

middle school



Lesson 9 / January 26, 2025

An Incredible Mission

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 9

Focus:

We carry out our mission by following Scripture.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Luke 4:16-22

Lesson 9

Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
—Matthew 6:33

Students will watch a video about preparing for an eventual mission to Mars to prepare them to understand the importance of carrying out their spiritual mission.

Materials:

- Internet access
- “Mission” activity slips (1 activity per every 4 students; master list found at the end of this document)
- Optional: Mission activity props based on missions selected (instant cocoa, hot water, disposable cups; bottled water; bag of wrapped candy and a bowl; notecard, envelope, and pen/pencil)

Prior to class time, print out a master list of “mission” activities and cut apart the options so that each group of four students has a slip with one (1) mission activity to accomplish. Be sure to read through the activities and use only those that pertain to your situation (i.e., don’t use the one for parking lot attendants if your congregation does not have parking lot attendants). Feel free to create your own “missions” on slips of paper if more are needed.

If your class is meeting online, email the activity sheet to students before class. Using the breakout room feature of your video chat software, invite small groups of students to choose an item from the list to complete individually in the coming week. They can report back to their groups next week how their missions went.

When your group time begins, instruct students entering your class to form small groups of four (4) to carry out a short mission. When all groups are formed, hand one member in each group a small slip of paper with one short “mission” written on it (the master list can be found at the end of this document). Be sure to provide the props each group needs for activities selected.

When all the small groups have had a chance to complete their assigned mission, regroup and have one person in each group read their mission activity to the entire group and tell if it was accomplished or not.

Mention that what made today's missions activities fun and meaningful was working together to accomplish a shared task and having what was needed to see it completed. Today's video clip is about just that: working to accomplish a shared mission.

Today we're going to watch a video clip about NASA's robotic probe tests and new technology developments that are part of their goal to eventually help people survive on the planet Mars.

In recent years, scientists have sent many robotic probes to explore the planet Mars. Getting the probes to Mars was no small feat, but these probes have been part of an even bigger mission: getting people to the planet and understanding what they need to survive there.

As part of their research, scientists are currently exploring what technologies would help humans to survive on this planet. To get a better idea of all the factors they're considering in their research, let's watch the following video about what NASA is designing to help humans thrive on Mars.

Play the following video for your students [2:03]:

6 NASA Technologies to Get Humans to Mars

<https://www.nasa.gov/humans-in-space/humans-to-mars/>

This new developments in technology are the result of years of study and hard work on the part of the crew. It also involved working together with a joint goal to prepare for an eventual human mission to Mars. While the research and developments have been successful so far, only time will tell if the mission of humans surviving on Mars will be a success.

When we attempt to carry out our mission as Christians, we won't find success unless we utilize the best tools and knowledge possible—God's Word! Let's take a closer look at the Christian mission we are to carry out and learn how Jesus first carried out this mission and made the way for us!

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

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Lesson 9 / January 26, 2025

An Incredible Mission

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 9

Focus:

We carry out our mission by following Scripture.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Luke 4:16-22

Lesson 9

Memory Verse:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
—Matthew 6:33

Materials:

- Slips of paper
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: retired missionary within your church

Prior to this lesson, you may want to ask a retired missionary to come and speak about his or her missionary work and how he or she carried out Jesus’ mission to reach all the world. Open this step by allowing your missionary to share briefly. Be sure to ask how Scripture played a part in following their mission. Allow a few minutes for students to ask the missionary questions. If you opt not to have a guest speaker, skip to the next paragraph.

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

Share with students that often we think only missionaries can do God’s work. This is NOT true. We all can carry out our mission by following Scripture.

Mention to students that Jesus fulfilled His Father’s mission by obedience. **We, too, can follow in Jesus’ footsteps and carry out our mission by following Scripture. In today’s passage of Luke 4:16-22 we saw that Jesus preached Good News, proclaimed freedom, healed and released those who were suffering, and proclaimed the Lord’s favor. Jesus wanted to reach the poor, the prisoners, the blind, and the oppressed. Jesus often set people free from their sin and bondage before He healed them, but at times He also healed them first and then shared how their souls could be healed as well. We can follow in Jesus’ footsteps by sharing the good news of salvation with those we meet as well as by living each day for Christ and by carrying out the mission set forth for us in Scripture.**

Direct students to today’s memory verse and say it together, **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).**

Carrying out our mission involves seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness. Invite students to share ways they can do that this week. Answers may include: Reading the Bible and incorporating what it says into our lives; doing the right thing when we are tempted (instead of the wrong thing which is sometimes easier to do); loving someone who seems unlovable; telling someone about the Good News, etc.

Have students go to their original groups of four from Step 1. When all students have regrouped, distribute supplies (or invite students to have supplies ready at home) and invite them to come up with a “mission” for this week that they can accomplish for Christ by following Scripture. For example, as a Christian, they may be able to share their faith with a nonbeliever, or they could invite an acquaintance to a church event, they could be a friend to the downcast people they encounter and let their new friends know that they are reaching out because of what Jesus has done for them.

In the large group, have students also discuss ways they will fulfill the mission they wrote down as well as ways members of this group can encourage each other. Some ideas might be to text each other to remind and encourage each other to fulfill their mission or text Scripture verses that can help them in their mission. Some students may choose to pray for one another.

Close in prayer encouraging your students to carry out their missions this week with the help of Scripture. If possible, follow up with students who may be struggling to share the Good News with others; invite them to contact you or request prayer as they are mission-minded this week among those around them.

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Mission Activities

Go as a group to _____'s classroom and tell them how thankful you are that they volunteer for your church family.

Write a note of encouragement to our church missionaries, the _____ family.

Find a bowl of candy hidden in this room and share with all your classmates.

Straighten up the youth room or a youth classroom (pick up litter and stray pencils or pens, put chairs behind desks, put board games, puzzles, balls, etc. in their proper places, etc.)

Find one or two students who are new to your group and introduce yourselves.

Go to the church office and hand out bottled water to all the workers; thank them for their service.

If your auditorium is empty during this time, straighten the hymnals, Bibles, pencils, and offering envelopes in seat-back holders. Pick up litter.

Make hot instant cocoa and deliver it to parking lot attendants.