

Ministry among Muslims

LESSON NOTES

I. Introduction (3 minutes)

How many of you can name a missionary? Where do they serve? [Interact briefly with students.]

There are lots of missionaries all over the world. How many foreign missionaries do you think there are all over the world? These are missionaries that go from one country to another. About 500,000 – that's half a million. That's a lot of missionaries.

II. Missionaries and the Global Population (12 minutes)

A. World Population

But ... there are a lot of people in the world. About how many people are there in the world?

There are about 6.7 billion people in the world today. Let's say all of you in the room represent the population of the world – 6.7 b people.

Out of the world population, about 33% or 1/3 are Christians. That would be all of the people on this side of the room. Could all of you stand up? You represent the more than 2.2 b Christians in the world. We can praise God for the way his kingdom has spread all around the world until today, more than 2 billion people are Christians. That's truly amazing. You can sit down.

All the rest of you stand up. These represent the 66% or 2/3 of the world population, or about 4.5 b people who are not Christians. That's a lot of people. There's still a lot of work to do isn't there. You can sit down.

B. Total Missionaries

Praise God he is still working in the world today and churches are still sending missionaries to the ends of the earth. How many foreign missionaries did we say there are in the world today? About 500,000 missionaries total. These are sent from countries all around the world – like the United States, Canada, England, South Korea, Nigeria, Brazil, and India. Missionaries are sent from many different countries all over the world.

C. Illustration Using Posters

But ... it's interesting to look at where these missionaries are sent. I'm going to need your help again to illustrate this for you. I'd like to ask 15 people to come up front and help me out. You don't have to say anything or do any weird dance or eat a fried cockroach or anything. You just have to hold a piece of paper.

[Give each person a poster – 2 with x's on back.

Option: For smaller groups, use 7 or 8 students with an x on the back of one poster.]

These 15 people represent the 500,000 missionaries in the world today. Hold up your posters.

Would all of you over here that represent the Christians in the world please stand up again. Would all of you without an x on the back of your poster please come and stand in front of these people and hold your posters up.

Of the 500,000 missionaries in the world today, about 87% work among Christians. They all do very important work and many of

them are working among nominal Christians. So we can praise God for their work.

But that leaves only how many people? 2 people. These 2 people represent the remaining 13% of the 500,000 missionaries who work among the rest of the world.

You Christians can sit down now. Would the rest of you non-Christians please stand up? These people represent 2/3 of the world population or about 4.5 b people. Could you two please come over here and stand in front of these people. These 2 people represent the 13% of the 500,000 missionaries that are left to work with non-Christians. That's not very many missionaries for all the non-Christians in the world.

And of these missionaries, less than 1% works with the almost 1.5 b Muslims in the world. Could ¾ of you sit down? [To one person with an x]. Could you come over here? You'll have to scrunch down a bit because you have to represent a very small number.

While 87% of our missionaries work with 1/3 of the world who are Christians, only 13% work with the 2/3 of the world who are non-Christians and less than 1% work with 1/5 of the world who are Muslims.

Thank you all. You can go ahead and sit down.

D. More Missionaries Needed

Those were a lot of numbers to throw around. But I hope it does help to demonstrate one point. Not that we need fewer missionaries working with Christian groups. We need to be engaged in leadership development, education, medical work, literacy and all those things among Christian groups as well as reach out to nominal Christians with the word.

We don't need fewer missionaries to these groups, we need more missionaries to work among unreached peoples and especially

among the 1.5 b Muslims in the world. These missionaries can come from many different countries around the world. They don't all need to be Americans or Canadians.

III. Muslim among Ministry (27 minutes)

A. Overview

I'd like to tell you a little bit about ministry among Muslims.

Who can name one of the top 5 countries with the highest populations of Muslims? [Solicit answers – Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Egypt.]

Christian Reformed World Missions currently has 26 missionaries working in some type of ministry to Muslims in 5 different countries with large Muslim populations. These countries include Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Bangladesh. And we partner with other churches and organizations doing ministry among Muslims in places like Sierra Leone.

B. Videos

[Depending on how much time you have, choose one or both of the videos below and engage the students in a short discussion using the questions provided.]

1. Video: *The World of Islam (or The Call of Islam)*

We've brought a short video we'd like to show you called *The World of Islam*. It tries to clear up some misconceptions about Islam and calls us to prayer and action in witnessing to Muslims.

2. Video: *The Scattered Ones: The Fulani of Mali (or Plugged-in to Missions: Mali)*

We have another short video we'd like to show you.

[Discuss before showing video.] How many of you have heard of Timbuktu? Is it a real place? What country is it located in?

Timbuktu is in Mali. The video I'd like to show you is about the ministry that is taking place among Muslims in Mali.

C. **Discussion Questions**

[Show videos. Discuss questions like these.]

1. Why do you think ministry to Muslims might be difficult.
2. What does it mean that to "be Fulani is to be Muslim? How are religion and culture connected in Fulani culture?
3. What kinds of barriers to the gospel might exist among Fulani? Are these barriers impenetrable?
4. Is it right to insert the gospel into another culture? Is it right to call people to accept Christ where they might suffer for it?
5. Option: If using *Plugged-in to Missions: Mali* show students the questions and ask them to choose those in which they are interested. Click on a question, allow discussion, then click on the summary.

this ministry. In Matthew 25 Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me." When we work to help transform the lives of our brothers and sisters in Mali or Guinea or any other Muslim country, we're working for God.

[Close in prayer and include prayer for ministry among Muslims.]

IV. **Conclusion** (3 minutes)

How many of you would like to go to Mali? Maybe some day you can.

How many of you would like to do ministry among Muslims? It's not easy work.

Whether you go or not, you can be a part of ministry to Muslims by praying for the work. You can give to your church to support the work financially. And you can learn more about Muslims in your own community and develop relationships with them right here where you live.

If you support the work of the Christian Reformed Church in any way, you have a part in this work. We'd like to thank you for that support. Or if you belong to another church that has ministry among Muslims, we'd like to thank you for your part in