

HOW TO BE GLOBAL CHRISTIANS

Lesson Guide Sample (Lesson 1)

DiscipleTown is the Kids Church curriculum from **DiscipleLand** and Karl Bastian, the Kidologist! This customizable, teacher-driven curriculum provides everything you need to essential skills for victorious Christian living!

This sample includes the first thirteen pages of Lesson 1. The full *How to Be Global Christians* download includes additional pages and higher image resolution, plus three more lessons of material. Find a complete list of product components at DiscipleLand.com.





How to Be Global Christians

Lesson 1—Discover God's Plan

Unit Summary

Christians must expand their horizons and embrace God's heart for people all over the world. By broadening kids' perspectives to see beyond their local church and community, this unit will enable your children to grasp God's great plan and to participate in His Great Commission. First, children need to see that God has a plan for every person to know His Son, Jesus. Next, they need to understand the good news that Jesus came to bring salvation to every person—everywhere—so they will be able to share it. Then, they must understand that God uses His Church to spread His Good News around the world. Finally they need to be challenged to have "beautiful feet" by sharing God's wonderful message. This unit will both equip and challenge kids to be global Christians—now and when they grow up!

Lesson Summary

God wants the whole world to learn about His Son, Jesus. Unfortunately, there are many different countries in the world, and many people have never heard of Jesus or what He did for them. In this lesson, children will learn about five major belief systems, what their adherents believe, and why it is so important that Christians go tell them the good news about Jesus.

Paul's Power Principle: God is Lord of every person on the planet!



DISCIPLE TARGETS

In this lesson, your children will...

KNOW

- All people everywhere need Jesus' love and forgiveness

FEEL

- Amazed at the scope of God's plan for everyone to know Him

DO

- Use the THUMB acronym to pray for all five major religious groups

SUPPLIES ✓

General Supplies

Bibles, puppets, video projection (optional)
Pencils, pens, paper

Spark Interest

WELCOME!: name tag stickers
LET'S PLAY!: Around the World game sheet
CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS: none

Explore Scripture

KEYVERSE: none

Inspire Action

DRAMATIZE THE POINT: various props

PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the "Slide Sorter" View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.



SPARK INTEREST

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.



Welcome!-THUMBS

As the children arrive today, divide them up into the five major people groups by assigning each of them a T, H, U, M, or B on a sticker to be worn as a name tag. Don't explain what the letters mean, but instruct them to sit with their group. You may wish to section off various seating areas for each letter. Separate siblings and mix kids up among the groups to create diversity.

Optional: Instead of stickers, use markers to write the letter on the tip of each thumb and later have children look at their thumbs when they break into groups.



Let's Meet-n-Greet!

Have children introduce themselves to the other members of their letter group. Ask them to see if they can figure out what their letter stands for.

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the **How to Use DiscipleTown** guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)



Let's Worship!

God's plan is for everyone to hear the Good News about Jesus, and His primary plan for spreading this message is *us*. We may not feel talented or brave enough to be God's messengers, but God promises to help us deliver the Good News to the whole world as His missionaries! He will help us! After all, we can do all things through Jesus!

Recommended Song: *I Can Do Everything!* (Philippians 4:13) by *The Rizers on Rise Up!* available at TheRizers.com.



Puppet Intro

Leader & puppet introduce today's lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson.

Puppet* comes out and excitedly shares that a new neighbor has moved in next door to him. Puppet also comments on what strange statues the neighbor has and says that the neighbor is kind of strange. When leader asks why, Puppet exclaims that his neighbor set up one of the statues and seems to pray to it! He jokes that his neighbor should really get some curtains because there may be creepers trying to watch what he's doing. Leader says it sounds like Puppet was peeking. Puppet admits he peeked, but he was curious!

Puppet says he feels sad that his neighbor doesn't know that statues aren't actually real gods, and they can't answer prayers. Leader challenges Puppet to share Jesus with his neighbor, but Puppet is concerned about offending, or saying the wrong thing. After all, how can he be a good witness if he offends him, right? Leader hears his excuses but says, "Have you ever thought that maybe this person moved in next door to you as a part of God's plan? Maybe you are just the person God wants him to know so that he can learn about Jesus!" Puppet starts trying to prove why he is not a good person for God to move anyone next to (he's a bad gardener, walks around in pink fluffy bunny slippers at night, belches when no one is looking, and is clearly color-blind as evidenced by his pink and orange picket fence and the ridiculous garden gnomes in his front yard, etc.). Puppet concludes his argument with, "Besides, I'm not very good at convincing people that God is the way. I never have the right answers to their questions. It would be better if I didn't say anything."

Leader responds by sharing a courtroom analogy. In a courtroom, there is a judge, lawyers, witnesses, and a jury. The judge and the jury listen as the lawyers present a case to try to convince them about the guilt or innocence of the person on trial. Each lawyer will call up witnesses who tell their own stories about what happened. In the end the jury has to decide for themselves what they think really happened, and the judge passes the sentence. In the court of life, God is the judge, and Jesus is on trial. Leader asks who Puppet supposes the jury members are. Puppet quips, "My peers." Leader laughs, "Of course, a jury of your peers. Well, you're close." Leader explains that the jury members are those who are looking for the truth, for answers. Leader continues, "Now as Christians we have a role to play in this courtroom drama. Often we think it is our job to play the role of the lawyer; we want the jury to believe that Jesus is really God. But Acts 1:8 tells us what our role is in the court of life." (Leader can quiz Puppet and kids on what Acts 1:8 says.) "We are to be *witnesses*. We don't do the convincing; that is the Holy Spirit's job. Instead we just tell our stories about what Jesus has done in our lives!" Puppet nearly faints with relief and says excitedly that this new information changes everything. He makes immediate plans to introduce himself and become a friend to the neighbor (and maybe even share a gnome). He realizes that all he has to do is show love to the neighbor and tell his own story.

***PUPPET:** Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com



Let's Play!—Around the World



Announce a contest for this series. Challenge the kids to wear mismatched shoes and socks each week to call attention to their feet. Whenever someone asks why their feet don't match, they can respond, "I have beautiful feet!" and quote the Key Verse, Romans 10:14-15. Choose sixteen people who have mismatched socks and shoes to play. (For smaller groups, have eight children play, giving each of them two cards.)

Note: Because you just announced the contest, this week pick kids with the most beautiful feet (most colorful shoes or socks).

Announce, **This week our Around the World game will explore the names of some of the countries that God wants to know about the good news about Jesus. He needs witnesses in each and every country. Did you know that there are 257 different countries in the world?**

How to Play: Cut out the cards from the PDF file (Around the World game sheet page 1) found in the Supplemental Resources download folder. Give one to each child in the game. You will see that one card has a star in the top left corner; this is the starting card. Similarly, one card has a star in the bottom right corner; this is the final card.

Whoever has the starting card reads it aloud. Each child looks at his or her card to see if it is the next card by determining whether its text continues what was on the starting card. If it does, the child with that card reads the red sentence on his or her card, then asks the question in blue type. Read the cards as quickly as you can. To add a competitive element, time how long it takes your group to "go around the world." Shuffle the cards around and try again.



Connect with Your Kids

How did you come to know Jesus? Who was a missionary to you? If you were led to Christ by a parent or at church, then tell who brought you to church. Or give examples of people who represented Jesus or lived as great examples of Jesus to you. As we go through this mission-focused month, be prepared to share parts of your own journey with your kids as it relates to missions. Share how someone shared Christ with you and how your life might be different if he or she hadn't. If you can, share pictures or souvenirs to help the children relate to your experience. It is one thing to talk about missions abstractly, but if you can talk about missions from personal experience, it suddenly becomes much more real to your kids.



DiscipleTown Visitor

Note: If you have a missionary nurse (short term or long term) that you can interview personally, that is always more interesting and effective. If not, use the following script.

[Missionary Nurse Nathan (or Nancy) enters wearing scrubs, name tag, vinyl gloves, and a stethoscope around his or her neck. The nurse is in a bit of a hurry but has a pleasant and compassionate demeanor.]*

Leader: Good morning, Nurse Nathan *[or Nancy]*! Please come in and join us!

Nurse: I don't have a ton of time, but I really wanted to do this interview. Hi, boys and girls! How are you this morning?

Leader: I know you have very important work to do today. Thank you for stopping to chat with us. Where are you off to?

Nurse: I have some very sick kids in Ward 3 who need medications and their dressings changed. Some of these kids are being treated for leprosy and other diseases.

Leader: Oh, no! Isn't leprosy contagious? I hear that it makes your fingers and toes fall off!

Nurse: Ha ha, well, not exactly. Leprosy is contagious if left untreated, but because of doctors and nurses like me who have been working in many Third World countries, most people who get treatment for leprosy go on to live perfectly healthy lives.

Leader: So their toes and fingers won't fall off?

Nurse: No, no, that's actually not true. If you do not treat leprosy, it will cause your hands and feet to become crippled as it affects more and more of your body, but it's not quite as dramatic as that!

Leader: Help me understand; I never really thought of a nurse or a doctor being a missionary.

Nurse: Actually, it is a wonderful way to be a missionary. In fact, most of the world does not have the kind of medical care we enjoy here in North America. Simple viruses, like colds, or bacterial infections, like leprosy, that are easily treatable kill many people because they have no access to medical or dental care.

Leader: So, tell me how it works.

Nurse: Well, for me it's kind of cool. I work on a Mercy Ship®, which is basically a floating hospital. We have all our medical supplies, nurses, and doctors on a big boat. We dock in different countries for two or three months at a time, and we give free medical care to anyone who needs it.

Leader: That is really nice, but what has all this got to do with God?

Nurse: That's the great part. Many of our patients visit us many times for treatment, or have extended stays with us on the Mercy Ship®. While they are there, we get a chance to talk to them about Jesus. Our chaplain (or the counseling pastor on our ship) also visits our patients, encourages and prays with them, and tells them about Jesus. It's a great way to find what people need, serve them, and show them the true love of God.

Leader: That is amazing! So who pays for all this care?

Nurse: I put up my own money to be a part of this adventure, but many churches, businesses, and people contribute money to pay for all the medicine and supplies and the costs to run the ship. It's an amazing way for people to work together to help others who are less fortunate.

Leader: I guess there are always sick people, right?

Nurse: That is what is truly amazing about this whole thing. Every nation in the world needs medical help, and God wants every nation in the world to hear about Jesus and the Gospel. It's a great way to introduce people to Jesus—in every part of the world!

Leader: Thank you for taking the time to share. Where are you off to now?

Nurse: I'm going to Africa next. My ship leaves tomorrow. I guess I'd better make sure I have everything I need! Please pray for me while I go. These people come wanting care for their physical needs and end up leaving with their hearts healed as well. One day you boys and girls are going to get to meet my patients in heaven! Isn't that something!?

Leader: Thanks for your time. God bless you!

[Nurse exits.]

Leader: What did you think of that, boys and girls? *[Give time for response.]* Have you ever heard of a Mercy Ship® before? *[Give time for response.]* Let's pray right now for all the doctors and nurses in all the countries of the world who are helping to heal bodies and hearts for God!

Dear Jesus, we pray that You would be with every nurse and doctor who is on the mission field right now sharing their skills and Your love with so many people. We pray that You would provide everything they need so they can help many people. Protect them as they work. We pray that You would raise up many people to help them pay for supplies, do the work, and share Jesus with so many people! Thank You for the creative ways we can reach the whole world for You, Jesus, amen.

***CHARACTERS:** These are suggested characters and names. Please feel free to change or adjust according to the actors and props you have available.

SAMPLE



EXPLORE SCRIPTURE

Seize on the children's interest and direct them into God's Word.



Let's Search!—Bible Dash

Supplies: Bibles



Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command "SEARCH!" have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, "FOUND IT!" Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson. When finished, go back through the references and read each sentence, leaving out the word in italics to see if the kids can supply the missing words.

- Acts 10:34–35
- John 3:16
- Matthew 28:18–20
- 1 Timothy 2:4
- 2 Peter 3:9
- Proverbs 8:31
- Matthew 24:14

God accepts people from every nation.
God loves the people of the *entire* world.
Jesus said to make disciples of *all* people.
God wants *all* people to be saved.
God does not want *anyone* to perish.
God is delighted in the *whole* world.
God wants the *whole* world to hear His message.



Paul's Power Principle: God is Lord of every person on the planet!

Suggested Bible Narrative

The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost—Acts 2

God's followers were all praying, then the Holy Spirit showed up. God wanted every person—Jew and Gentile, in every language—to hear the good news about Jesus Christ. God used the 120 people praying in the upper room that day to do just that. Who are you praying for?



Let's Learn!—Discover God's Plan

Supplies: Jeopardy® questions and cards found in the Lesson 1 download folder (*This activity takes around 20 minutes.*)



There are many religions around the world whose beliefs are not based on the good news about Jesus, but only five main religions. Today we are going to learn about the people who practice those religions and what they believe. We are going to play Thumbs Up Thumbs Down Jeopardy®. Identify and explain the five people groups that the kids are sitting in.

Set up your Jeopardy® board before the children arrive. You will teach as you play the game.

Divide your group into two teams by numbering off (kids no longer need to sit in the people groups you gave them at first). Explain that each team will take turns competing to win points. The first team will select a category and amount (the higher the points, the harder the

question). Read the statement from the provided Jeopardy® cards. The team decides if the statement is true or false and correspondingly gives it a thumbs up or a thumbs down. Reveal the correct answer and follow it with a brief explanation of that specific topic. If the team answers correctly, they can choose again. If they get it wrong, play defers to the other team.

Note: Be sure to set aside enough time to play through the entire game with the teaching points. The end of the game demonstrates the difference between each of these religious ideas and Christianity. At the end of the game, take time to reaffirm that no matter what people believe, God desires for them to know Him, and we can be part of His plan to win the world for Jesus.

Recommendation: Follow up this lesson portion immediately with a small group activity and discussion to allow kids to ask their questions and get clarification.



Dee's Disciple Tip: Review the five religious groups again. Have the kids who are in each letter group stand up as you call out, "Give me a T, Give me an H," and so on, and have them say what their letter stands for.

Use the word THUMB to remember the five basic non-Christian religions (or belief systems):

- T:** Tribal
- H:** Hindu
- U:** Unreligious
- M:** Muslim
- B:** Buddhist

Pray for each group that they would come to know Jesus, the Way, Truth, and Life—and the only way to the Father (John 14:6).



KeyVerse

Topic: Everyone Must Hear

Reference: *Romans 10:14–15*



There are four steps to becoming a believer in Christ laid out in this passage, presented in reverse order: sending, preaching, hearing, and believing. During this first week, after reading the entire passage together several times, point out this progression to the children, and then focus on the first phrase and ask the kids what it means to believe in Jesus. Don't worry too much about perfect answers, just get them thinking about this important topic. You can clarify as the unit goes on.



INSPIRE ACTION

Encourage kids to apply the Bible truth to their lives.



Dramatize the Point—Agent to the Star

[Joe arrives wearing a slick suit, carrying an attaché case, sunglasses, and a business card.]



Joe: Well, good morning, ladies and gentlemen. How are you all doing today?

Leader: Oh, hello! Uh, welcome to DiscipleTown, Joe!

Joe: Thank you, thank you very much. I feel very welcomed!

Leader: Oh, good. Uh, what are you doing here? Don't you have a business to run?

Joe: Well, I'm here on business, actually. I work for a very important individual, and we are looking for someone very specific today. I was hoping you could help me.

Leader: Uh, well, what do you want with this person?

Joe: It's not me, actually, but my boss—the Big Man Himself. He really wants to meet this person. He's been telling me for weeks how important this person is to Him.

Leader: Really?

Joe: Yes. The Big Man said that if He could meet this person, it would make Him so happy.

Leader: I see. Well, who is this person?

Joe: This person is very special to the Big Man. In fact, the Big Man has gone to great lengths to find this person! I only hope the person is here and will agree to a meeting.

Leader: This Boss of yours sounds very intriguing, and very important! I wish people wanted to see me that badly—ha, ha, ha. So Joe, let's help you find this person. This person must be someone special!

Joe: Oh yes, this person is very special. *[Pauses to reach into his jacket pocket for the paper on which the name is written.]* Let me see here, I am looking for *[leader's name]*. *[Looks out to audience expecting to find this person among the kids.]* Uh, anyone here by that name? I hope I didn't get the wrong place. Man, I was sure I had it right. Kids, do you know a *[leader's name]*? *[Continue until the kids start to point at the Leader. Leader is befuddled and confused. Finally, Joe realizes it's the leader.]*

Joe: Are you *[leader's name]*?

Leader: Uh, yes I am, but I don't understand.

Joe: The Big Man would be most honored to meet you. Would you care to join me over there for coffee after your program? I know He is going to be so excited to meet you.

Leader: Uh, sure, I guess, but ...

Joe: *[Turns to the kids.]* You see, kids, God—the Big Man, the Boss—really likes people, and He wants to meet each one of them personally, but just like in business, if you want to meet someone, it's good to find someone who knows that person, and get an introduction to the person. Who do you think God wants to meet in your life? How could you introduce God to that person? Something to think about. I've got to run, though. *[Turns to leader.]* I'll see you later, then!

Leader: Wow. He really made me feel like God wanted to meet me. Do you think God really feels like that about you? About everyone in the world? *[Allow kids to respond.]*



Object Talks—Being a Global Christian by Praying

Supplies: video projection

The video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, doing a short object lesson with a Mexican martinet puppet named Pedro talking to a wooden idol about being a global Christian. They discuss the first of four ways kids can support world missions, by praying for missionaries.

Featured verses: Colossians 4:3-5



Let's Talk!—Small Group Discussion

Supplies: world map of religions (available in Lesson 1 download folder)

Provide a world map of religions to the kids. Ask them to identify countries on the map they may recognize.

Use these questions to discuss the day's topic within your small groups:

- 1) What area of the world do you think is hardest to reach with the Gospel? Why?
- 2) Which THUMB people group do you think would be the hardest to reach for God?
- 3) Who on this map does God not want to reach?
- 4) Do you know anyone personally who falls into a THUMB people group?
- 5) What can we do each day so that our friends and neighbors can learn about Jesus?



DiscipleTown Super Citizen—A Fisher of Kids

Award a Super Citizen Award to the child who brought the most friends to church today.



Let's Pray!

Dear Jesus, we have learned from Scripture today how important the world's people are to You. You do not wish that anyone would miss out on knowing about Your love. Jesus, we ask for courage to share our story and tell others of Your love. Help us to remember to pray every day for those who do not know You. Forgive us when we have felt ashamed, or made excuses for not telling others about You. Give us courage and passion for the lost. In Your holy name, amen.



Cy's Challenge: Pray each day for those who need Jesus, using the THUMB reminder.



Let's Review!

Use these questions to review the lesson with the children:

- 1) What does THUMB stand for?
- 2) In the courtroom of life, who are WE?
- 3) Whose job is it to convince others about Jesus?
- 4) Whose job is it to introduce others to Jesus?
- 5) What is one thing that makes Christianity different from other world religions?
- 6) Name two ways we can take the Good News around the world.
- 7) In all the world, who needs God the most?
- 8) How can we be a part of sharing God's Good News with the world as witnesses, not lawyers?



For the Home

DiscipleTown Table Talker: Give each child a copy of this week's DiscipleTown Table Talker. As you show them how to put it together, encourage the kids to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

Parent E-mail: Copy and send the e-mail below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these e-mails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this e-mail as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Over the next series of weeks we are embarking on an adventure to help your child(ren) think as global Christians. Never before in all of history has information and news about the world been so readily at hand. Our kids are growing up in a global community, and that gives them an amazing opportunity to share Christ on a global scale like never before.

This week we talked about five major people groups or belief systems in the world. I want to encourage you to ask your children about the THUMB groups and allow them to ask questions. Take the time to use the THUMB acronym to pray for the many unreached people groups of the world, that God would reach them with His love.

You will find great DiscipleTown Table Talkers to use at the dinner table to spark conversation about faith, Jesus, and His passion to reach the lost. As we go through this series together, watch for news stories that may highlight ways that you and your child(ren) can serve and love the global community for the sake of Christ.

As always, we are here to be a support and resource to you as you parent your child(ren). Let us know how we can pray and help you throughout this series!

Building young disciples,

[Your Name]



BONUS MATERIALS

Use these options to extend your time or as substitutes for the ideas above.



Chip's Snack Time!

Supplies: Cheese spread or another spray topping, soda crackers or slices of bread, plastic knives, paper plates

Ensure each child has a plate, knife, and a few soda crackers. Instruct the children to apply the topping over the entire surface of the cracker, not missing a single spot!

Teachable point: **The same way we wanted to cover the cracker with cheese spread, not missing a single spot, God wants to cover the whole world with His Good News, not missing a single person.**

Additional Ideas

Good News Booklet—This book craft will create a personalized tool that children can use to share Jesus' message. You'll need the booklet and heart templates available in the Supplemental Resources download folder of this unit. Print and cut out one booklet and six hearts for each child.

Have kids color and design the hearts to match six steps of the Good News message (a coloring guide appears at the end of the template). As they work on each heart, explain the corresponding step in more detail.

Once they have colored all six hearts, have them glue the hearts onto the booklet template pages. They can then fold the template into a simple square that reveals one step at a time.

Option: You can split this activity among all four lessons by having kids color only two hearts at a time. In this manner, have kids work on hearts 1 and 2 for this lesson, explain those steps and tell the children what to expect the coming lesson. In Lesson 4, you'll assemble the book.

Bring the Bible to the World Game—**Supplies:** big map of the world, blindfolds, small Bible pictures with tape on back, hat or bucket filled with strips of paper with names of major (familiar) countries

This game is a game of geography, exploring the idea that God wants all the world to hear His Good News. It may be helpful to quickly review the major continents of the world and where they are on the big map. Divide your group into two teams. Use the common game of Paper, Rock, and Scissors to see who goes first. The first team sends a delegate to draw the name of a country. The player has 30 seconds to find it on the map. Then the player must put on the blindfold, spin three times, and proceed to place the small Bible with tape in the correct spot or region of the country. If they get within two inches of the target, they get one point for their team. Continue playing as time permits. The team with the most points wins. Increase the difficulty with older kids by requiring more precision.

Easier Option for Younger Children: Simply divide the group into two teams; blindfold the kids and take turns, then award one point for each Bible that is placed on a country and not in the ocean!



Missions Airplane Trip—Want to take kids on a “trip” that they will not forget? Imagine coming into an airplane and then exiting to a new and exciting place, without ever leaving your church. One way to get kids excited about this unit is to have them enter the kids church room via an airplane trip!

All you have to do is decorate a hallway outside the room like the inside of an airplane, have the kids check in, and have them take their seats in the “airplane.” If you have any flight attendants in your church, have them do the safety procedures just like on a real plane. Show an “in-flight movie” of the country you are studying, or a missionary you are learning about or supporting; then when the flight is over, have them exit out the other end of the “plane” into a room that is decorated like the country you are visiting! For windows, you can use blue paper with clouds on it, or look for cloud stationery (available at some office supply stores) and cut it into the shape of airplane windows. The kids will really get into it!

If you have more kids than will fit in the “plane,” simply take several “flights” to get the kids into the kids church room. It’s a little work, but well worth it. It will create a fun memory.



Risk or Monopoly Object Lesson—Begin by asking the children if they have ever played your board game. Ask them what the object of your game is. (To take over or own the most property/territory.)

Teachable point: Just as we have to gain the most territory in order to win at our game, in order for God to win in the world, He needs to gain the most territory for Himself. In fact, He wants it all. He wants every single person in the world to know about His great love. We can help God win!