



What Happens in a Mission Friends Session?

Babies, Ones, and Twos

Our youngest preschoolers can begin learning about missions! Activities are suggested each month so babies, ones, and twos use their senses to learn about missionaries and the Christian concept areas. Preschoolers learn by repeating activities throughout the month. For weekly sessions, teachers are encouraged to choose two or three activities each week from the listing of activities each month in *Mission Friends Leader*. Use routine times of diaper changing or bottle feeding as teachable moments to say Bible thoughts or simple prayers.

Threes and Fours, Kindergarten

The schedule for an hour's session in Mission Friends might look something like this. Make adjustments for your group as needed.

• Activities in interest areas	35 minutes
• Cleanup time	5 minutes
• Group Time	15 minutes
• Closing Time	5 minutes

Activities in Interest Areas

Preschoolers learn through play, their senses, and doing hands-on activities. In *Mission Friends Leader*, activities are suggested for each week in various interest areas of the classroom. Preschoolers move between activities as they choose and as their attention span allows. Even though activities are suggested for each of the interest areas, Mission Friends leaders choose the activities that will work best for their preschoolers. You might not do all of the activities listed.

Activities are listed for the following interest areas:

- Art
- Blocks
- Books
- Homeliving
- Music and Movement
- Nature
- Puzzles and Manipulatives

Group Time

A large group experience is planned each week for threes, fours, and kindergarten. A page for Group Time plans is included in each session in *Mission Friends Leader*.

Plans include:

- Introduction: A group activity to introduce the mission story or missions area, such as a song, question, or game.
- Mission Story: The story tells about the missionary, their family, and ways they tell people about Jesus. An expanded version of the story is included for Kindergartners. Follow up the story by asking questions listed at the end of the story.
- Prayertime: Suggestions for sentence prayers and ways to encourage preschoolers to pray for the featured missionaries. Give preschoolers opportunities to pray, but do not force them to pray aloud.
- Closing Activity: An activity to review or wrap up the session as parents or caregivers arrive.

Adjusting the Schedule

The schedule on the previous page can be adjusted for your needs. You might change the order by having Group Time first and then going to activities.

Adjustments can also be made for shorter or longer sessions.

If your session is shorter than one hour:

- Plan a shorter amount of time in activities and/or Group Time.
- Prepare some of an activity beforehand, such as cutting out pictures for a collage.
- Allow preschoolers to take home an activity to complete.

If your session is longer than one hour:

- Allow more time in interest area activities.
- Use the Extra Activities at the end of each month's unit in *Mission Friends Leader*.
- Repeat activities or games related to the unit.
- Have a second activity time after Group Time.