

## CHILDREN'S STATE MISSION STUDY 2009



### "LOVE WEST VIRGINIA"

Decorate the meeting room with brochures, pictures and maps of West Virginia.

1. Explain that they will be learning about mission work in West Virginia. The theme for this year's study is "Love West Virginia," so they should start thinking of things they love about West Virginia.

2. Play one of the following games:

A. Sit in a circle. The first person completes this sentence, "I love WV because it has \_\_\_\_\_." The next person repeats what the first person said, then adds his own answer. Each subsequent person repeats all that has been said before, then adds his answer, so the sentence gradually becomes longer and harder to remember. Play till everyone has had a turn. See if anyone can repeat the entire thing without help or prompting.

B. Sit in a circle. Have the children name something that is in WV for each letter of the alphabet. You can use places (cities, parks, counties, etc) or common names of things (apples, bears, coal, deer, etc). The first child names something that starts with the letter "a." The second, the letter "b, etc." If you want, you can let each one repeat the entire list, or just simply add the item for their letter.

C. Use index cards to make a matching game with WV facts. Write each of the following items on a separate card. (state flower, rhododendron; state tree, sugar maple; state bird, cardinal; state motto, "Mountaineers Are Always Free;" state nickname, "Mountain State;" state capitol, Charleston; second longest steel arch bridge in the world, the New River Gorge Bridge; date it became a state, June 20<sup>th</sup> 1863; governor, Joe Manchin; & any other pairs of facts that you want to include). Turn all the cards upside down on the table or floor. Allow the children to turn over 2 cards on their turn. If the cards match, they can keep them. If not, they turn the cards back over & the next child has a turn. (This is based on the children's game "Concentration.") (If your group is large, divide into smaller groups & make a set of cards for each group.)

D. Allow them to talk about the things they love about West Virginia, but then emphasize that the most important thing is to love the people of West Virginia.

E. Ask: "How do we show people that we love them?" List their ideas. (hug, kiss, give them a gift, do something nice for them, talk to them, visit, pray for them, tell them about Jesus, etc)

F. Read or tell this true story from an article in Baptist Press and tell them to listen for another way of showing someone you love them -



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A Christian businessman went to a magic show in Las Vegas, Nevada. After the show, he waited to see one of the two magicians. When the magician was free, he complimented him on the show and gave him a Gideon's New Testament. He said, "I wrote in the front of this, I want you to have it." The magician, Penn Jillette, is an atheist (someone who doesn't believe in God). However, Mr. Jillette was impressed by the man and what he did. Mr. Jillette told people that he doesn't respect Christians who do not witness. He asked, "How much do you have to hate someone to not witness? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? If I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you and you didn't believe it, then that truck was bearing down on you, there's a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that." Even though Mr. Jillette didn't become a Christian as a result of the man's gift or words, he did realize that the businessman cared about him enough to share God's love with him.

Ask – "According to Mr. Jillette, the magician, what is another way you can show someone you love them?" (tell them about Jesus) Discuss that idea and whether it is true or not.

Ask – "Whose job is it to tell people about Jesus?" Write their answers on the board. If they say "missionaries," see how many missionaries in WV they can name. Use this as an opportunity to tell them who the association missionary is for your area, as well as names of any other missionaries serving in your area. (A list of state missionaries is located in another part of this packet. You may also read stories about other associations in our state and share with the children.) They may say preachers, deacons, etc. but help them realize that telling about Jesus is the job of **every** Christian. Have the children find Acts 1:8 in their Bibles and read it. Explain that this is a command we are to obey.

3. Ask – "How old do you have to be to tell people about Jesus?" (Age doesn't matter, anyone who is a Christian can tell others about Him.)

A. Use the "Missions Camp Impact" story. Have the children list all the ways each age group at camp shared Christ with others. (High schoolers – Backyard Bible Club, VBS at a nursing home, volunteering at a church. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders – Block parties. 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders – Made baby albums & photo frames.)

B. List all the groups or kinds of people that they reached out to. (Children, elderly people in a nursing home, people who live in a multi-housing community, women who give birth to babies in a hospital, needy families.)

Remind them that Jesus wants all Christians (young & old) to tell people about Him. Now ask them to think about people they know who need to know Jesus. Give each child a copy of the Concentric Circles (see activity sheet). Explain to them how to write names of their family and friends in the circles on the page.



C. First have them write their own name in the innermost circle. In the next circle they are to write the names of their immediate family (father, mother, brothers, sisters, stepparents, etc). The 3<sup>rd</sup> circle is for other relatives (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. – They may not have room for all of them, but they can list those they see the most.) The 4<sup>th</sup> circle is for the names of their close friends, the 5<sup>th</sup> for their neighbors, the 6<sup>th</sup> for acquaintances (people whose names they know, but they really don't know the person). You will need to explain that *acquaintances* mean other people they know, but not as well - for example, someone in their class at school or on their ball team. The last largest circle is labeled "Person X" – that means anyone else, even people they don't know.

D. After they have completed their Concentric Circle, explain to them that these are the people they know who need to know God's love. Some of those people may already be Christians. Others are not, it's our job to love them like God loves them. Brainstorm with the children ways they can show God's love to mothers or fathers, brothers & sisters, friends, neighbors, etc. let them write the ideas on their activity sheet.

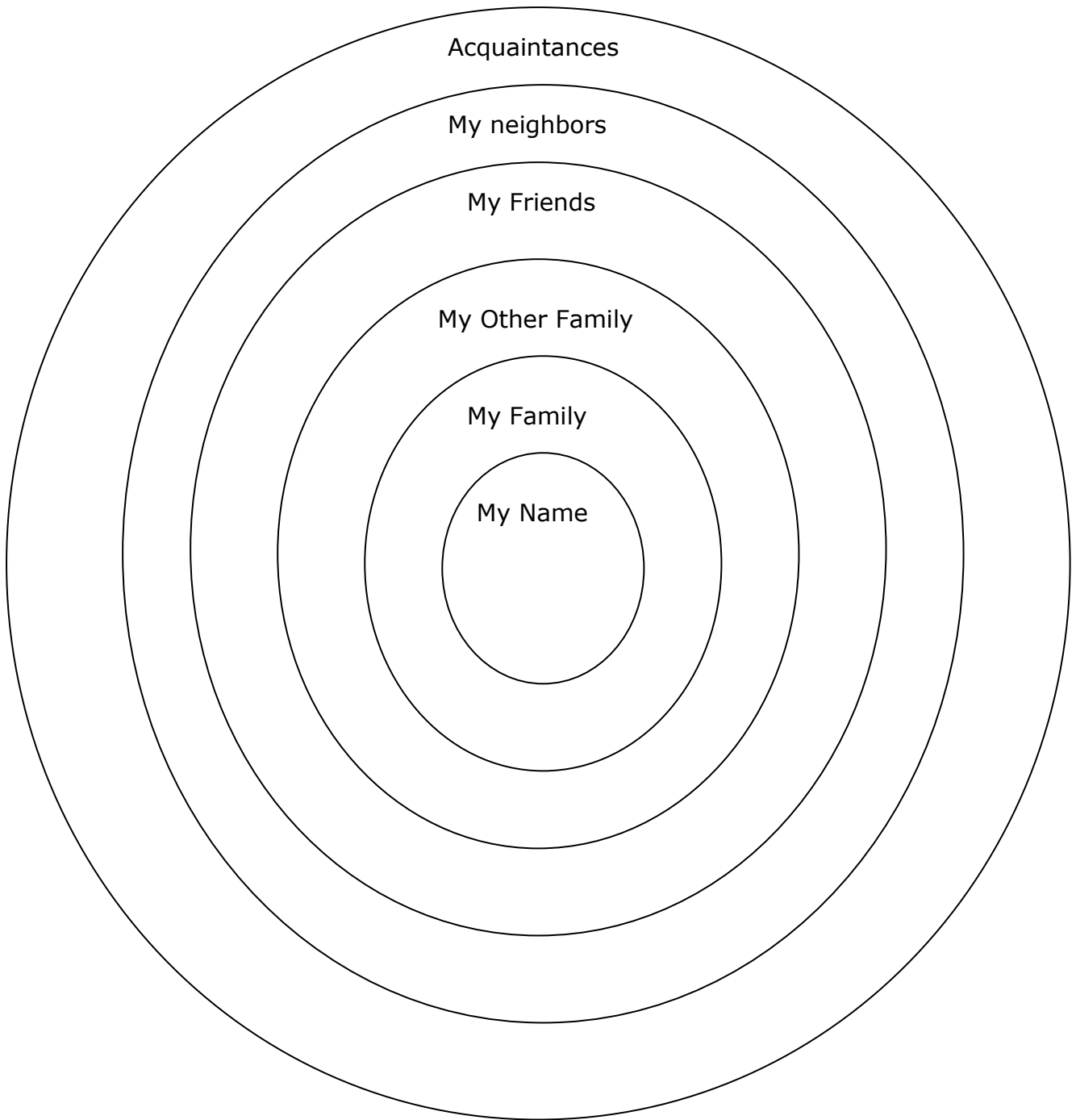
E. End by challenging the children to select at least one person in their circles that they will show God's love to this week.

Lead them to pray for the person they chose. Then lead a closing prayer, praying for God to help the children love that person.

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The Color of Water





### Activity 3 Handout



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# My Notes



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