Partner Discussion Questions

1. Think about the history of your country. What events might God have used to position believers so that they could share the gospel in new areas and with new people?
2. Think about the children in your family or church. How would knowing stories of how God works through kids impact them?
3. Think about a child you know who is serving Jesus and has a heart for God’s world. What World Christian habit/habits does this child demonstrate? How? (pray-er, sender, welcomer, goer, mobilizer)

History is God’s Story

God is alive.

God is unchanging. (Hebrews 13:8)

God is active and still working in the world.

God is purposeful. (Esther 4:14)

God invites and uses people in His plans.

How God’s Kingdom Spreads

God advances His purposes in history by both voluntary and involuntary means.

1. Persecution – scattering of the early church in Acts 8:1-4
2. Invasion and takeover of areas where believers live – Barbarians invade and take over the Christianized Roman Empire.)
3. Forcible removal of believers and transplanting them into a new culture – Vikings kidnap believers and take them to Scandinavia as slaves and wives.

Children need to know that as God continues to advance His kingdom in our day, He desires to use them in His plans.

Knowing that God invites them into what He is doing in this generation gives our children identity and purpose.

Historical Movements of God Involving Children

Moravians (Germany, 1727)

Indonesians (Island of Timor, 1965)

Hope Smith (USA/Mongolia, 1997)

How Knowing History Benefits Children

1. An identity

It is their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. A purpose bigger than themselves

It is their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. A valuable role

It is their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. A new perspective

It is their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

World Christians

*World Christians:* believers from all walks of life who have a biblical view of God’s heart for the world and His global purposes. No matter where they are or what they do, World Christians live strategically with one goal in mind: to see God glorified among the peoples of the world.

World Christian Habits:

1. Pray-er
2. Sender
3. Welcomer
4. Goer
5. Mobilizer

Opportunities to Partner with God

As we teach our children *how* to do things, we need to also give them the opportunity to actually *do* those things.

The most empowering thing you can do for your kids is to let them see God work for themselves instead of your just telling them how great He is.

When we help our children take on significant tasks, they have the freedom to find true contentment in who and what they are, in why they were created, and in what they were created to do.

Start with your church. Find out what they are already doing to bless global workers and reach the unreached. Look for opportunities for your children to join in and own a part of the ministry.

Find out about needs in your community and see if you might be able to partner with a local ministry that is working to meet those needs.

Be sensitive to specific callings that God may be placing on children’s lives.

The Heart

* A humble heart that always places others above myself.
* A heart of sacrifice that goes above what is expected.
* A heart that is not self-seeking, but serves when it does not benefit my own desires.

# Activities and Instructions

How God’s Kingdom Spreads Activity

(Set the two bowls, two containers of colored water, piece of fruit, and cup on the floor or on a large table in the front of the room or in a large space outdoors. Invite the group to gather around so that they can see. Choose four children to help during the demonstration and invite them to stand near you.)

1. How did God plan for the good news about Jesus to spread to people in every culture? Mark 16:15 says,

*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.* (Mark 16:15)

Believers are to share God’s Word with people who do not know Him yet, in near and far-away places. When we look at history, we see that God’s people did not always follow His plan**.**

(Give a child the container of yellow water and invite him pour it into the empty bowl until the bowl is halfway full.)

Just as the sides of the bowl contain the water, believers often keep the truth of God’s Word to themselves, choosing to hold onto what is familiar and safe rather than go to unknown areas to share God’s Word with strangers.

1. What strategies does God use to get His Word to more people?

Sometimes He drops scary situations into the believers’ world that force them to move to other places.

Listen to Acts 8. (Read verses 1-4 to the group.)

*On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria … those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.* (Acts 8:1-4)

(Invite a child to drop the heavy piece of fruit into the bowl of yellow water and let some water splash out.)

In the early church, God used persecution as one way of spreading His Word throughout the Roman Empire.

1. What other strategies does God use to advance His kingdom?

Sometimes God brings outsiders to live in the lands of His people. Barbarians invaded and took over the Roman Empire. Many of the conquered people living in the land were believers.

(Point to the container of blue water.)This blue water stands for the Barbarians. Watch what happens when they invade the Romans.

(Invite a child to pour the blue water into the bowl of yellow water. Discuss the color changes.)

The Barbarian culture changed much about the Roman Empire.

In addition, when believers shared their faith with their conquerors, some Barbarians embraced the true God. This changed the hearts, lives, and culture of the Barbarians.

1. What other strategies does God use to make Himself known to new groups of people?

Sometimes God takes His people by force to live in another culture. Viking raiders from Scandinavia invaded the Christian lands.

They kidnapped people and carried them home to become their slaves and wives. Some of those who were taken were believers.

(Point to the bowl of clear water.)This is the land of the Vikings. Let us see what happens when believers come to live in Viking homes and towns.

(Give the cup to a child. Invite him to dip out some of the green water and pour it into the bowl of clear water. Discuss what happens.)

As believing men and women told the Vikings about Jesus, little by little, God’s Word spread, changing the hearts, lives, and culture of the Vikings.

These are just a few of the strategies that God has used and still uses as He works to spread His truth to the peoples of the world.