WEEK 3

The Beginning of World Missions
Emphasis: The New Testament/Roman Empire

Introduction: This week, we will continue to look at what the Bible says about world missions, focusing on the New Testament. We will look at the Great Commission of Jesus, the role of the early church, and examples of New Testament missionaries. We will study the Roman Empire.

LIBRARY AND MEDIA SEARCH

CHILDREN’S BIBLE STORYBOOK
- Ascension of Jesus/Great Commission
- Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch
- Paul and Silas in prison
- Story of Heaven or Revelation

BOOK TITLES
- Unveiled at Last by Bob Sjogren
- World Mission Manual - Part 1
- God’s Smuggler by Brother Andrew
- City by David Macaulay
- You Can Change the World by Jill Johnstone

BOOK TOPICS
- The Roman Empire, Rome, Italy
- Roman art and sculpture,
- Roman aqueducts and architecture
- Roman numerals, Numeration
- The early Christian Church
- Polytheism

VIDEO IDEAS
- Ben Hur
- The Robe
- Jesus of Nazareth
- JESUS
- King of Kings
- A.D. (Note: some scenes of Christian persecution may be too violent for young children.)

OTHER MEDIA
- Tourist video or brochures on Rome, Italy
- Current news (TV, radio, newspaper, or magazines on Rome, Italy, the Vatican, or Europe)
DAY 11

WEEK 3 - MONDAY

The Beginning of World Missions
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FAMILY DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 28:16-20, MARK 16, ACTS 1:1-11

• FAMILY DISCUSSION

How would you explain the Great Commission? These were Jesus’ last words before He ascended into heaven. Why are a person’s last words important? After approximately 2000 years, how do you think the church has done in obeying these words of Jesus?

• PRAYER FOCUS

Ask the Lord to show you how the Great Commission applies to you and your family. Pray God would help you become Great Commission Christians.

• BIBLE MEMORY: REVELATION 5:9-10

“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue, and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.’”

Or Mark 16:15

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’”

• PRAYER Project: GREAT COMMISSION

Make a sign above your world map that will encourage you to pray for the world. You may want to incorporate the words of the Great Commission with a phrase such as:

“TODAY we can GO into all the WORLD...through PRAYER!”

ARTS

• READING

1. Have younger children read the account of Christ’s ascension into heaven from The Early Reader’s Bible, The Beginner’s Bible, The Picture Bible, or any children’s Bible storybook.

2. Unveiled at Last, chapters 11-12.

3. World Mission Manual - Part I, pp. 3-1 to the top of 3-9. (1. Jesus, the Messiah for All Peoples)


• WRITING

Write an essay about the importance of a person’s last words. Think of several different examples and then highlight the importance of Jesus’ last words in the Great Commission.

• LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Carefully write this week’s memory verse. Check for neatness and penmanship.

2. Select spelling words for this week. Write these words in your spelling notebook, their definitions, or use the words in a sentence.

GEOGRAPHY

1. Look at a Bible map of the Roman Empire during the time of the New Testament and compare this to a current map. What modern-day countries were a part of the old Roman Empire?

2. Study Bible maps of Paul’s missionary journeys. How do you think he traveled? Where was he able to establish churches? How would you describe the physical land in the areas where Paul traveled?

3. Look at the distance keys at the bottom of Paul’s missionary journey maps. What was the farthest location Paul traveled to? How far was this city from Jerusalem? If you traveled that same distance from your home where could you go?

4. Look at a current map of the Mediterranean Sea area and compare the locations of Paul’s travels. What modern-day countries did he go to?

• GEOGRAPHY PROJECT

Trace a map showing Paul’s missionary journeys and color it with colored pencils. OR:

Make a copy of a current map of the Mediterranean Sea area and then draw the routes of Paul’s missionary journeys.
DAY 12
WEEK 3 - TUESDAY
The Beginning of World Missions

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
BIBLE READING: ACTS 8
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
How do you think Philip felt when God wanted him to leave his successful ministry in Samaria to go into the desert? How did Philip witness to the Ethiopian eunuch? Does God value one-on-one witnessing? How do you know? Can you share about a time you were able to witness with someone? Was it hard or easy?
• PRAYER FOCUS
Ask the Lord in prayer to give you boldness, wisdom, and opportunities to witness one-on-one with people you meet. Pray for people you know who are not yet saved.
• BIBLE MEMORY
Review Revelation 5:9-10 or Mark 16:15.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
1. Have younger children read about the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.
2. Unveiled at Last, chapters 13-14.
3. World Mission Manual - Part 1, pp. 3-10 to the top of page 3-12. (The Great Commission)
• WRITING
Write a puppet or drama skit about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch from Acts 8. Include God’s leading into the wilderness, Philip wondering why he is there, Philip sharing the Gospel to the Ethiopian on the chariot, the Ethiopian’s conversion and baptism (you may want to include water sound effects) and then Philip being supernaturally translated. Practice and perform this skit for your family.
• LANGUAGE ARTS
When checking the skits, look for correct punctuation and capitalization.
Encourage your children to use as much expression as possible (without appearing artificial) when performing their skit.

HISTORY
As you teach about the establishment of the early church in New Testament times, look at the history of the Roman Empire, and the culture and life-style of the Roman people.
• MARK YOUR TIME LINE
Mark the time period of the Roman Empire on your timeline—1000-800 B.C.—when the Forum was established and the city of Rome began, the rise of Rome as a world power in 323 B.C., the height of the Roman Empire in A.D.117, to the division of the Roman Empire in A.D.395, and the fall of the Western Empire in A.D.476.

Include the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Note: Because of an early mathematics mistake in estimating the birth of Christ, our calendar is a little off. Jesus was born sometime between the years 4-6 B.C., not in A.D. 1.) B.C. stands for Before Christ, while A.D. stands for “Anno Domini”—Latin for Year of Our Lord.
• IDEAS FOR HISTORY STUDY QUESTIONS
1. How did the Roman Empire become strong? Did their empire grow through exploration or conquest by war? When was the Roman Empire at the peak of its power? How and when did this great empire fall?
2. What kind of government did the Romans have? How were their leaders chosen? Did these leaders have absolute power or limited power?
3. How did the Roman people value education? What was the role of women and children in their society?
4. What kind of religion and system of worship did they have? Did they have one god or many gods? How did the Romans view Julius Caesar?
5. How did the Romans treat the Jewish people and other nations under their rule? How did the Romans treat the early Christians? Why?
6. Think about this period of history from God’s point of view. Why do you think God chose this period in history—above all others—to send Jesus Christ?
7. Why was it hard for the Jewish people to accept Jesus as the Christ?

RELIGION FOCUS
• POLYTHEISM
Look at the Roman Empire and their view of many gods, idols, and temples. How is Christianity totally different? Is it possible to add Jesus Christ to a list of other gods?
DAY 13
WEEK 3 - WEDNESDAY
The Beginning of World Missions

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER

BIBLE READING: ACTS 16, 27

- FAMILY DISCUSSION

Why were Paul and Silas arrested and sent to prison? Did they disobey the law of the land? Did they disobey God's law? Think about this example and modern-day situations such as smuggling Bibles into China or underground churches that meet in secret. Is it ever permissible in God's sight to break man's laws? When and why?

- PRAYER FOCUS

Pray God would grant boldness and peace to Christians who are being persecuted and imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for the church in China.

- BIBLE MEMORY

Review Revelation 5:9-10 or Mark 16:15.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

- READING

1. Have younger children read the story of Paul and Silas in prison.
2. Unveiled at Last, chapters 15-16.
4. Read a modern-day example of Christians who have been persecuted for their faith (perhaps God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew).
5. I Heard Good News Today. Read pp. 4-5, "God Loves Everyone."

- WRITING

Imagine what it would have been like to be in prison alongside Paul and Silas. Write a letter to a friend or family member describing your experiences—including your reaction to hearing Paul and Silas singing in jail and your amazement at the earthquake.

- LANGUAGE ARTS

Emphasize proper letter writing form. Review spelling words.

MATH

- ROMAN NUMERALS

Take a look at Roman Numerals. Note that Arabic numerals are those we commonly use today (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10).

Roman numeral/Notation:

I ......... 1  X ....... 10  C ....... 100
II ....... 2  XI ....... 11  LX ....... 60
III ....... 3  XII ...... 12  LXX ...... 90
IV ......... 4  XIII ..... 13  C ....... 100
V ......... 5  XIV ...... 14  LXX .... 100
VI ......... 6  XV ...... 15  C ....... 100
VII ....... 7  XVI ..... 16  LXX ...... 90
VIII ....... 8  XVII .... 17  LXX .... 100
IX ....... 9  XVIII .... 18  C ....... 100
X ....... 10  XIX ...... 19  M ....... 1000
D = 500

Note: If a letter is repeated the value is repeated. Example: CCC=300. A letter placed after one of greater value means that you add their value. Example: VI=6. A letter placed before one of greater value means you subtract. Example: IV=4.

SCIENCE

- SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROME, SHIPS AND NAVIGATION

1. As you study about the early church and the Roman Empire during the time of the New Testament, look at the different scientific achievements of Rome such as the Roman aqueducts, cities, roads, sewer systems, and architecture. (An excellent book that describes each of these in detail is the children's picture book, City, by David Macaulay.)

2. When learning about Paul and his missionary journeys, you could study about ancient ships, ship building, and navigation. Think about how scientific achievements in the area of transportation have impacted the job of world missions.

FAMILY FIELD TRIP

- CITY SEARCH FOR ROMAN ARCHITECTURE

Look for pictures and examples of Roman architecture and art. Throughout the week be alert for building styles in your area that reflect these such as pillars, domes, arches, amphitheaters, and statues.
DAY 14
WEEK 3 - THURSDAY
The Beginning of World Missions

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
BIBLE READING: ACTS 17:15-24
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
  How did Paul explain the Gospel to the people in Athens so the people could relate to the message? Why is it important for missionaries to understand the culture of the people they are ministering to?
• PRAYER FOCUS
  Pray for missionaries you know. Ask the Lord to help them be culturally sensitive—and at the same time, to be bold in Christ—as they share the Gospel with the people they are called to reach. Pray for Rome.
• BIBLE MEMORY
  Review Revelation 5:9-10 or Mark 16:15. Study for tomorrow’s test.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
  1. You Can Change the World, read about the Dogan people on pages 22-23. Note the section on “Punishment” and how missionaries use this cultural tradition to explain the Gospel.
  2. Unveiled at Last, chapters 17-18.
  (III. A Message for All Peoples)
  4. Read a non-fiction library book about the Roman Empire or a historical fiction book such as The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth Speare (1962 Newberry award winner about a young Jewish boy during the time of Christ).
  5. I Heard Good News Today. Read pg. 6, “The Meeting at the River.”
• WRITING
  Make an outline showing how God’s heart for world missions is revealed throughout the entire Bible. Think of at least three main points, each with subpoints and examples. Include examples from Genesis, other Old Testament stories, the life of Jesus, the early church, and from the book of Revelation.

• LANGUAGE ARTS
  1. Emphasize how to make a proper outline, using Roman Numerals (I, II, III, IV, V), letters (A, B, C) and numerals (1, 2, 3, 4).
  2. Practice taking a spelling test.

ARTS AND CRAFTS
• ART
  Look at pictures of Roman art, sculpture and architecture. Look for examples of statues and sculptured heads and shoulders (busts) of famous Roman leaders.
  How does Roman art compare with the art of ancient Israel?
• CRAFT
  1. Make a head sculpture of someone in your family using clay, papier maché, or play dough.
  2. Make a shadow silhouette picture. Tape a large piece of black paper onto a wall. Have your children take turns standing three feet from the wall, and shine a bright light onto the paper from a distance of about ten feet away (making a shadow of your child’s head on the black paper). Trace the side-view of your child’s face and shoulders. Cut out the silhouette then glue onto a large sheet of white paper cut into an oval shape. Finish by decorating the edges.
DAY 15
WEEK 3 - FRIDAY
The Beginning of World Missions

FAMILY DEVOTIONS
• OPENING EXERCISES/PRAYER
BIBLE READING: REVELATION 5
• FAMILY DISCUSSION
What do you think heaven will be like? What does it mean when the Bible says God has redeemed us “out of every tribe and tongue, and people and nation”? How does this description demonstrate God’s heart for the world?
• PRAYER FOCUS
Pray the worship ministry at your home church would be a reflection of the glorious worship we will have in heaven. Pray for un-reached people groups who have yet to hear the Gospel message. Pray someone would go to them so these groups would have a chance to be represented in heaven among “every tribe and tongue…”
• BIBLE MEMORY
Test: Write or say this week’s Bible verses, Revelation 5:9-10 or Mark 16:15.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
• READING
1. Have younger children read a story about heaven or Revelation.
2. Unveiled at Last, chapters 19-20.
4. I Heard Good News Today. Read pp. 11-12 about Thomas and John Mark.
• WRITING
Using your outline from yesterday as a guide write an essay. Think of a creative title.
• LANGUAGE ARTS
Spelling test. Have children write misspelled words five times.
Check essay for correct grammar and parts of speech.
• MUSIC
1. Watch a family video that shows the life-style of the Roman Empire such as Ben Hur or King of Kings. Take note of the Roman music and pageantry and compare this to the music of Israel.

2. Compose a simple tune about world missions, using either the words of the Great Commission or the words from Revelation 5:9-10.

INTERNATIONAL MEAL
• AREA EMPHASIS: ROME, ITALY
(Personal note: I will always remember the first time my husband and I visited Rome. We spent the day looking around at famous points of interest, such as the Roman Coliseum and the Vatican. Later, we ate a Calizone dinner at a sidewalk café, and watched street artists and musicians until late into the night.

It was amazing to see buildings that were thousands of years old and to know that the early church had suffered much persecution and martyrdom in these exact spots. How thankful we were that the early Christians were committed to help spread the message of Christ—no matter what the cost. May we all have the same dedication and commitment.

To create your own “Experience in Rome,” decorate your table with a red and white checked tablecloth and candles. (For an added effect, use an old wine or sparkling cider bottle—complete with wax drippings—as your candle holder). Play Italian music in the background or have someone in your family play a guitar or violin. If weather permits, you may want to eat outside as if you were eating at a sidewalk café in Italy.

• DINNER MENU
Sparkling cider, salad, rolls, and Calizone

ROMA, ITALY

CALIZONE
Mix together any white bread dough recipe. After kneading, allow the dough to rise until double in size then divide into sections and roll into about 9” circles. Top each circle with cooked meat, spaghetti sauce, grated mozzarella cheese, and any other pizza-type toppings your family enjoys. Fold circles in half and seal the edges. Place Calizones on cookie sheets and bake until lightly brown (about 20 minutes). Top with more hot spaghetti sauce and melted cheese.

FAMILY VIDEO NIGHT
Ben Hur, The Robe, Jesus of Nazareth, JESUS, King of Kings, A.D.