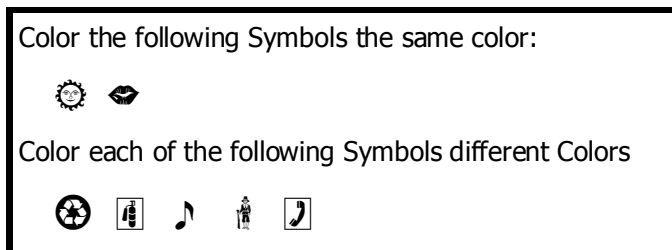


## Mission is...

This lesson is a hands on activity for Upper Elementary or Youth. The goal is to get them to see Missions in a different way. It begins with a problem solving activity using the attached sheets – They are to color the sheets and in doing so find a word that helps describe what missions is.

There are seven words (there could be many more) so it can be done individually or in small groups. Once the activity is done. Let each person or group share their word with the rest of the group. After each one tell us their word ask them how they think that it fit missions – (Below are notes on each word that you can use to fill in the gaps.)

Key of pages –



This could be used as an entire lesson or a quick missions focus.

### **Here are some thought on how missions is in each of the following:**

There is no specific order except that "You" Should be last as it focuses on the personal response of each. Each description ends with a question for some discussion or reflection. Use that time to brainstorm and let student encourage other students!

**NEAR** – Mission takes place with anyone who is not a Christ flower. They could be your neighbor, classmates, teammates or co-workers. You do not have to go around the world to do missions – sharing Jesus with those you meet each day is a great way to start. In Act 1:8 Jesus said Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth – It starts out local near by and then move out from there. If you are not reaching people for Christ near by you are missing great opportunities. Who is near you that needs Jesus?

**COMPASSION** – Missions is loving people the way Jesus did. In the Gospels many times it refers to Jesus having compassion of the people. He saw their need and wanted to meet them. Reaching people for Christ often begins with showing love by meeting needs people have. Jesus did this by feeding the 5000,

healing the sick and taking time to care. What needs can you meet of people around you this week?

**GIVING** – Missions will require you to give. It could be your money and it could be your time and it could be your life. For missions to happen some are “goers and some are givers”. We all are to play a part. It is up to each of us to figure out what part that will be. Either as “goers or givers”. What are you willing to give to mission right now? What might you give up and do with out so others can go and serve?

**PRAYING** – Missions is all about prayer – Missionaries need prayer regularly, your friends need prayer in fact everyone needs prayer sometime. But for the Missionary who has left home, and family and most of what he/she has they especially need prayer. They will get homesick, they will be frustrated (they may not fully understand the language, customs or expectations) and will want to come back. Your regular prayers for missionaries is vital to what God wants to do! What missionaries do you pray for? What missionaries can you pray for?

**RISKY** – Missions is risky whether you go to another country or you risk sharing Jesus with your friends. What if they don’t understand, what if thy think I am stupid? What if I get mixed up and look dumb? Anytime God asks us to do something we have to take the risk – we have to trust that He knows best and even if we don’t do it right or get laughed at God is still with us and He will work it out for His good in the end. He just asks us to be faithful and to obey! What risk will you take for God this week?

**GOING** – Missions is getting up off your butt and getting out into a world that needs to know Jesus. God’s plan is for us who are Christ followers to spread that message – “Go into all the ...” Jesus said to His disciples (and us). If your going is next door as the starting point great – If your going is on a short term trip right now – awesome – For some of you, God may want to leave your family and country and adopt a new one for the sake of Jesus! Where will you go for Jesus this week? Where will you go for Jesus in your life?

**YOU** – Missions is you – it is personal. No one else can do your part. We all have a part to play Staying – Going – Giving – Praying - Risking. There is something for each of us to do in missions. What will your part be this week? What will your part be on a regularly?

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Another idea is to not color them in. Give the students 10 second (or so) per page and see how many can find the word and write them down – when done see who found them and then talk about what they mean using the above as directions for the teaching.