

# Reaching Neighbors and Strangers in New Orleans

This month, children will discover how missionaries serving in New Orleans show God's love to neighbors and strangers.

## BIBLE FOCUS

Your child has been studying the story of Jesus staying behind at the Temple. You can find this story in Luke 2:41–52. Read the story with your child. Ask your child if he or she can remember ever being lost. How did he or she feel? Was he or she frightened?

Read the Bible verse children are memorizing this month: *"Why were you looking for me?" he asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' (Luke 2:49)* Jesus was not frightened. He was in the Temple learning more about God. He was exactly where He was supposed to be.

## MINISTRY FOCUS

Ryan and Seané Rice are church planters in New Orleans, Louisiana. They constantly seek ways to minister to people in their community. They have organized programs like Easter egg hunts and health fairs. And they minister one-on-one with people they meet in the local park and their neighborhood.

What do you know about the needs of New Orleans? Many communities are still rebuilding from the losses they suffered when New Orleans was hit by Hurricane Katrina. Many people lost homes and loved ones.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief sent thousands of volunteers to New Orleans to help with clean up and caring for those who lost so much. You can donate to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. Help your child make a bank. Have your family collect all their change for disaster relief for three months. Go to this website to learn how to donate: [donations.namb.net/dr-donations](http://donations.namb.net/dr-donations).

## WEB FOCUS

Visit these websites as a family to learn more about this month's emphasis:

- [wmu.com/ThisMonth](http://wmu.com/ThisMonth)
- [anniearmstrong.com/missionaries/ryan-rice-planting-life-church](http://anniearmstrong.com/missionaries/ryan-rice-planting-life-church)

## MISSIONS FOCUS

### ► Warm Hearts

The Rices look for ways to reach out to neighbors and strangers to share God's love with them. How can you reach out to neighbors and strangers? It's January and cold outside. You could collect warm socks and winter hats and take them to a homeless shelter.

### ► School's In!

The Rices' church partners with an elementary school in their neighborhood. They help the school by cleaning up and painting. They also provide backpacks of school supplies for children who cannot afford these items. Contact your child's school and ask if there is a child who is in need. Find out a way your family could help that child.

### ► Game Night

Choose a family in your community who does not attend church. Invite them over for a game night with your family. Serve cookies and hot chocolate and play board games.

Use this resource to reinforce what your child is learning every month in missions.

NOTES FROM YOUR  
CHILD'S LEADERS