

The Call to Worship Jesus

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 4****Focus:**

All people are called to worship Jesus.

Lesson 4**Bible Basis:**

Isaiah 49:6-7; 60:3;
Matthew 2:1-11

Lesson 4**Memory Verse:**

"I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."
—Isaiah 49:6b

Students will watch a graphic animation of the spread of Christianity around the world as they explore the need for the gospel of Jesus to be heard.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Optional: Chairs set up in a circle (one chair per student)

Before class, you might want to watch the following video if you are not familiar with how to play the concentration game called Categories. Be aware that in our version, a slightly different rhythm is being used and no one leaves the circle [1:02]:

Category Circle Game

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbS_BlyjPw

The holiday is in full swing with numerous activities, parties, family gatherings, and more. Keeping your students focused today may be a bit more difficult than usual.

Begin with a game. This game should take about five to ten minutes. Be sure to end the game with the categories of "countries" (see categories list below).

Have students sit in a large circle (in chairs or on the floor) and play a concentration game where they follow a rhythm of slapping their upper thighs two times, then clapping two times, then snapping their right hand, then snapping with their left hand, and then calling out something that would fit under the category you give them (see category list below). Example: If the category is fruit, the first person might list cantaloupe, the next person might say apple, the next peach, and so on. Play continues until someone misses the rhythm on their turn, can't think of something that fits in the category, or they call out something that has already been used. You will then call out the next category on the list. Students will go clockwise, in order, for this game. The following round of categories will be directed to the person in the circle who is sitting to the left of the person who has most recently messed up. No one exits the circle or is eliminated in this game. Everyone can keep playing.

Category list: desserts, restaurant names, favorite movies, favorite celebrities, music groups, etc., countries. (Be sure to end this game by playing the country category last.)

End this game using the category of *countries*. You may want to play this topic twice to see how many countries your students can come up with. This game ties in nicely with today's lesson on how all people are called to worship Jesus.

Today's lesson is about how all people are called to worship Jesus. The following video is a remarkable visual about how Christianity spread across the world over time.

Share the following video [2:28; start at 0:45]:

Animated MAP of the Spread of Christianity over the Last 2,000 Years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yuxd-wdWZI>

➤ **Were you surprised at how quickly Christianity spread?** (Most students will note that seeing the map helped them visualize the spread.)

➤ **What did you find the most interesting about the timeline of the spread of Christianity?** (Students will notice different things. Some may notice that Africa has been reached most recently in the 2000's and may find that interesting. Some might mention that after the first Crusade—which was intended to spread Christianity—it actually regressed. Others may note areas where Christianity spread and then died out multiple times.)

➤ **Are there still unreached areas?** (The answer is yes. Although it seems much of the world has been reached, there are still many sections of the world that are unreached and were not covered on the visual. Also, some areas shown as unreached, such as China, have underground churches that don't announce that they exist and, therefore, weren't shown on the map.)

Today we're excited about celebrating the birth of our Savior! Many in the world still don't know about Jesus but all are called to worship Him. Let's see how we can be a part of getting this message out around the globe!

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Materials:

- Whiteboard and markers (or screenshared document)

Today we talked about Jesus and the Magi—clearly all people are called to worship Jesus.

Ask students to raise their hands and share about any country (other than the United States) that they have traveled to. Write all the countries they have visited on the whiteboard (or screenshared document).

Read aloud all of the countries listed. Note how many and distances of the countries named.

Christianity is for all people, the nations! Today's lesson is about how we are called to tell everyone about Jesus, especially people who live all around the world.

➤ **How might you share your faith with people in other countries?** (For example, you could participate in something like Magi Boxes or other ministries that have outreaches around the world.)

➤ **How can praying for those around the world make a difference?** (Prayer works. All people are called to worship Jesus. We can pray for short-term missions and missionaries who are in the trenches telling people around the world about Jesus.)

Have students turn to a partner and take a moment to talk to each other about how they are reaching out to people in the world to spread the news of Jesus. (If your class is meeting online, you can use the breakout room feature of your video chat software or have a discussion as an entire class.)

If your students don't seem to know how they are reaching out, encourage them to talk together about one concrete thing they can do this week to help spread the gospel of Jesus to the world. We mentioned helping a ministry already doing mission action and also praying for missionaries. Some other ideas are volunteering to be a short-term missionary themselves or sponsoring a missionary or child overseas. A small group idea might be to have a monthly prayer meeting aimed at missions, a letter-writing club to send notes to missionaries overseas, or other outreach ideas.

Have students come up with a plan to incorporate action to help mission efforts or missionaries.

Close in prayer for your local missionaries and be sure to pray for each country these missionaries represent. Follow up with students to encourage global prayer and care. Consider sponsoring a country or a missionary as a class.

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