

2022 NORTH AMERICAN MISSION STUDY FOR CHILDREN

United: Together on Mission

“Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice.”
(Romans 15:5-6, CSB)

STUDY OVERVIEW

The theme for the 2022 Week of Prayer for North American Missions is “United: Together on Mission.” The focal Scripture verses are Romans 15:5-6.

Our gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® provide the funds missionaries in church planting and compassion ministry need as they train and serve all over the United States, Canada, and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Through this mission study, children will learn how church planter Jared Huntley and his wife, Jen, are reaching the military community and beyond in Washington, D.C. They will learn how important it is to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and to pray for all missionaries serving in North America.

Prepare for the study

- For overall promotion of the North American Missions Emphasis to your entire church, order the free theme poster, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelopes and prayer guides from your state WMU office or the Annie Armstrong website. Ordering information can be found at AnnieArmstrong.com/statewmu or AnnieArmstrong.com/resources
- Featured missionary videos and digital resources are also available for download on AnnieArmstrong.com. If needed, DVDs are available as a separate order from your state WMU office or NAMB.
- Download the children’s study materials and video segment from the website, AnnieArmstrong.com. This video and study are only available on the website.
- The video segment for children is titled “The Extraordinary Military Missionaries” and features Jared and Jen Huntley in Washington, D.C.
- Download and print the 2022 Week of Prayer for North American Missions prayer guide from AnnieArmstrong.com if you do not have a printed version.
- Download copies of the prayer bookmark(s) or order free, printed bookmarks from AnnieArmstrong.com/resources. Please note that print supplies are limited.
- Work with missions leaders and other church leaders to plan aspects of the study, such as scheduling, scope and promotion. Encourage these leaders to enlist other church members to take ownership by helping in the planning and implementation of the study. You may choose to do the study as a special event or incorporate it into an existing meeting or group setting.
- Publicize the study through church bulletins, social media, churchwide announcements, newsletters and so forth.
- Ask Sunday School classes and church members to pray for the study outcome. Pray individuals will be inspired as they learn about missions efforts in North America and will eagerly support those who are serving as missionaries with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).
- Consider enlisting an outside speaker, such as a North American missionary, to address the

church before beginning the study or as part of it. For assistance, you can make a request at namb.net/contact/request-a-speaker

Note: For more missionary stories and North American missions news, check out the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Facebook page at [facebook.com/aaeo.sbc](https://www.facebook.com/aaeo.sbc).

Prepare for the Lesson

- Ensure you are equipped to show the featured video and that you have previewed it with the equipment and in the setting in which you will be showing it. If you don't have a way to show the video, you can tell the children about the missionaries in the story provided in the lesson plan.
- Read through the lesson plan and become familiar with it.
- Acquire a map of the United States. Display it in a prominent place.
- Purchase six pieces of posterboard for use in the missionary story section of the lesson.
- Purchase several large hula hoops for the game Hula Hoop Group.
- Acquire cones or other items to create an obstacle course for use in the game Hula Hoop Group.
- Write Romans 15:5-6 on a whiteboard or on posterboard.
- Decorate the room with missions items to enhance the learning experience.
- Make a copy of the word search activities at the back of the lesson plan for each child.
- Provide a pencil for each child.
- Make one copy of the word search solution(s) for yourself.

Arrival

As the children arrive, allow them to work one of the word search activities found at the back of the lesson until all the children have arrived. Help those who need it.

Welcome

After all the children have arrived, welcome them to the mission study. Introduce yourself and your helpers. Explain that they will be learning about

missionaries Jared and Jen Huntley who live and serve in Washington, D.C.

Show them where Washington, D.C., is on the map of the United States.

Jared Huntley was once a soldier in the U.S. Army, so he has a heart for people serving in the military. He knows how lonely it can feel to be far from friends and family, as people serving can be deployed to anywhere in the world.

Jared and Jen planted Pillar Church in Washington, D.C., near Marine Barracks Washington so Marines living in Washington, D.C., can have a church family. Jared and Jen are part of a church planting movement to plant churches near military installations all over the world. The goal is big, but they know that through Jesus' provision and Christians working together in unity, it can be accomplished.

Transition to the missionary video.

Children's Video and Discussion (10–15 minutes)

The Extraordinary Military Missionaries

Note: If you aren't able to show the video from anniearmstrong.com, use the story option provided.

Items needed:

- 6 sheets of posterboard or paper
- Marker
- Story or video provided

Before the Lesson

Using the marker, write the following six words, one per sheet, on the paper or posterboard: brokenness, relationship, Pillar Church, Praetorian Project, family and dinners. The children will be listening for these words as they watch the video or listen to the story.

To learn more about the Praetorian Project, go to praetorianproject.org.

Lesson

Seat the children and prepare to show the video or tell the story about Jared Huntley who planted Pillar Church in Washington, D.C. Pillar Church is part of the North American Mission Board's Praetorian Project. The aim of this project is to

plant churches near military installations around the world to gather both military personnel and civilians together as a church family. Pillar Church is located near Marine Barracks Washington.

Ask the children if any of them has a family member actively serving in the Army, Navy, Marines or other branch of military service. If yes, let the child talk a little about that/those family member(s).

Go on to explain that soldiers, sailors, Marines and their families move around a lot. That kind of life can be very hard and lonely. They miss the closeness of family members and longtime friends. So, Jared Huntley and his wife, Jen, planted Pillar Church near a Marine barracks in Washington, D.C., so military service personnel and civilians—people who are not soldiers—could hear the gospel of Jesus, worship God and serve together as a church family.

Select five children to hold the word signs in a place where everyone can see. Talk a little about what each word means.

Instruct the children to quietly raise their hands when they hear one of the words in either the video or the story. Show the video or tell the story below.

*We consider people who are serving in the military to be heroes because they often risk their lives to keep us and our country safe and free from enemies who want to do us harm. They sacrifice a lot for us, such as time with **family** and friends, and they enter dangerous situations where they can be hurt or killed.*

*Missionary Jared Huntley was once a soldier in the United States Army, so he knows what it's like to be both a soldier and a regular person like us. He knows there is a lot of **brokenness** and a lot of spiritual need among military personnel. He knows that what everyone is searching for and what everyone needs is a **relationship** with God. That's why he became a church planting missionary when he got out of the Army.*

*Jared and his wife, Jen, started a new church in Washington, D.C., called **Pillar Church**. **Pillar Church** is part of something called the **Praetorian Project**.*

*Jared says, "The name **Praetorian Project** comes from Philippians chapter one. While Paul was in prison, he wrote that the entire Praetorian guard had come to know he was in prison for Christ, and he was able to share the gospel with them." The Praetorian guard were the Roman soldiers who were guarding him.*

*Through the **Praetorian Project**, missionaries plant churches near military bases around the world. Jared and Jen planted **Pillar Church** near Marine Barracks Washington. They wanted Marines who were far from home and regular people to hear the gospel and worship God together as a church **family**, so they invited Marines over for **dinners** with chicken casseroles, fresh vegetables, and chocolate cake just like they might get if they were home.*

*The **dinners** led to conversations about Jesus and now, when members of the military are sent to Washington, D.C., **Pillar Church** is there waiting for them. That's a big deal for two reasons.*

*Jared says, "It can be hard on the entire **family** moving around from place to place during deployments. If there is a **Pillar Church** wherever they go, they can plug in right away and have a place to call home. And, as they are moved from place to place, they can take the gospel with them."*

So, when we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, we are not only sending Jared and Jen out to start one church in Washington, D.C., we are sending them and then they are sending more and more missionaries all over the world. That is the power of working together in unity.

Jesus wants us to go and make disciples of all the nations of the world. One way to do that is through service members and their families.

Make sure the children understand what they have just heard. When God's people work together toward the main goal of helping people have a relationship with Jesus, then they will tell more people and they in turn will tell more people. We can do that better when we work together as a team.

Transition to the game Hula Hoop Group.

Hula Hoop Group (15-20 minutes)

Items Needed:

- Hula Hoops
- Cones or other items to create an obstacle course
- A timer or stopwatch (or phone app)

Goal

Children will understand as they play this game the importance of working together as a team to accomplish a goal. The goal in this case is to start a church where one doesn't exist. They will have to work together within a hula hoop to navigate through obstacles that might stand in the way of starting a new church.

Prepare

Set up the obstacle course, adjusting the difficulty to suit the ages of the kids in your group. Use chairs, cones, or even just sheets of paper on the floor. Whatever is available. Leave plenty of space between the obstacles for the hula hoops to pass.

Name the starting point "No Church." Name the finish line "New Church."

Attach names to some of the obstacles or things that might stand in the way of getting the new church planted. Suggestions are on the list below. Add all you can think of.

- No money
- No helpers
- No place to meet
- Opposition from area leaders
- No equipment
- No musical instruments
- Getting people to come

Play

If you named the obstacles, briefly talk about the named obstacles and possible solutions to the problems. For instance, giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and gaining supporting partners could help with lack of funding and equipment.

Put three or four kids together in a hula hoop. Their goal is to navigate the obstacle course together. To successfully do this, they must cooperate and work together as one.

They are competing against the clock and the time of the other teams.

Time each team. The winning team gets to name the new church!

Bible Lesson (15 minutes)

Loaves and Fishes (Mark 6:30-44)

Through the story of more than 5,000 people being fully fed from five barley loaves and two fish, children will learn that Jesus provides, and His people work together to carry out the work of planting His church.

One of Jesus' goals was to train the twelve apostles to start His Church. The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is an illustration of Jesus's provision and the apostles working together to accomplish His will. Jesus abundantly provided, and the apostles worked together to feed all the people.

Read the story from Mark 6:30-44. Discuss the following points.

- We bring what we have, though it's not enough to accomplish the goal by itself.
- Jesus miraculously multiplies it.
- We work together in harmony.
- The goal is accomplished.

Talk about how our gifts and efforts alone can accomplish some things, but miraculous things happen when we depend on God to multiply our resources and work together to accomplish the goal.

Miraculous things can happen in North America when we pool our resources by giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Transition to the prayer activity.

Prayer Activity (5-10 minutes)

Remind the children that it is important to pray for our missionaries in North America. Using the prayer guide you downloaded or ordered, read the missionary prayer requests one at a time, inviting

the children to pray aloud for each missionary couple's requests.

If the children don't wish to pray aloud, they can pray silently. Distribute the bookmarks to remind the children to pray for missionaries often.

Invite the children to also pray that many people will give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering so missionaries will have what they need to bring many people to Jesus. Encourage the children to give as well. Have offering envelopes handy.

When we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, it helps missionaries who have limited resources to do more. It allows them to impact their communities.

Closing

While the children wait for their parents, they may run through the obstacle course again or work one of the word searches.

You can also offer a snack at this time.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY: WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words from the word bank below.

X O F F E R I N G G R P I M
H M N U P C T P X M O F I I
D R G O S P E L J E S U S S
O N C H U R C H M I W T U S
K M I J C S I Y I A X O R I
N O R T H A M E R I C A U O
P R A Y E R J U O L M V E N
E Q K C S Z F A O L O Q R S
X X O C P B W C C W V A F C
M B H O P T B I B L E G Q H
X U S S M I S S I O N A R Y
A N N I E A R M S T R O N G
X V S O E T S W D E D E P B
L Y F S G Z Y Q D K O R L Y

Word Bank

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

BIBLE

CHURCH

GOSPEL

JESUS

MISSIONARY

MISSIONS

NORTH AMERICA

OFFERING

PRAYER

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

X O F F E R I N G G R P I M
H M N U P C T P X M O F I I
D R G O S P E L J E S U S S
O N C H U R C H M I W T U S
K M I J C S I Y I A X O R I
N O R T H A M E R I C A U O
P R A Y E R J U O L M V E N
E Q K C S Z F A O L O Q R S
X X O C P B W C C W V A F C
M B H O P T B I B L E G Q H
X U S S M I S S I O N A R Y
A N N I E A R M S T R O N G
X V S O E T S W D E D E P B
L Y F S G Z Y Q D K O R L Y

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY: UNITY WORD SEARCH

Jesus is happy when all His followers work together in unity and harmony. When we work and give together as a team, we can better accomplish the goal of helping people become followers of Christ and be saved. Working with partners helps us have success.

Find the words from the word bank hidden in the word search below. Work with a partner to solve the puzzle faster.

J H U G H A P P Y X G O A L W
V F P R T H M D S G G C G I N
D X A Y W J N O U O S A E B B
A J U A E X G L E C D A R U R
M M I S C S I Y I A X O V I E
I P U T H A M E R I C A U E G
Y S H A R M O N Y L P V E N D
E Q K C S W S A O L A Q R S Y
T X O C O U W C C W R A F G D
F B H R C T B U N I T Y Q I W
O U K C M I S S I O N A R V I
H N E I E T E A M T E O N E D
N S S O E T S W D E R E P B E
S T O G E T H E R K O R L Y E

Word Bank

TEAM

GOAL

UNITY

JESUS

TOGETHER

SAVED

HARMONY

HAPPY

WORK

SUCCESS

GIVE

PARTNER

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

J H U G **H A P P Y** X **G O A L** W
V F P R T H M D S G G C G I N
D X A Y W **J** N O U O **S** A E B B
A J U A E X G L E C D A R U R
M M I S C S I Y I A X O V I E
I P U T H A M E R I C A U E G
Y **S** **H A R M O N Y** L **P** V E N D
E Q K C S W **S** A O L A Q R S Y
T X O C O U W C C W R A F **G** D
F B H R C T B **U N I T Y** Q I W
O U **K** C M I S S I O N A R V I
H N E I E **T E A M** T E O N E D
N S S O E T S W D E **R** E P B E
S **T O G E T H E R** K O R L Y E