

LESSON 1

LEADER GUIDE

MEET ASMITA

FROM NEPAL

BIBLE TRUTH:

God is always with you.

KEY VERSE:

He will not leave you or
forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV®)



reach
kids!

NOTES FOR THE TEACHER:

As you prepare for this "GO Reach Kids" lesson about Asmita and her home nation of Nepal, here are a few ideas for adapting the experience to your particular situation:

- Prior to this lesson, draw 12 blanks at the bottom of the board or a large sheet of paper for the "Secret Message" activity in Focus on the Video. Leave room above the blanks to write the answers to the 12 questions in the activity. The blanks will be used to spell out "God is with you."
- In the "Focus on the Bible" section, we provide a Bible story based on the Bible truth and the key verse. You might consider extending the study over two weeks with the first week looking at the "Focus on the Nations" emphasis and the second week studying the "Focus on the Bible" information.
- In addition to the core lesson, we also provide optional activities. Feel free to use these as time allows. They also make fun pre-class activities or can keep kids engaged as a wrap-up to the lesson.
- The PowerPoint slides we have provided can help you during the "Focus on the Nations" piece of the activity. These extra tools can enhance the learning experience.
- We have provided a downloadable parent handout related to this lesson. Simply make copies of the handout and distribute them to your parents.

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1. Focus on the Nations (About 5 minutes)

Ask children if they know where Nepal is. Allow a few guesses, then show the PowerPoint slide with map of Nepal and the Nepali flag. Explain that it's part of the continent of Asia, between China and India. Share the slides with the "Nepal Fun Facts."

NEPAL FUN FACTS

- **Population: approximately 31 million**
- **Capital: Kathmandu**
- **Currency: the Nepalese rupee**
- **If you wanted to say "welcome" in Nepali, you would say, "swagatam." If you wanted to say either "hello" or "goodbye," the Nepali word is "namaste."**
- **Nepal's Mount Everest is the world's tallest mountain (29,000 feet). In fact, eight of the world's 10 tallest mountains are in Nepal.**
- **Sherpas live in Nepal's hill country and serve as guides for foreign mountain climbers.**



2. Focus on the Video (About 10 minutes)

Show the video of Asmita telling her story.

After the video, allow several children to share some things that stuck out to them. Show kids the blanks you have drawn on the board or on the large sheet of paper. Tell them that you need their help solving a secret message from today's message.

Read the following questions:

1. What is the first book of the Bible?
(Answer: Genesis)
2. What sea creature is famous for having eight arms?
(Answer: Octopus)
3. What sweet snack has a hole in the middle? (Answer: Donut)
4. What do you call frozen water?
(Answer: Ice)
5. What do you do at the pool?
(Answer: Swim)
6. What is the color of snow?
(Answer: White)
7. What is the ninth letter of the alphabet? (Answer: I)
8. What do you sleep in when you go camping? (Answer: Tent)
9. Where does God live?
(Answer: Heaven)
10. What is the opposite of "no"?
(Answer: Yes)
11. What fruit shares its name with a color? (Answer: Orange)
12. What keeps you dry when it rains?
(Answer: Umbrella)

As the children answer the questions, write their responses on the board or sheet of paper. Tell them that to reveal the secret message, they will need to put the first letter of each word in the appropriate blanks.

Point out that the answer to the secret message is "God is with you." Share that Asmita learned that God was with her in every situation. Even when things were hard, she trusted Him to be with her. Remind kids that they can trust God to be with them as well. Ask them to read today's key verse and close the lesson in prayer.

3. Focus on the Bible: The Fiery Furnace

Ask the kids if they can recall a story from the Bible when someone found out that God was with them no matter what. Discuss responses.

If it's not mentioned, briefly recount the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace from Daniel 3. Remind the kids that the king had built an idol and wanted everyone to worship it. When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused, he threatened to throw them into a fiery furnace.

Read the three men's response in Daniel 3:17-18. Highlight the courage it took to trust that God would be with them when they stood up against the king. Emphasize that they had no guarantee that God would save them from the fire—and they weren't even asking Him to do that. They just knew

that however the situation turned out, God would be with them, so they trusted Him.

Explain that the king did throw them into the furnace, but he ended up being very surprised. Read Daniel 3:25. Emphasize that God was literally with them in the fire. Point out again that we can trust God to be with us in every situation we face. Remind the kids that sometimes God allows us to go through “fires” in life to prepare us for what He wants us to do in the future. That means life can be painful, and we may struggle when things don’t go the way we would like them to go. But even during those hard times, we can know that God still loves us and is still walking with us.

4. Focus on the Key Verse: **Deuteronomy 31:6**

Direct the kids to sit in a circle. Ask them to repeat the key verse after you: “*He will not leave you or forsake you*” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Hand a ball of yarn to one of the kids in the circle. Explain that in this game, the person with the yarn will say the first word in the verse, then pass it to another child in the circle. That child will say the first and second words of the verse. Each time the ball of yarn is passed, another word is added until the entire verse and reference is said. Ask the kids to read the entire verse with you again.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Intro Activity: Four Strikes

Hang a large sheet of paper on a focal wall for a game that will introduce this lesson’s

country and Bible truth. Draw five blanks that represent the letters in the word “Nepal.” Also draw four boxes to record the strikes in the game.

To start the lesson, explain that the kids will be allowed to guess letters to fill in the blanks to identify the country they will talk about tonight. If a guess is correct, you will write the letter in the appropriate blank. But if the guess is not correct, you will put an “X” in one of the boxes. Explain that the object of the game is to fill in the blanks before getting four strikes.

Remind the kids that the blanks represent the name of another country. Allow the first child to guess a letter. Fill in a blank or a strike and give the next child a turn. Continue letting the kids guess until they have filled in the blanks or gotten four strikes. If they get four strikes first, fill in the remaining blanks to reveal “Nepal.”

FOCUS ON THE HOME: DIG DEEPER (DOWNLOADABLE HANDOUT)

For the Parents

During this week’s GO lesson your child learned about the country of Nepal and heard from a girl named Asmita who lives there. Asmita’s life hasn’t always been easy. Her father used to drink quite a bit and would argue with her mother a lot. They even found out that her father was married to another woman. Asmita turned to Jesus to see if He was real, and He answered her prayers. Now, she has learned that even when things are difficult, she can trust God to be with her. To learn



more about Asmita, you can view her story at awana.org/stories. You also can use these questions to start the conversation with your child about what he/she learned from Asmita and how they know God is always with them:

- How did Asmita learn that God was always with her?
- Do you think it's easier or harder for people in another country to know God is always with them? Why?
- When have you been sure God was with you in a hard or scary time? How can you help others know He is always there?

Family Activity: The Caste System

Even though it's illegal in Nepal, many of that nation's residents still honor the caste system. In this social structure, a person's opportunities are determined by their social status and family connections—not

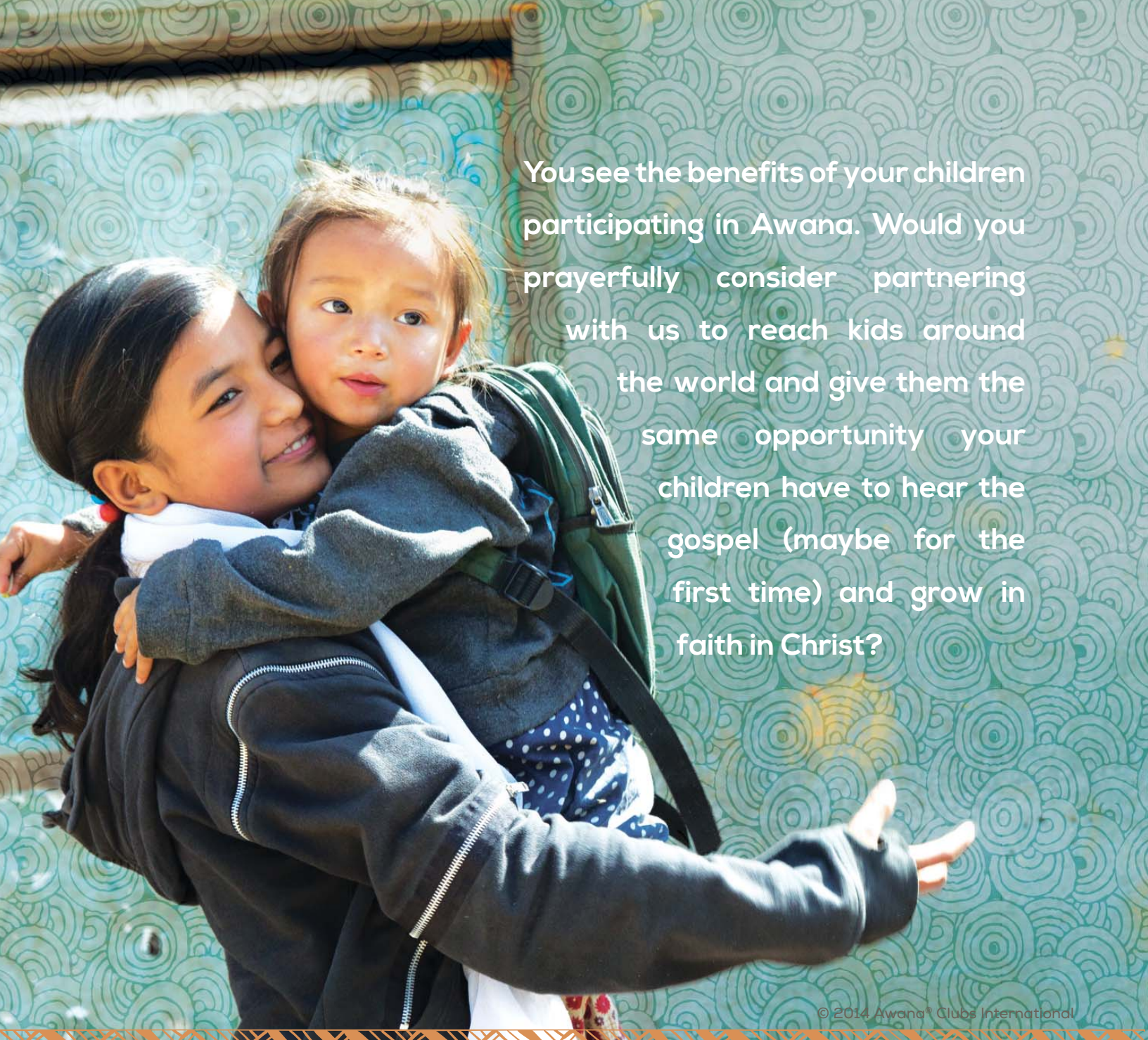
by their abilities or work ethic. Talk with your child about the caste system and how it leaves some individuals without any hope. Remind them that Jesus doesn't see things this way. He loves everyone, and He wants us to love everyone as well.

Talk with your child about ways he or she can show God's love to people they meet, regardless of their differences. Work together to identify a specific way your family can minister to someone who is different than you. Possible ideas might include volunteering at a food kitchen, clothing closet, or homeless shelter. Be intentional about putting your plan into action soon. Discuss how ministering to others like this can remind them that God is always with them.



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