

Title: Spreading the Good News

Theme: What is a missionary?

Scripture: Luke 9:6 So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news ...

Supplies Needed:

- * A world map or globe
- * Sticky notes (marked Galilee, another with your town, one with Sudan (or your mission site))

Sermon: Good morning, everyone! I want to show you a couple of things on the map (or globe) this morning. This is a map of the whole world. We are right here, in (insert town and state). (Point to your location, and put a sticky note with the name of your town on it) Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus lived here. (Put a sticky note on Galilee.)

Now, Jesus lived in a time before television or the Internet; before radio or telephones. Yet the message of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus --what Christians call the Gospel message--spread from this small area of Galilee all the way to (insert town), where we live. Today people all over the world have heard about Jesus and God's love.

The Gospel message did not travel across the globe overnight, and spreading the Good News of Jesus so far and wide required many, many people telling others about Jesus. We call these people missionaries.

The first missionaries were sent out by Jesus himself. He told his followers to pack light and to travel from town to town, telling anyone who would listen that God loved them and wanted them to live as children of God. Then, after Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples travelled even further from home, sharing God's love and telling people the Good News about Jesus.

The Church grew as more and more people heard and believed the Gospel message. Missionaries shared the love of God in many ways. Sometimes they preached the Good News in worship services. Sometimes they practiced God's love by giving the people they served help with hospitals and clinics, schools and farms.

For example, in (insert your town), the Presbyterian churches have a sister relationship with the Presbyterian churches in the Sudan, a country in Africa. It is right here on the map. (put a sticky note on Sudan) We have helped our sister churches in the Sudan to start schools, learn about peacemaking, train pastors, and with raising food, just to name a few projects. And the churches in the Sudan send pastors here to share their love of God and their enthusiasm for the Gospel with us.

There are still many people in the world who have never heard of Jesus, or who don't know that God sent Jesus for them. It is important to tell them the Good News. But, a person doesn't need to travel far and wide to be a missionary. We don't need to do big things like building hospitals in Africa or churches in Vietnam or digging wells in the Dominican Republic to do mission. We can do mission right here in our own home town. Every time you show another person kindness, or invite a friend to Sunday school, or show someone you care, you are sharing God's love and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It takes all kinds of love--fancy and simple--to spread the Good News.

Prayer: Let's Pray. Kind and Loving God, we thank you for the people who spread the Good News of Jesus here to our parents and to us, so that we know your love and forgiveness. Help each of us be kind and forgiving and to love others like Jesus did. And help each of us to look for ways to share the Good News of Jesus with others both here in (insert town) and in far away places. Amen.

(Adapted from a sermon by Rev. Dianne Deming <http://childrenssermonstoday.blogspot.com>)