



Being and Making Disciples in the Cities

Lessons 10-12

MISSIONS EDUCATION LESSONS
2023



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Missions Education Journal (Part 4) on the Trinidad and Tobago District, authored by our very own local Nazarenes, helping to highlight mission stories within Trinidad and Tobago and on our Region – Mesoamerica.

We will be following a staggered release of lessons every quarter to **help** with your Mission Education Sessions, Mission Moments and Children and Youth Mission Sessions. Each month, the lesson provided will bring focus to the NMI Monthly Emphasis.

The Lessons

Most lessons follow the same format. Using the summary below, familiarize yourself with lesson components and their purposes.

- **Lesson Purpose:** Missions stories are inspiring and more memorable when listeners understand the importance behind them.
- **Scripture:** The verses coordinate with the topic. These are sometimes used within the presentations. If not, please read them to the group. This helps your people associate scripture with missions.
- **Fast Facts:** These statistics about the lesson topic are, at times, worked into the presentation. For those times when they are not, use them to enrich the learning experience.
- **Lesson Information:** This may include an introduction, one or more missions stories, and sometimes additional material on the topic. Use as much of the Lesson Information as time allows.
- **Presentation Ideas:** Three options are presented – each for different age groups, children, youth and adults.
- **ACT ON IT:** These practical ideas for personal involvement pertain to the lesson topic. They are varied and can include prayer, giving, and participating in local or global projects that may turn into long-term ministries for your church.
- **Resources:** This lists websites, videos, books, and additional articles on the lesson topic.

The Theme: Being and Making Disciples in the Cities

The main theme on the Mesoamerica Region over the next four years is "Being and making disciples". The sub-theme our District is using this year is "Being and Making Disciples in the Cities". Research has shown that the cities are the most populated spaces in countries, yet, the presence of the Church of the Nazarene in these areas are little to none. As such, our Region is putting increased attention on evangelism in the cities.

Authors

Our authors for our final group of Mission Lessons for 2023 are

1. *Shelly Ann Hope* - District NMI Care and Connection Coordinator. Along with her missions service at a District level, Shelly Ann serves on her local church's NMI Council, and has done so faithfully for a number of years. She is a member of the Dibe Church of the Nazarene and works in the insurance industry.
2. *Rev. Donnamie Ali* - Rev. Donnamie Ali has served in NMI with distinction for over 45 years. Her most recent role has been Caribbean Field NMI Coordinator, leading and mentoring District NMI Presidents on the Caribbean Field. She is also a former District NMI President, former NMI representative to the Global Council and a retired teacher.
3. *Lenetta Cowie-Clarke* - Sis Cowie-Clarke serves as Local NMI President at the Canaan Church of the Nazarene and has done so for many years. She also serves in the multimedia ministry in her church. She is a secondary school teacher by profession.

I wish to thank all those who have come on board to write these lessons as well as those who are working behind the scene. Thank you to every member of the District NMI Council and to our editor, Rev. Donnamie Ali. We are still looking for persons to help with the lessons in the new year as we seek to highlight the stories of those amongst us and those nearby. Feel free to reach out to us with your comments, suggestions and to volunteer to write a lesson. We hope that this material answers a need for resources for teaching about missions in our churches. God bless you.

Leigh Hope

District NMI President

LESSON 10

Caring and Connecting with our missionaries

Lesson Prepared By: Shelly Ann Hope

Caring and Connecting with our missionaries

October Emphasis - Care and Connection

LESSON PURPOSE:

- To witness the impact of Care and Connection on the Missionary/Pastoral Family and the District/Local Church.

SCRIPTURE (CHILDREN):

“Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.”

3 John 5-6

FAST FACTS:

Care and Connection is a network of personal connections between missionaries and Nazarene Districts around the world.

The Care and Connection initiative was formerly referred to as “L.I.N.K.S.”, then “Links”. It was changed to Care and Connection in 2022.

A Care and Connection relationship fosters a sense of involvement with Nazarene Missions through regular correspondence from missionaries, updates from their field of service, and presentations to a District by their Care and Connection missionary family when they are on home assignment.

The Trinidad and Tobago district has had many former Care and Connection Missionary families, such as Howie and Bev Shute, who were serving in Africa, Monte and Bethany Cyr, who also served in Africa and most recently, from 2018-2022, Esteban and Dhariana Murillo, who are serving in Panama.

The Trinidad and Tobago District is currently assigned to Carlos and Robin Radiszewski (Radi) who are serving in Argentina. The Radis have three daughters, Nicol, Natasha and Natalie.

FAST FACTS (continued):

On the Trinidad and Tobago District, we have our local Care and Connection initiative where each Pastor is connected to a local church. The local church is expected to connect with the Pastor and his family throughout the year, offer prayer and show their love and support in tangible and intangible ways.

LESSON INFORMATION

This month, we look at how the Care and Connection initiative has impacted missionaries and Districts.

PRAYING WITH THE MURILLOS

In August 2018, the Trinidad and Tobago District was blessed to be linked to the missionary family, the Murillos - a family of four, Dhariana (mother), Esteban (father), Etienne (son) and Dhana (daughter). Dhariana and Esteban are missionaries serving in Panama. Dhariana is the Regional Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Coordinator and Esteban handles Communications for the Region.

The Connection

The District NMI Council in Trinidad and Tobago reached out to the family via email initially to begin building a relationship with them. Conversations moved to WhatsApp and was more frequent. Both the District and the missionary family were excited about the connection. The District learned more about the family and their ministry and received prayer requests on occasion. Prayer was a vital part of this connection. Another part was inviting the family to be a part of events on our District, such as speaking at our District Convention and judging our Children's Competition highlighting Nazarene Child Sponsorship.



The Murillos

Care

The Trinidad and Tobago District also showed care and love to the Murillos, in tangible and intangible ways. When Dhariana visited Trinidad and Tobago, the District surprised her with a special dinner, fruit basket and gifts for the entire family. They also supported them in ministry by attending their workshops and through prayer. They prayed for their children and school, for healing, for their ministry and many other things. One of the things the District prayed for was the sale or rental of the Murillo's house in Costa Rica. It was a financial burden for the family to pay the

mortgage and they urgently needed it sold. The request came in October 2021 and the house was sold in August 2022. To God be the glory!

The Trinidad and Tobago District benefitted from having the Murillos as their Links missionaries. When floods significantly affected East Trinidad in October 2018, Dhariana reached out and worked to ensure significant funds were sent to assist those affected. In 2021, when the Spanish church was growing in Arima, Dhariana was the point of contact to guide the District to the appropriate channels to receive two Spanish Ministry Coordinators missionaries. The District and the Murillos are now closely connected and even though they are not officially linked to each other, they continue to keep that relationship growing.

EXPERIENCING THE CULTURE OF ARGENTINA

As we saw with the Murillos, the Care and Connection initiative does not only benefit the missionary. The District also gains a lot from the Connection. In August 2022, the Trinidad and Tobago District was assigned a new Care and Connection family, the Radziszewskis (Radis). The COVID-19 pandemic inspired the missions department to host the Radis virtually for a live interview in January 2023. During that interview, the District was able to learn about the family, their ministry and the growth of the church in Argentina! One thing that was observed during the interview was that the Radis were sharing a drink and it seemed to be quite tasty.

We learned that it was a very popular tea in Argentina. They invited delegates to the Global Convention to taste it if their paths crossed at the Conventions. The Global NMI delegates had the privilege of meeting the Radis and did share in that tea drink. The custom was also that everyone had to drink from the same straw. The experience was described as “delightful, exciting and a privilege” by delegates. One delegate shared that she is so happy that Trinbagonians have “family” in another part of the world, who are awesome and have given her that wonderful experience that made her feel as if she were Argentinian!



The Radis

A LOCAL LINKS CONNECTION – VACATIONING TOGETHER

In 2013 and 2014, one of our local churches in Trinidad and Tobago were connected to a Pastoral family through the District’s Local Links initiative. Neither church members nor the Pastoral family thought that this connection would be able to build a strong bond as the one shared with family. Their mutual care and connection for each other developed a strong bond over the two years, so much so, that the Pastoral family joined some members of that church on a trip abroad in 2019 and they had a wonderful time together.

TESTIMONY – Rev. Kwame Payne

I have fond memories of our churches LINKS (Loving Interested Nazarenes Knowing and Sharing) Program in Trinidad and Tobago. Through this program I, as a Nazarene Pastor, have been able to meet the Pastors and Members of 20 of our 32 Local Congregations in a happy, friendly setting.

Sometimes, I was just feted by the Pastor(s) and Local Church Board with Food, Drink, and Gifts. At other times, I was welcomed to a Sunday Morning Church Service as a Guest Speaker who was loaded with Gifts and feted with Food and Drink! Also, most times I was gifted with a Financial Contribution to my Ministry.

Usually, the Local NMI President would contact me. Sometimes these contacts went beyond fixing a date for my visit to include inquiries about me, my family, and the Local Church I was pastoring.

In a few cases, I actually made new friends for life with the Local NMI President. Where the Local Pastor was truly involved in NMI, I would also bond with that Pastor.

I support participation in our District's Local LINKS Program as it helped me to know Nazarenes in all our Local Churches involved in this Ministry. Where the Local Pastor was intimately involved this usually led to a closer bond between myself and that Local Church!!!

I can boast that I have at least 1 friend in every Local Church with which I have been linked as the Local LINKS Pastor!!!

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

1. Craft/Activity: Make Paper chains using different colors. Show how the connections are strong by suspending objects from one end. Say The Care and Connection initiative that we will learn about today show us how strong connections can be formed with others.
2. Play the first video with the Murillos (Mission Moments: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQUPSiw00x8>).
3. Share the story "Praying with the Murillos", followed by the second video of the Murillos (<https://youtu.be/pRsd2faCYMw?t=4364>)
4. Discuss "How did the Care and Connection initiative impact the Murillo family, as well as the Trinidad and Tobago District?"

5. Inform the children that they have an opportunity to be a part of the initiative since their church is connected to a local Pastor. Share information about your Care and Connection Pastor.
6. Engage the children in an activity to make a tangible gift to their local Care and Connection Pastor and family. It could be a card or a craft item! Send us pictures of what you do and be sure to send it to your Care and Connection Pastor.
7. Say a prayer for your Local Links Pastor and his family and for the Radi family.

Youth & Adults

1. Do an icebreaker activity. Explain how sharing information about yourself helps in building relationships and connecting with people.
2. Look at the Scripture 3 John 5-6. Discuss what it means and how it relates to missionaries and John's joy that Gaius was being a friend of missionaries.
3. Share the Fast Facts of the Care and Connection Initiative, highlighting that we have the opportunity to be the friend of missionaries and Pastors through this initiative.
4. Have different youths/adults read the different stories and retell them in their own words, sharing on the impact of the initiative on both parties involved.
5. Show the video of the Murillos Farewell (<https://youtu.be/pRsd2faCYMw?t=4364>)
6. Discuss ways you can personally connect with and show care for the Radis and your local Care and Connection Pastor and family. From the ideas raised, select one tangible way to show care and do this for your Care and Connection Pastor and family.
7. Pray for the initiative, the Radis and your local Care and Connection Pastor.

ACT ON IT

1. Pray for the Radis and your local Care and Connection Pastor regularly.
2. Reach out to them, especially on special occasions.
3. Shower them with care packages and gifts as much as possible. It reminds them that you are thinking about them.

RESOURCES

1. NMI YouTube Channel (videos found in lesson)
2. <https://nazarene.org/who-we-are/organization/ministries/nazarene-missions-international/care-and-connection>

LESSON 11

Thanksgiving Testimonies

Lesson Prepared By: Rev. Donnamie Ali

Thanksgiving Testimonies

November Emphasis - World Evangelism Fund

LESSON PURPOSE:

- 1.To help adults, youth and children develop a greater understanding of why we should give thanks to God.
- 2.To help adults, youth and children share the vision of the Church of the Nazarene in expressing our thanks in giving to the Thanksgiving Offering for World Evangelism.

SCRIPTURE:

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"
Psalm 107:1

FAST FACTS:

The Apostle James reminds believers that every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17). For this reason, the Church of the Nazarene encourages its members to express thanks to God for his goodness in a tangible way that calls for sacrificial giving.

As followers of Christ, we are all called to be ambassadors of the Kingdom throughout the world. And through the Thanksgiving offering, the global Church of the Nazarene, does exactly that. Not only are we showing Christ's love to our neighbours locally, but we are also showing it to those thousands of miles away.

When our churches support this fund, they are supporting the actions of Nazarenes loving others in Christ's name, truly making Christlike disciples in all nations.

LESSON INFORMATION:

Introduction

In the Church of the Nazarene great emphasis is placed on giving thanks to God. We will now turn our focus on three testimonies from the Trinidad & Tobago district that concerns thankfulness to God and the Thanksgiving offering for Word Evangelism.



Cindy Ann Collymore (District NDI President & member of the Dibe COTN)

When I think of thanksgiving I think about the goodness of God in my life. It is usually an opportunity for me to look back on the past year and the blessings that my family and I have received. When I begin to systematically count our blessings like this, I usually think of the words that I have always heard my mother say 'You can't outgive God!' Thanksgiving offering is used for world evangelism. When I give my thanksgiving offering it is my way of showing my love for God and all he has done for my family. The added bonus is that it is used to spread His word across the globe.



Loraine Grant (Work & Witness Volunteer and member of the Tunapuna COTN)

It is always a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. Some people do it in the form of the first fruits of their harvest while others give thanks to God for touching their lives in different ways.

Thanksgiving means more than fruits, provisions, or baked goodies. It is my daily life activities and even more than an annual celebration on a calendar. Yes, we all look forward for the gathering of the produce from our backyard garden or those of us who do not have such a privilege would purchase them so that there will be a splendid display on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving or giving thanks is more meaningful today than it was twenty-three years ago because, of a near death experience. Back then, I was ailing from a medical condition and was given the usual indefinite call back appointment. However, the condition grew worse and on one fateful day the cyst ruptured.

I was told that when I arrived at the emergency centre, my vital signs were extremely low and I was rushed into the operating room. However, the surgery was aborted, and I was placed in the intensive care unit where I spent eleven days. During that time my heart stopped four times. It's only by the grace of God that I am alive today.

I am thankful to God because even though I had professed to be a Christian I was not prepared for death. However, God through His mercy has given me the opportunity to develop a closer relationship with Him. I will be forever grateful to God.



Rev. Carlyle Isaac

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me? I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." (Psalm 116:12-13)

My experiences have taught me to rejoice based on the spirit of gratitude. Thanksgiving is the reception of the gifts of mercy and the gratitude that is the response to it.

When the battle for my soul was raging, the Devil spoke into my youthful mind saying, "If you would give your life to Christ, you would never have friends again." But grace enabled me to respond that if One should love me as to die for me, then in the spirit of gratitude, I should give my life to Him.

I yielded my soul to the Lordship of Jesus and He saved me. Today, I can rejoice in Him, the Rock of my salvation.

The attitude of gratitude did not only lead me to salvation, but it has sustained my commitment to the Lord. Paul's admonition: "In everything give thanks: for this

is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you", has been my constant mantra. I have learned to be thankful no matter what. I have proven over and over that all things work together for my good.

Thanksgiving is not just an attitude deeply rooted in the spirit, but also culturally, an event to celebrate. As our denomination has bought into it, adapting it as a means of generating funds for the support of World Mission, I have benefited tremendously. My school fees at CNTC (now CNC) were heavily subsidized by World Mission. I am a product of World Mission, which is supported by cheerful and thankful givers to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).

I owe a debt of gratitude to Him who loves me, having freed me from Satan's bondage and made me His dear son, delivering me from sin's slavery. I am moved to continually ask, like David, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me?"

Story Discussion

1. In what way/s do these testimonies impact you? How did you feel as you were listening to them?
2. Is there anyone present who would like to share a personal thanksgiving story?
3. Did you know that the WEF of which the Thanksgiving offering is a part, helps students at our theological schools around the world? Will this fact lead you to give more generously?

PRESENTATION IDEAS

- (a) Some follow up can be done with any of these persons for a more comprehensive account of their testimonies. This can be recorded and presented to the membership
- (b) Video links are given, but you can source others from your District NMI President.
- (c) Rev. Isaac's chosen verse from Psalm 116 reminds the reader of the song- 'What can I render to Jehovah?' by Travis Greene. Consider using this song in some part of your lesson presentation.
- (d) Use one of the videos with children for the younger ones. Let them talk about things they're thankful for and decorate their Thanksgiving envelopes.

ACT ON IT!

PRAYER

Thank God for the many blessings we experience

Thank God for His love, mercy and salvation

Thank God for the Nazarenes around the world who will give generously in the Thanksgiving Offering for world evangelism.

Thank God for the many whose lives will be impacted by our prayers and giving.

Thank God for our district leaders and all who voluntarily give of their services and means to advance God's Kingdom in our nation.

RESOURCES:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4Mn00rz510>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsEY4UgeyEc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Myq59O1bHQk>

LESSON 12

And the Rains came right on time

Lesson Prepared By: Lenetta Cowie-Clarke

And the Rains came right on time

December Emphasis - World Evangelism Fund

LESSON PURPOSE:

To understand why there is a need to be thankful and to express thanks to God our Creator.

SCRIPTURE:

“And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.”

Matthew 14:19

FAST FACTS:

Jesus himself expressed thanks to the Father several times. He showed us how to acknowledge how good God has been to us through pray and praise. Many scriptures, especially in Psalms encourage us to give thanks always.

As disciples of Jesus who are committed to the Great Commission, we encourage everyone to express their thanks to God by playing their part in fulfilling the Great Commission. They may not be able to go into all the world directly, but indirectly, we can all give so others can go.

In the Church of the Nazarene, a special offering is collected around Thanksgiving time for World Evangelism.

LESSON INFORMATION

The Work and Witness team on the Trinidad and Tobago District comprises of volunteers from Trinidad and Tobago; pastors, laymen and women who give of their time, talent and resources to assist in physical projects, together with evangelism, throughout their country and the Caribbean.



The Georges

AND THE RAINS CAME RIGHT ON TIME

Rev. Victor George and his wife Marilyn are both Tobagonians. They, together with the rest of the Work and Witness Trinidad and Tobago Contingent, traveled to the beautiful Caribbean island of Dominica, in August 2023.

Their mission was a simple one: lay bricks for the church manse of the Bioche Church of the Nazarene as far as the ring beams. Another team would continue the work with the construction of the roof. Even though the mission was simple the task itself wasn't.

Men and women worked several days continuously from early morning to mid afternoon shoveling gravel, mixing concrete and laying bricks. Laying bricks in the open under the hot Caribbean sun was no easy venture. Although the early days were spent planning the work, most days were spent working outside. Guess what the Lord did for these Caribbean missionaries?

He sent clouds to cover the blazing heat of the sun. This meant that during the day, it was mostly overcast so these hard working men and women could work comfortably. There was little to no rain so the work proceeded without delay.

After 4 days of intense non-stop work the ring beams were ready to be cast. It took 7 1/2 hours to complete the ring beams and pour the concrete and still the mighty hand of God protected his people from the intense heat of the day. For concrete to cure properly it needs moisture after it dries and hardens. Guess what the Lord did for his people?

God opened the heavens and the rains fell for the entire weekend after the concrete had dried. What an amazing on-time God! While they laboured in the field God protected them from the sun and when the work was finished the showers came, just what they needed!

Rev. George and the other missionaries prayed continuously and gave thanks to God for his protection and care.



How it started



How it ended



How it went

PRESENTATION IDEAS

The story and the video can be shared to the classes in one big group at the start or to each group separately if classes are separated into rooms. Additionally, the video can be played as an audio clip by downloading before lesson.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdgTNYCFdf0>

Children

Materials needed: 1 DEVICE TO SHOW VIDEO (It can be done as audio only if no visual media is available), Missional Story, Short printing paper 8x11 (one for each child), pencils (one for each child)

STEPS

1. Ask them what they understand by the words "Give" and "thanks". Demonstrate passing a pencil to one child. One expects that the child will say "Thank you". Acknowledge their responses.
2. Explain briefly that giving thanks is how we recognize or acknowledge when someone was kind to us.
3. Ask "Do you think Jesus gave thanks"? Do you remember any time that Jesus gave thanks?
4. Watch (or listen) video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdgTNYCFdf0>
5. Ask children what they learnt from the video

Comment that in all 3 stories Jesus gave thanks to The Father. He was grateful for all that was given to Him and expressed that by giving thanks to the One who gives all things.

6. Ask students if they ever had an outdoor function like a school sports, recess time or even a wedding to attend and they prayed for no rain? Let's listen to this amazing Missional Story about 3 days of rain that came at the perfect time. (Read the Missional Story)
7. Ask them HOW they think the workers showed thanks to God for sending the rains when he did.

ACTIVITY: THE THANKFUL PLANE

1. On their paper let the children write 3 to 5 things they are thankful for. It doesn't have to be done neatly. Pencils, markers, crayons or coloured pencils can be used. DO NOT WRITE THEIR NAMES ON THE PAPER
2. Let the children fold the paper into a plane and tell them they have 30 seconds to fly their plane within the classroom.
3. At the end of 30 sec each child will pick up a plane that is NOT theirs.
4. Each child will open one plane and read the Thankful List. The other children will try to guess whose plane it is. Return planes to rightful owners.

AFFECTIVE

Tell the children that there are many persons around the world who still haven't heard about the Good News of Jesus Christ. There are many brave men and women who are called to leave the comforts of their own homes and go to these areas and spread the Gospel. They are called missionaries. However, they need our help because they need money to purchase Bibles, medicine, clothes and food. Whenever you give money in the Thanksgiving Offering it goes to helping the missionaries who are working hard to share the Jesus News. Don't you want all the children like you to know about Jesus and how he loves all the children in the world? Give today.

WRAP -UP

Ensure that the children know:

- a. God is good, He is love. He is the giver of all good things
- b. Always tell God thanks
- c. God enjoys hearing his children praise Him.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Chronicles 16:34

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.

Youths

Materials needed: Missional Story, 1 DEVICE TO SHOW VIDEO (It can be done as audio only if no visual media is available), pencils (one for each teen), Bibles, Photocopied pages of crossword puzzle - Appendix A (one per teen), small object e.g. a small ball

STEPS

- 1.State the topic of today's lesson and ask who is supposed to give thanks.
- 2.Ask them if they know that Jesus also gave thanks even though he was the Messiah.
- 3.Watch (or listen) to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdgTNYCFdf0>
4. Focus on the fact that Jesus gave thanks to His Heavenly Father regularly. Ask them what are they thankful for? Give guiding questions like:
 - a. What can't you live without?
 - b. How many beaches can you name?
 - c. What organs in your body are most important?
 - d. What school do you attend?

5. Ask: Have you ever prayed for no rain so an outdoor activity could take place OR prayed for rains to prevent an outdoor activity from taking place? Listen to this amazing Missional Story about God holding back the rain.
(Read missional lesson)
6. Ask: How do they think the workers gave thanks to God for his timely intervention?
7. Proceed to the activity below.

ACTIVITY- SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE

1. Ask teens: What does the Bible say about thanksgiving and praise?
2. Distribute the crossword puzzle (Appendix A) and tell them to read the clues and the scripture reading at the end of each clue to find the word that fits into the puzzle. Answers for the teacher is also available.
3. Ask teens what scripture was most meaningful to them.
4. 1 John 2:6 tells us to walk as Jesus walked. Do you think that means to pray and give thanks just like he did? What are some reasons for giving thanks?
5. Tell teens that you are about to throw a small ball to them. A person can only talk when they are holding the ball.
6. Throw the ball at one child and ask him to say one thing that he is grateful for. Continue this until each child says something at least once. No repeat answers.
7. Remind them that God is the giver of all good things. He knows exactly what we need and when we need it, just like the Missionaries in the story. God sent the rains at the perfect time. Giving thanks MUST occur daily.

AFFECTIVE

Tell the teens that there are many persons around the world who still haven't heard about the Good News of Jesus Christ. There are many brave men and women who are called to leave the comforts of their own homes and go to these areas and spread the Gospel. They are called missionaries. However, they need our help because they need money to purchase Bibles, medicine, clothes and food. Whenever you give money in the Thanksgiving Offering it goes to helping the missionaries who are working hard to share the Jesus News. All the money collected from around the world is then sent to the missionaries to help them deliver the Gospel efficiently. Be part of the process and give today.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Adults

STEPS:

1. Ask adults to list as many local fruits as they can. Similarly with local beaches or local medicinal plants. What do you think is the benefits of having such a wide variety of seasonal fruits or different kinds of beaches? What a great God we serve!

2. State that the topic for today's lesson is Thanksgiving. Read the Missional Lesson.

3. Discussion questions

a. Did the story remind you of any similar occurrence in the Bible concerning rainfall? Discuss them.

b. In the story of Elijah and Ahab when he prayed for rains, the people bowed and gave praises to God. Do you think their praises were sincere or were they just in awe of Elijah's God?

c. Recap briefly or read the stories of: The Five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14: 15-21), Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11: 38-44), The Communion with Disciples before his death/ crucifixion (Matthew 26: 26-28)

These 3 stories have one commonality; Jesus always gave thanks to His Heavenly Father. Question: If Jesus and the Father are one, why is He giving thanks.

d. What kind of life did Jesus live? An exemplary lifestyle. The scripture admonishes us in 1 John 2:6 to walk like Jesus. That includes a heartfelt of thanksgiving.

e. What does it mean to have child-like faith? Can adults have child-like faith and is it easy? Is it scriptural to give thanks before receiving a blessing?

f. What are some ways to show thanks to God the Father?

AFFECTIVE

The teacher reminds the adult class about the World Evangelism Fund. No matter how large or small the offering is, the money collected goes toward the World Evangelism fund. The Global church then allocates it to the six world regions. Your gifts create and sustain ministries and make it possible to bring Christ's transformational message of hope and salvation to the world through the Church of the Nazarene. Give generously to the Thanksgiving Offering and pray continuously for the men and women missionaries out there.

MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 2: 6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

RESOURCES:

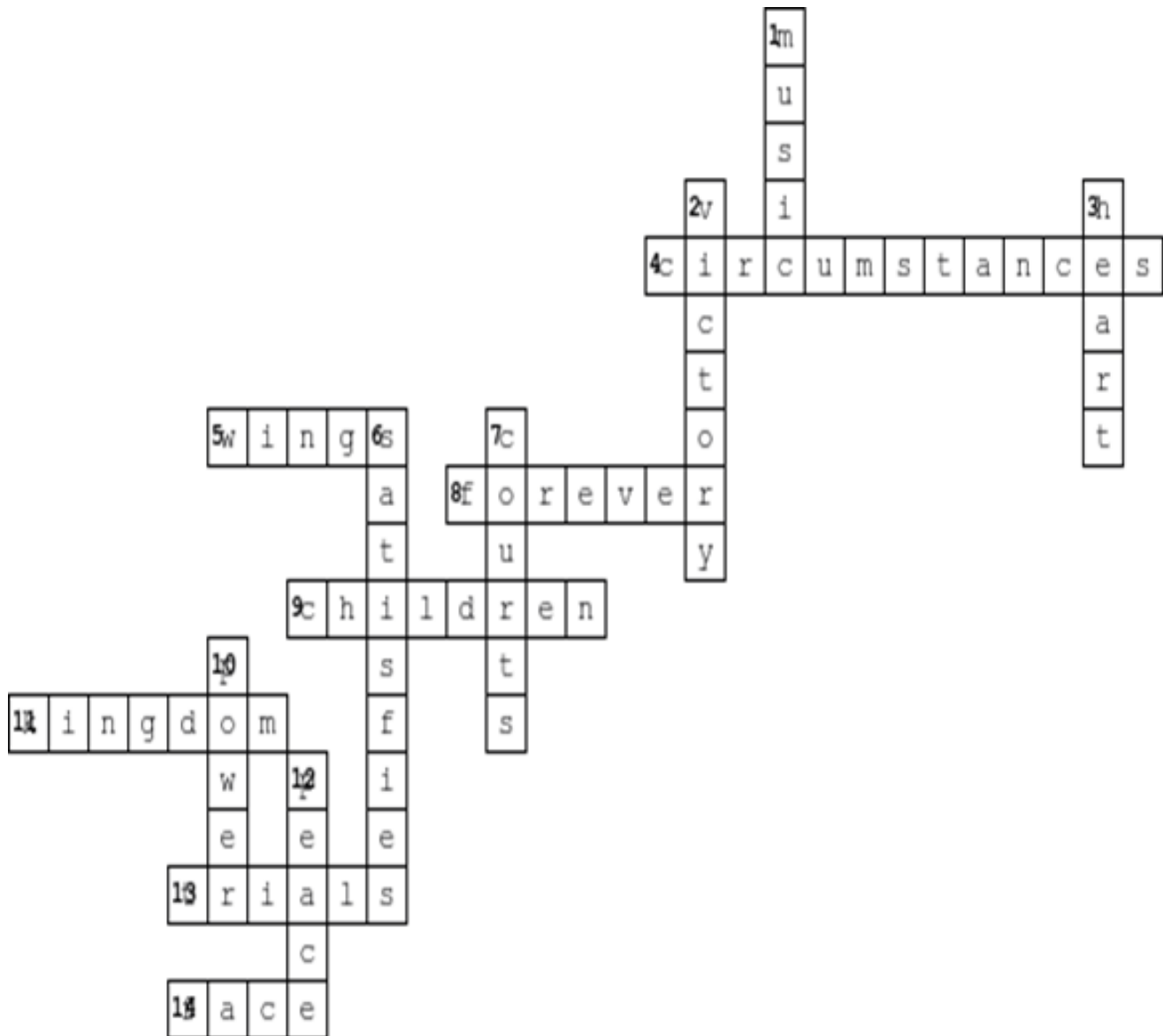
ShareFaithKids.com (YouTube)

Nazarene.org

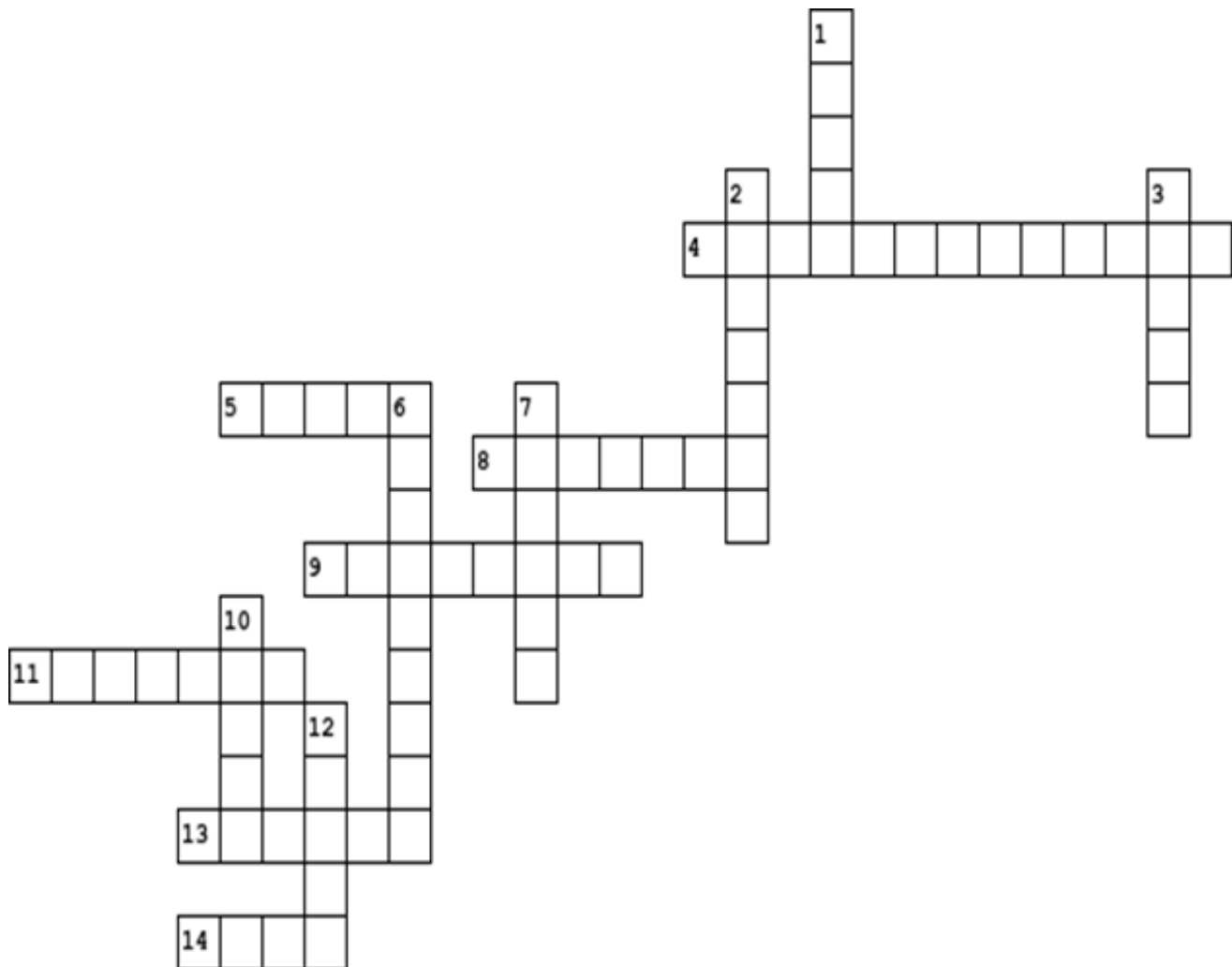
biblegate.com

Answers to crossword:

MUSIC • VICTORY • HEART • CIRCUMSTANCES • WINGS • SATISFIES • COURTS • FOREVER • CHILDREN • POWER • KINGDOM • PEACE • TRIALS • FACE



APPENDIX A



ACROSS

- 4.** When should we give thanks? In all..... (1 Thess 5:18)
- 5.** Under what do we seek refuge (Ruth 2:12)
- 8.** His love endures (Ps.106:1)
- 9.** Who did God reveal things to? (Matt 11:25)
- 11.** We will receive athat cannot be broken (Heb 12:28)
- 13.** Count it joy when you face these (1 James 1:2)
- 14.** What part of the body should the Lord shine upon you? (Matt 6:25)

DOWN

- 1.** Make this from your heart to the Lord (Eph 5:19)
- 2.** God gives usthrough Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:57)
- 3.** Do not lose(2Cor. 4:15)
- 6.** Hethe longing soul (Ps. 107:8)
- 7.** Enter His gates and(Ps 100:4)
- 10.** Lord God Almighty took this and began to reign. (Rev.11:17)
- 12.** What should rule in our heart? (Col 3:15)