be the time we will be talking about missions, which is taking the “good news” of Jesus to people who are different than us”.
2. **Have your travel bag in hand.** Ask: “What do I have in my hand today? What do I use this bag for? Let’s see what is in the bag”. **(pull out items and talk about them)** “It looks like we are going on a journey. Do you know you do not have to go to a different country to take the message of Jesus to somebody else? Many years ago, Jacob Albright discovered that there were many people who had come from Germany to Pennsylvania and could understand only the German language. So he began to preach to these people in their own language. He told them about how Jesus loved them and died on the cross to take away their sins. This began the E.C. Church in Pennsylvania. E.C. churches have always reached out to other people who needed Jesus no matter where they lived or what language they spoke. Let’s look at the map. There are 6 Hispanic Churches in Pennsylvania and 1 in Illinois, and 1 Arabic Speaking church in Pennsylvania. **(Point out on the map)** We will begin our journey in Bethlehem and then travel west and finish our journey in Illinois.”
3. Our theme verse is “Love your neighbor as yourself”. Luke 10”27 **(Repeat the verse a few times)**
4. “Our mission project for this year is called “The Nations as our Neighbors”. Our goal is to help these churches tell more people about Jesus. Will you help with this project?”
5. **Close in prayer for this work.**

LESSON TWO

PREPARATION: Prepare map of Pennsylvania, travel bag and markers or stars to put on the map at the different locations. Have a Bible and a copy of John 3:16 in Arabic, either one large copy or enough copies for all the children.

LESSON:

1. Re-introduce yourself and “Mission Moments”. Our Project is “The Nations as our Neighbors”.
2. Repeat the verse “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27
3. “You see I came back with my travel bag and my maps. Is everyone ready for an adventure?” **(let the children respond)**. “Let’s travel to our neighbors. The first stop on our journey is the Arabic Living E.C. church in Bethlehem, PA. Let’s see if we can find Bethlehem on our map.” **(put a star or marker on Bethlehem)**
4. “The pastor of the Arabic Living E.C. Church is Rev. Gus Al-Khal and his wife is Michelle. They have been in the Bethlehem area since the mid 1980’s. Does anyone know how many years that is?” **(about 25)**
5. “There are about 10,000 people in the Bethlehem area that are Arabic. What language do you think they speak in this area and church? **(Arabic)** Here is a copy of what their language looks like. Can you read it? **(No, I don’t think I can either)** So if the language is Arabic but their Bibles are in English, how will the people in the Arabic Living E.C. Church learn about Jesus?” **(They need to have the Bible in a language they can understand)**
6. “This church does many other things to help people in the community. They have a food bank, a clothing bank, and a preschool. The most important part though is getting Bibles to the Arabic speaking people so they can read about Jesus for themselves. Will you help? All the money we collect this week will go to help these churches tell other people about Jesus.”
7. **Close in prayer for Rev. Gus Al-Khal, and the Arabic Living E.C. Church.**

John 3:16 in Arabic

لَأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَالَمَ حَتَّى 16
بَدَلَ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ، لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ
يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونُ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ

LESSON THREE

PREPARATION: Have map of Pennsylvania and markers and your travel bag.

LESSON:

1. “Look, I am set to travel some more today. I have my travel bag and my maps. Where did we visit yesterday? That is right, the Arabic Living E.C. church in Bethlehem.” **(Point out Bethlehem on the map)**
2. “Today we travel to Reading, PA **(add a marker on Reading on the map)** to the Vida Nueva E.C. church (which means “New Life” in Spanish).”
3. “Let’s look in my travel bag today and see what can be found. Oh look here, **(pull out a sweater or jacket and gloves)**. What do you do with these things? That’s right you wear them to keep yourself warm in the winter. What if you did not have a coat or gloves to wear in the winter? What would it be like? **(let kids respond)** If someone needed these gloves and jackets and didn’t have any money to buy them where would they go? Vida Nueva has a program where they collect clothing to help people who have a need but who do not have enough money to buy it. If the people go to the church for help then they would also be told how much Jesus loves them and wants them to be part of his family.”
4. “Rev. Ramon Mendez is the pastor of this church. His wife is Mercedes and they have 2 children, Milkah and Isaac. They help people in many different ways plus tell them about Jesus on Sundays at church services.”
5. “Does anyone remember the Bible verse for the week? That’s right, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ Luke 10:27”. **(repeat the verse together)**
6. “Our project this year is ‘The Nations as our Neighbors’. Are you helping? All the money we collect will go to help these churches tell others about Jesus.”
7. **Close in prayer for Rev. Ramon and Mercedes Mendez and their ministry.**

LESSON FOUR

PREPARATION: Enlarge map of Pennsylvania so that all can see it. Have a marker to indicate the location of the church on the map. Have your travel bag.

Enlarge the words to “Jesus Loves Me” in English and Spanish so that the whole group can see the words. If you are not familiar with Spanish, find someone who knows a little Spanish to help you sing the Spanish version of “Jesus Loves Me” with the children today.

LESSON:

1. “I have my bag and maps. Are you ready to keep traveling?” **(Let children respond)** “Let’s see where we have already been.” **(Review the other days and what churches were looked at)** “Today we will visit York, PA and the Iglesia Cristiana of York. The name of this church in English is the Christian Church of York. This church is right in the city of York. Rev. Carlos Kelly is the pastor here along with his wife, Yanira and their three daughters, Mery Anne, Pamela, and Carla. They have about 50 people coming to the church. Let’s see if we can find it on our map.” **(Point out where York, Pa is on the map and place a star on York.)**

2. “Rev. Carlos and his congregation love to sing so today we are going to learn a Spanish song. You already know the English version so this should not be very hard. The English is “Jesus Loves Me”. **(hold up the English version.)** “The Spanish title is “Christo Me Ama”. **(hold up the Spanish version)** “Do you think you can learn this today?” **(Start with the English and have them sing it. After they sing in English, teach them the Spanish words. Go over them slowly a couple of times until they get the words.)**

3. “As you give your offerings in Bible School this week, the money will be used to help these churches tell others about Jesus. Remember our verse “Love your neighbor as yourself”? The people of these churches are our neighbors, and Jesus calls us to love them.”

4. **Close in prayer for the Iglesia Cristiana of York and Pastor Carlos Kelly and his family.**

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know.

For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong.

They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,

Yes, Jesus loves me,

Yes, Jesus loves me,

The Bible tells me so.

CRISTO ME AMA

Cristo me ama, bien lo se'.

Su Palabra me hace ver,

Que los niños son de aquel

Quien es nuestro amigo fiel.

Si, Cristo me ama

Si, Cristo me ama

Si, Cristo me ama

La Biblica dice asi'.

LESSON FIVE

PREPARATION: Have maps of Pennsylvania and Illinois and your travel bag, as well as stars for markers. Have a can of vegetables or box of macs and cheese in your travel bag.

LESSON:

1. “I have my bag and maps. We have traveled to see our neighbors in Bethlehem, Reading and York, Pennsylvania.” **(point out on the map all the places we have visited this week)** “Now let’s travel to our neighbors in Illinois. We journey to Maranatha E.C. Church with Rev. Salvador Cardoso as the pastor along with his wife Marie. This church is north of Chicago.”

2. “I have one more thing in my travel bag. It is a can of vegetables which will help us learn about the work at Maranatha E.C. Church. Do you want to hear a story?” **(let children respond)**

3. Tell this story:

“There was a Spanish family that moved to Chicago from Pennsylvania. The father’s name was Jose and the mother was Mary. They had 2 children, Katy and Elias. Katy was in 4th grade and Elias was in 1st grade. They liked going to school and learning. Jose and Mary worked hard to provide for their family, but times were hard and after paying the rent, buying gasoline for the car, and paying for electric and clothing, there was not much money left for food. They got to know their neighbors, the Hendersons. One day George Henderson invited Jose and Mary to come to church with them. They attended Maranatha E.C. Church and explained to Jose and Mary that Pastor Cardoso was very nice and would help them find more food. Jose and Mary and the children decided to go to Maranatha Church with their neighbors. They did not know much about church. They had never attended a church before. Pastor Cardoso said the church had a food bank.” **(Do you know what a food bank is? A food bank is a place where people who need food can get things like, canned vegetables, soup, macs & cheese, and other food.)** “Jose and Mary were so glad for the help and the care that was shown to them at the

church that they decided to attend every Sunday. Soon they asked Jesus to be their Savior and joined the church. Now they are helping others the way they were helped. When we care for other people we are showing God's love to them."

3. "What is our verse? That's right, Luke 10:27 "Love your neighbor as yourself". When we learn a verse, God wants us to put it into action."

4. "Our project is called "The Nations as our Neighbors" and all the money that is collected will go to help these churches tell others about Jesus. Have you helped?"

4. Close in prayer for Rev. Salvador and Marie Cardoso