Partner Discussion Question

Think about the demonstration you just saw. Compare lost people to unreached people? How are they the same? How are they different?

State of the World Today

What is the world population? \_\_\_\_\_\_ billion

How many people have never heard the gospel message? \_\_\_\_\_\_ billion

10 people that represent the world:

Person 1 (both hands crossed over heart): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Persons 2 and 3 (one hand crossed over heart): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Persons 4, 5, 6 (push hands out in front as if rejecting): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Persons 7, 8, 9, 10 (hands over ears): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What fraction of the world has never heard the gospel message? \_\_\_\_\_\_

Nation (ethne): Country vs. People Group

Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19-20)

A nation is *not* a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but an ethnic group. (Revelation 7:9)

A people group is an ethnic group that shares the same \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The same country can have many different people groups.

Reached vs. Unreached

* Bible: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Phone or iPod: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Mirror: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The difference between a reached and unreached person is their *access* to the gospel, not their willingness to believe.

To obey Jesus’ command to “make disciples of all nations,” we will need to go where the unreached peoples are.

What God’s Word Says About Unreached Peoples

John 3:16

John 14:6

Revelation 7:9

Beliefs of Unreached Peoples

Tribal/animist

Hindu

Unreligious/atheist

Muslim

Buddhist

Pray in Kid-Friendly Ways

Hang a world map in your home or classroom and let it be central to your prayer times.

For younger children:

* Focus on continents or countries of the world where many unreached people live.
* Choose a different country each month.
* Focus on a different aspect of culture or spiritual needs each week.
* Engage children’s five senses or use concrete objects and actions to help them pray for others.

For older children:

* Focus on world religions, specific unreached peoples, and global workers.
* Introduce different religious beliefs and practices by comparing them to what God’s Word says.
* Pray for global issues and current events.
* Keep your prayer times short and active.

What Does This Mean for Our Kids?

Decreasing number of unreached people groups.

Increasing role of Christians in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Are our children prepared to embrace the task? Do they have a heart to reach the unreached?

Rescue Activity and Prayer

God desires to rescue unreached peoples from darkness and bring them into the kingdom of His Son (Colossians 1:13-14).

Our children are part of the generation of believers who will do this.

Pray for the unreached people group on your prayer card.

Pray for the hearts of the children in your sphere of influence. Pray that they would

reflect God’s heart and purposes.

*“If tomorrow’s world of unreached people were waiting for MY kids,*
*would MY kids have a heart to reach them based on what I am giving them?"*
Activities and Instructions

Activity: How Many Know About Jesus?

(Invite 10 children to come to the front and stand in a line facing the group. If you are doing this activity with your family, you can line up ten objects and have your children do all of the motions.)

These 10 people represent the world – about 7 billion people!

*Person 1:* One knows, loves, and follows Jesus. (Have the first child in line cross both of his hands over his heart.)

*Persons 2 and 3:* Two are believers by name. If you asked them, “What religion do you follow?” they would say Christianity rather than Hinduism or Islam. They may not be true disciples of Jesus. (Have the next two people in line put only one hand over their heart.)

*Persons 4, 5, 6:* Three have heard about Jesus, but so far they have rejected the message. (Have the next three people put their hands out in front of them as if they are pushing away the message.)

*Persons 7, 8, 9, 10:* Four have never heard of Jesus. They do not know that He loves them and came to forgive their sins. (Have the last four people cover their ears with their hands**.)**

What does this demonstration show us? We can rejoice that about 2/3 of the people on earth have had the opportunity to hear about Jesus. But sadly, more than 1/3 of the world’s population, 2.7 billion people, is still waiting to hear about Jesus for the first time.

Activity: Reached versus Unreached

*Materials:* Bible, children’s Christian DVD or music CD, picture of a church, mirror, bag labeled unreached

(Turn the bag so that the “Unreached” label is facing away from the children.) Here are some different ways that we can learn about God and His plans for us. (Spread out the items and have the children put each item in the bag as you describe it.)

Reading the Bible (put in bag) … watching Christian movies/TV shows or listening to Christian music (put in bag) … and going to church (put in bag).

(Have a child hold up the mirror.) Mirrors reflect. One of the main ways we learn about God is by being around other people who know Jesus, people who reflect what God is like by what they say and do. (Invite a child to add the mirror to the bag.)

(Turn the bag around and read the word “unreached.”)

Unreached peoples around the world do not have access to even one Bible, God’s revelation of Himself to us. (Invite a child to remove the Bible from the bag.)

Unreached peoples have no movies or TV shows that show what God does or how He relates to people. They have never heard or sung a song of praise to the true, living God. (Invite a child to remove the DVD or CD from the bag.)

Unreached peoples live in places where it is impossible to attend a church where God’s Word is taught—there aren’t any! (Invite a child to remove the picture of the church from the bag.)

The families, friends, teachers, and neighbors of unreached children are unreached, too. These boys and girls do not have anyone who reflects God in their culture and no one who can show them what it looks like to follow Jesus in daily life. (Invite a child to remove the mirror from the bag.)

(Turn the bag upside down and shake it.) We have many ways of learning about God but unreached peoples have no way of learning about God.

God wants us to pray for unreached peoples. Look at these items. How could we pray for the unreached peoples? (Allow responses.) Enter into a time of prayer with your class or family.

Activity: What is Intercession?

*Materials:* “God” sign, “Unreached” sign (If you have nonreaders, consider drawing a picture of a child covering his ears on the “unreached” sign.)

(Ask for three volunteers. Give one child the “God” sign and direct him to stand on one side of the room. Give the second child the “unreached” sign and have him stand on the opposite side of the room. Have the third person stand by you.)

(Turn to the child near you.) Unreached boys and girls do not know about the true God so they cannot pray to Him. We are learning about Jesus and prayer. We can pray to God at any time.

When we pray, we can talk to God and ask Him for what children in unreached families need. Let us see what this looks like.

(Direct the believer to walk over to the unreached child, take his hand, and walk with him to the other side of the room where “God” is. Have the believer make a motion like he is praying.)

We may not know everything that unreached people children need, but we do know the most important thing that they need – to know Jesus.

This kind of praying for others is called *intercession*. God loves it when we intercede for unreached children because He wants everyone to come to know Him and His Son, Jesus.

(Have the volunteers give you their signs and sit down.)

World Beliefs Prayer Walk

*Materials:*

* Teaching script (You may wish to cut it apart and put the appropriate text at each station.)
* Tribal station: sign that says “tribal”
* Hindu station: sign that says “Hindu,” bell
* Unreligious/atheist: sign that says “Unreligious,” notebook and pen
* Muslim: sign that says “Muslim,” large bowl of water and towel
* Buddhist: sign that says “Buddhist,” Bible
* tape for attaching five signs to the wall (optional)

*Setting Up:*

* Large space: Set up 5 stations around the room and have the children rotate through these stations. At each station, tape the corresponding sign on the wall or place it on the floor. Place props at each station.
* Small space: Set up 1 station. Put the signs and props on a small table, desk, or bench. Choose different children to experience each station. Make sure everyone gets a turn.

Introduction

If many people in the world have never heard about Jesus, what do they believe? Let’s go on a world beliefs prayer walk. We will learn about five different religious groups and pray for them to come to know Jesus.

(If you are moving around the room, explain where the children will start and how they will move around the room. Add additional instructions that will help your children.)

First, let’s visit the first station and learn about what Tribal people believe. (Move to the first station.)

Tribal Station

(Hold up or point to the Tribal sign.) Tribal people believe that spirits live in things in nature – rocks, trees, mountains, and water. They fear these spirits and work hard to please them.

Tribal people worship through song and dance. Can you think of a song you know that praises God? (Choose one song from those suggested.)Let’s sing the song together. You can clap and dance if you want to. (Sing the song.)

Let’s pray that Tribal people would worship God, the Creator of the universe instead of spirits. Who would like to pray? (Let children pray aloud. Move to the Hindu station.)

Hindu Station

(Hold up or point to the Hindu sign.) Hindus believe in many different gods. They worship and pray to idols, or statues, of these gods.

(Hand the bell to a child and have him ring it.) When Hindus enter the temple, they ring a bell to wake up any of their gods who might be sleeping. They burn incense and set gifts of flowers, food, or drinks in front of the idols.

Let’s pray that Hindus would turn from idols to worship the true and living God, the God who never sleeps and always hears our prayers. Who would like to pray? (Let children pray aloud. Move to the Unreligious station.)

Unreligious Station

(Hold up or point to the Unreligious sign.) Unreligious people do not believe that God exists. They count on their own knowledge and science to explain the world.

Let’s think about things around us that prove God exists and then write them down in this notebook. What should we write? (Let children their share ideas. Choose someone to write them in the notebook.)

Let’s pray that unreligious people would see God through creation and come to know Jesus as their Savior. Who would like to pray?(Let children pray aloud. Move to the Muslim station.)

Muslim Station

(Hold up or point to the Muslim sign.) Muslims go to the mosque to pray and worship. Before going inside, they must wash their hands, feet, and face. This shows their desire to have a clean heart before God.

Let’s take turns washing our hands.(Allow the children to wash and dry their hands.)

Let’s pray that Muslims would know that their hearts can be washed clean only by the blood of Jesus! Who would like to pray? (Let children pray aloud. Move to the Buddhist station.)

Buddhist Station

(Hold up or point to the Buddhist sign.) Buddhists go to the temple to meditate. They believe that by emptying their minds and thinking about nothing, they can remove selfish desires from their heart.

Let’s sit down and cross our legs in a meditation position. (Demonstrate this and have the children copy you.) God wants us to meditate on Him and His Word.

Here’s a Bible. Let’s pick a favorite Bible verse and read it aloud. (Take a few suggestions and choose one verse. Read it, or have a child read it, aloud.) Let’s close our eyes and quietly meditate, or think about, what the words mean.

Let’s pray that Buddhists around the world would learn about Jesus and meditate on the truth of God’s Word. Who would like to pray? (Let children pray aloud. Have the children return to their seats.)

Conclusion

Thank you for joining me on this world beliefs prayer walk. What is something new that you learned about the beliefs of people who don’t know Jesus? (Let children share.) Why do you think it is important for us to continue to pray for these people? (Let children share.)