



explore

book 4
in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

Encounter Your Mission for God

Student Book

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Encounter Your Mission for God

Student Book 4 in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

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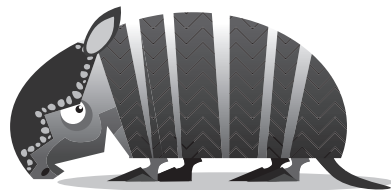
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explore

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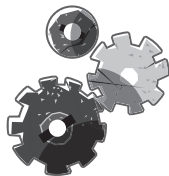


Fruits of the Spirit

The fruits of the Spirit are evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.

Engage

The fruits of the Spirit don't grow *on* you. They grow *in* you. When you allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life, you will react differently than before.



I Can Know It Is True

1. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. You may use one or two of these words to describe yourself from time to time, but all of them together seem overwhelming and impossible. The great news is that you don't have to be all of this on your own; the Holy Spirit gives you the power to succeed.

Read about the fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22–26.

2. The fruits of the Spirit are available to all Christians. When we become a Christian, the Holy Spirit enters our lives. He begins to help us become more like Jesus Christ by producing good “fruits” or Christ-like behaviors and attitudes. These fruits are not just available to a few believers; every Christian can experience them!

Check out how the Holy Spirit guides and helps us in 1 Corinthians 2:10–12 and Galatians 5:16–18.

3. The fruits of the Spirit should be evident in you. Romans 12:2 says, “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn and know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

As Christians we’re called to be different from the world—set apart. The fruits of the Spirit are a sign that we’re different.

Discover the importance of living a life with the evidence of the Holy Spirit in 1 Peter 2:9–12.

Check It Out

Read Galatians 5:22–23.

Put it to the test: Can you think of a law that goes against one of these behaviors?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Do you think love is the greatest fruit of the Spirit? Why or why not? (Check out 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 for some insight.)

The fruits of the Spirit are evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.



Question

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. What are the opposite behaviors to these?

Love:

Joy:

Peace:

Patience:

Kindness:

Goodness:

Faithfulness:

Gentleness:

Self Control:

Take a look at your list. Would you rather have a life filled with the fruits of the Spirit, or without?



Challenge

Pick one fruit of the Spirit that isn't evident in your life right now. Write it down and pray this week that God will help you produce that fruit in your life. Be ready to share next week what fruit you chose and how the Holy Spirit is working in your life.

Fruit of the Spirit:

How God is working in my life to grow it:

Explore

Galatians 5:22–25 says,

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are given for service to God and His Church.

Engage

God has equipped each of His followers with tools that bring honor to His name. These tools are called *spiritual gifts*. When every believer uses these spiritual gifts to serve God, His Church grows.



I Can Know It Is True

1. Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer. When we become believers, the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts so we can serve God and His Church. Some of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible are: teaching, preaching, serving, helping, healing, giving, encouraging, evangelism, mercy, hospitality, wisdom, knowledge, faith, missions, and leadership.

Take a look at the spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:7–11, 28; and Ephesians 4:11.

2. Spiritual gifts are to be used for the purpose of building the body of Christ. Unlike our talents and abilities, our spiritual gifts are given to us for the sole purpose of building the Church. Your talents and abilities may bring you fame and fortune, but your spiritual gifts were not given to you for personal gain and attention. Instead, they're to be used for God's glory and for the benefit of the body of Christ.

Discover how we're supposed to use our spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11–13; and 1 Peter 4:10.

3. Every spiritual gift is valuable to the body of Christ. There's no scale of importance for spiritual gifts. Some may seem to get more attention or be more public, but all are equally valuable. It's important for us to discover what our gifts are and use them. When we use our spiritual gifts, the entire Church benefits, God is glorified, and we grow even stronger in our faith.

Learn how valuable your spiritual gifts are in 1 Corinthians 12:12–28 and Ephesians 4:15–16.

Check It Out

Read 1 Corinthians 12:11.

Why doesn't the Holy Spirit give us every spiritual gift?

God has called you to serve Him and His Church. The Holy Spirit has equipped you to do the job. Are you ready to start using your spiritual gifts to build the body of Christ?



Question

Spiritual gifts are given to every believer by the Holy Spirit.

In looking at the list of spiritual gifts, which one do you believe you have been blessed with. How could you begin using that gift to build the church?

Spiritual gifts are to be used for the purpose of building the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul reminds us that our motivation when we use our spiritual gifts should always be love—for God and for our fellow believers.

Check out Acts 8:9–24.

What do you think Simon's motivation was in wanting the gift of the Spirit? Who was his top priority: God, the Church, or himself? How did Peter react to Simon?

Name someone you know who is using his or her spiritual gift. What's their gift and how are they using it?



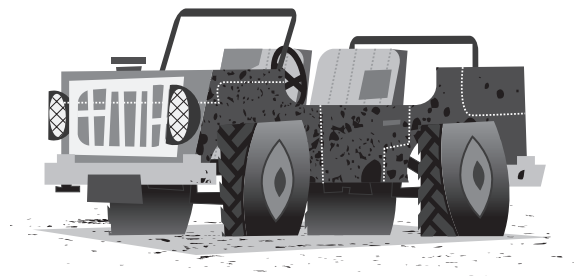
Challenge

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 and 12:27–28. Make a list of spiritual gifts. Circle the gift(s) you feel you have. Take time to pray this week that God will help you develop your spiritual gift and give you opportunities to lift up the body of Christ.

Explore

James 1:17–18 says,

Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.



Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines are holy habits that should be a part of every believer's life.

Engage

The more you do something, the better you get at it and the more you want to do it. Just like sports, music, and academics require discipline to get better and achieve more, your spiritual life requires discipline.



I Can Know It Is True

1. There are a variety of spiritual disciplines mentioned in Scripture. The most commonly practiced disciplines are prayer, Bible study, Scripture memorization, service, worship, giving, going to church, and fellowship. Others include: fasting, which is going without food; solitude, which is spending time alone with God; tithing, which is giving 10 percent of your money to God; confession, which is sharing your sins with God and other believers; and simplicity, which is choosing to live a simple life without an abundance of worldly possessions.

Read about a few of the spiritual disciplines mentioned in Scripture in Psalm 100:2; 119:15–16; Proverbs 30:8–9; Romans 12:12; and James 5:16.

2. It takes an intentional commitment for spiritual disciplines to become part of your daily life. Spiritual disciplines require time, effort, and energy. They can seem overwhelming and difficult, but they are a vital part of Christian living because they help us stay connected with God.

Read about the importance of working to stay connected to God in John 15:1–8 and Philippians 3:12–14.

3. Spiritual disciplines lead us into a deeper, more consistent relationship with God. God wants to be our closest friend and not just someone we spend an hour or two with at church. Each spiritual discipline helps deepen our relationship with God in a unique way.

Discover how we can grow closer to God through spiritual disciplines in Hebrews 12:1–3 and 2 Peter 1:3–11.

Check It Out

Read Luke 6:47–48.

How do spiritual disciplines help you build a firm foundation?

Make a list of the spiritual disciplines mentioned earlier and the ones you discovered in the Scripture reading from the Engage section. Circle the ones that are a part of your life today. Underline the ones you need to work on.



Question

Each spiritual discipline helps strengthen our friendship with God in a unique way. How do you think solitude strengthens your relationship with God?

Simplicity?

Confession?

Fasting?

Spiritual disciplines are holy habits that should be a part of every believer's life. What spiritual disciplines are already in your life? What are three other disciplines that you should work to include?

1.

2.

3.



Challenge

This week, pick a spiritual discipline to practice and answer the following questions:

What practical steps can you take to make this spiritual discipline a part of your daily life?

Who is someone that can hold you accountable to follow through with your plan of action?

Write this discipline in your notebook and develop a plan on how you will make this discipline a habit. Find someone to be accountable to and have them ask you how you're doing.

Spiritual discipline:

Accountability partner:

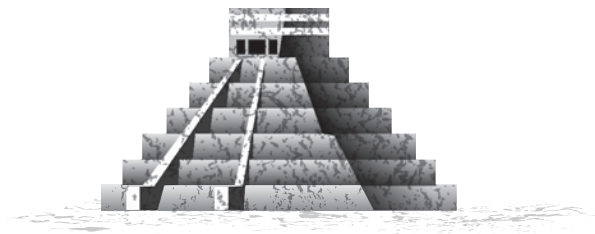
My goal:

How I did this week:

Explore

John 15:5–8 says,

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.



Compassion

The ministry of compassion is the practical extension of Christ's love to a lost, hurting, and needy world.

Engage

We live in a world full of lost, hurting, and needy people. God wants us to tell others about His love, but He also wants us to show them His love in practical and meaningful ways.



I Can Know It Is True

1. Jesus is our example because He lived a life of compassion. Jesus knew that to really make a difference in the world He couldn't just *tell* others about God's love; He had to *show* it in practical ways. Jesus took time to help meet the needs of those He came in contact with. He fed crowds when they were hungry, healed the sick when they were hurting, spent time with those who were rejected, and showed mercy on the outcasts.

Find out how Jesus showed compassion in Matthew 20:29–34; Mark 8:1–10; Luke 19:1–10; and John 8:1–11.

2. The Church is called to provide for the needs of others. The Church is called the “body of Christ.” As Christ's body, we must reach the world with His love as He did. Who needs to feel and hear that love more than hurting, needy people? We are to use the blessings God has given us to provide for those in need.

Check out how the believers provided for the needs of others in Acts 2:42–47 and 4:32–37.

3. There are a variety of practical ways that we can show compassion to others. We can show compassion to others by meeting their physical needs of food, shelter, water, and medical care. We can provide practically through educational and financial assistance, helping them learn and earn a living. And we can provide for their emotional needs through showing them God's love, helping them see how valuable they are to God, and sharing what Jesus Christ did for them.

Discover how a Samaritan showed compassion in a practical way in Luke 10:30–37.

Check It Out

Read Luke 6:35–36.

God wants us to show compassion to everyone, even our enemies. Why is it easier to show compassion to our friends than to someone we don't get along with?

Read Matthew 6:3–4.

Why do you think God wants us to be private about giving and showing compassion?

We live in a world full of lost, hurting, and needy people. Take a look around and see how you can be a practical extension of God's love by showing others compassion.



Question

List five examples of how Jesus showed compassion during His ministry. Recall the Scripture you read in the Engage section for help with this.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



The Church is called to follow Jesus' example and provide for the needs of others. How has another believer shown you compassion? How did that impact you?

There are a variety of practical ways that you can show compassion to others. Think of practical ways you can show compassion to:

An elderly neighbor?

A friend whose parents are getting divorced?

Your mom when she's not feeling well?

A missionary family in need of financial assistance?



Challenge

Find a person who is in need. This can be as simple as a classmate who needs a pencil or lunch or a neighbor who needs help buying food or mowing the lawn. Once you've found someone in need, show compassion to them. Journal below about how you showed compassion and how it made you feel.

Who I helped:

What I did:

How I felt:

Explore

Matthew 25:34–40 says,

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”

Then these righteous ones will reply, “Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?”

And the King will say, *“I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!”* (emphasis added).



The Call

God calls every believer to a life of ministry.

Engage

God desires all of us to do ministry for Him. But how does God call? What does it mean to be called and how do you know?



I Can Know It Is True

1. God calls some believers to vocational ministries. God asks some people to dedicate their lives to leading, guiding, serving, and building the Church for a living. These people make ministry their career. Pastors, missionaries, and evangelists are a few examples of people who have felt God's call to make ministry their full time job!

Check out how God called the disciples to a life of ministry in Matthew 4:18–22 and Mark 2:13–17.

2. God calls others to minister through a different kind of vocation. Not every believer is called to make ministry their full time job. In fact, God calls most of His followers to a career outside the Church. God calls some believers to be doctors, plumbers, architects, store managers, school teachers, and designers. No matter what career God calls you to, He wants you to find ways to minister to those people you work with, live beside, and come in contact with.

Take a look at how Noah, Esther, and Mary responded when God called them in Genesis 6:9–22; Esther 4:13–17; and Luke 1:26–38.

3. You can begin your ministry now! God may call you into vocational ministry some day, or He may ask you to use your vocation as a way to minister to others. But, you don't have to wait until you have a career to minister to those around you. God is calling you to begin your ministry now, by letting your life be a shining light.

Read what Jesus said about letting your light shine in Matthew 5:14–16; Ephesians 5:8–9; and Philippians 2:14–15.

Check It Out

Read 1 Samuel 3:1–10.

When God called Samuel to ministry, Samuel listened and obeyed the Lord's calling. How did God call Samuel? Have you ever heard God's voice?

Most of us never hear His voice with our ears like Samuel did, but we can hear His voice in our hearts. We can feel His direction through the opportunities and circumstances He allows to come our way. Pray for the ability to “hear” Him speak.

When God calls you to serve and minister to the people around you, how do you answer?

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Paul instructed Timothy to live an exemplary life so that no one would think less of him because of his age. What kind of an example are you in what you say? What about in the way you live? Are you a good example in your love, faith, and purity?



Question

God calls some people to vocational ministry. What are specific areas of ministry in the Church that God calls people to do as their profession or job?

Have you ever felt God calling you to one of these areas of ministry?

Even if God doesn't call you into vocational ministry, He still expects you to use your vocation as a way to minister to other people. Think about what you want to be when you get older. How can you use that career as a ministry?

You can begin your ministry now by letting your light shine! Think about your life. Which of these sources of light best represents your life and why: a candle, nightlight, flashlight, spotlight, bonfire, lighthouse, or the sun?

God calls every believer to a life of ministry, and He wants you to begin your ministry now. What are three specific ways you can minister to someone this week?

1.

2.

3.



Challenge

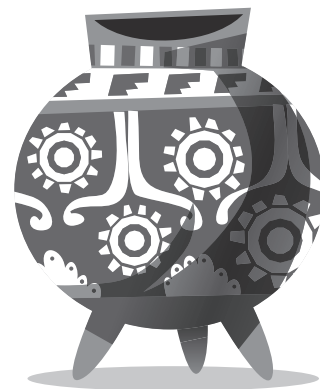
Interview your pastor this week about being called to the ministry. Ask your pastor the following questions:

- When were you called to ministry?
- How did God call you to become a pastor?
- How long have you been a pastor?
- How did God help you become a pastor?

Record your pastor's answers, then, take some time and pray about where God is calling you.

Explore

First Timothy 4:12 says, “Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”



Missions

Missions is the cross-cultural sharing of the gospel.

Engage

We are called to take the good news to people from different cultures, backgrounds, lifestyles, languages, and countries. You may think “Missions—impossible,” but with God’s help you can do it.



I Can Know It Is True

1. God calls each of us to make disciples. Making disciples isn't just for pastors, teachers, and church leaders; it's for all of us. This might seem like an overwhelming task, but here are a few tips on how to make disciples:

- Be a **D**isciple.
- Invest in a relationship with them.
- **S**peak their language.
- **C**ommunicate the Gospel clearly.
- Investigate their culture.
- **P**ray.
- **L**ove.
- Set an **E**xample.
- **S**erve.

Read about our call to make disciples in Matthew 28:18–20 and Acts 1:8.

2. God calls us to go into all the world. God does not want us to sit around and wait for people to ask us about Him. Instead, He tells us to “go.” It’s our

responsibility to go out and share the Good News not just in our neighborhood, home town, state, and country, but with people who live on the other side of the world.

Read about our call to go into the entire world in Mark 16:15.

3. There are a variety of practical expressions of missions. When we think of missionaries, we think of people who share the Good News through preaching and teaching the Word, but did you know that there are many ways missionaries share the gospel in other cultures? Missionaries can be doctors, engineers, school teachers, contractors, and farmers. Many cultures and countries that need to hear about God’s love and salvation don’t allow preaching of the gospel or witnessing. God uses people with practical skills to share His message of love, forgiveness, and freedom.

Read about some practical expressions of missions in 2 Corinthians 8:1–7 and 1:11.

Check It Out

Acts 13–14 outlines Paul’s first missionary journey. Did you know that Paul was one of the first missionaries? Write out all of the places he and Barnabas traveled to as they shared the Good News.

Matthew 28:18–20 tells us that it is our responsibility to go and make disciples. The word *go* implies action on our part. Why do you think it is important for us to go?

Acts 1:8 gives a clue into how this “going” is possible. What is the source of the power needed to go?

Do you look for ways to share the gospel with other people or do you wait for them to come to you? Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you the power and courage to go and tell the world about Jesus and His amazing gift of salvation.

Where can you go? And who can you tell?



Question

Look around you. Where do you see opportunities to become involved in missions?

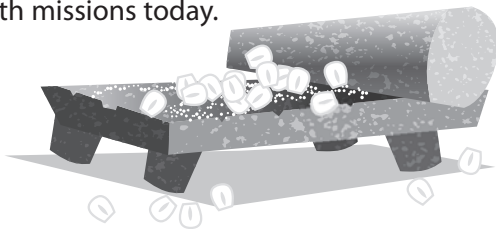


Challenge

This week, research and gather information about a missionary or missions group. Discover some missionaries that your church sponsors and ask where they serve, how they serve there, and what you can do to support their ministry. Get their e-mail address and send them a note to thank them for their ministry and let them know you are praying for them. If your church doesn't sponsor a missionary, use the following websites to research missionary organizations and missionaries. Find one missionary that you can ask the same questions to, then contact them as well.

- www.wesleyan.org/gp
- www.worldhope.org

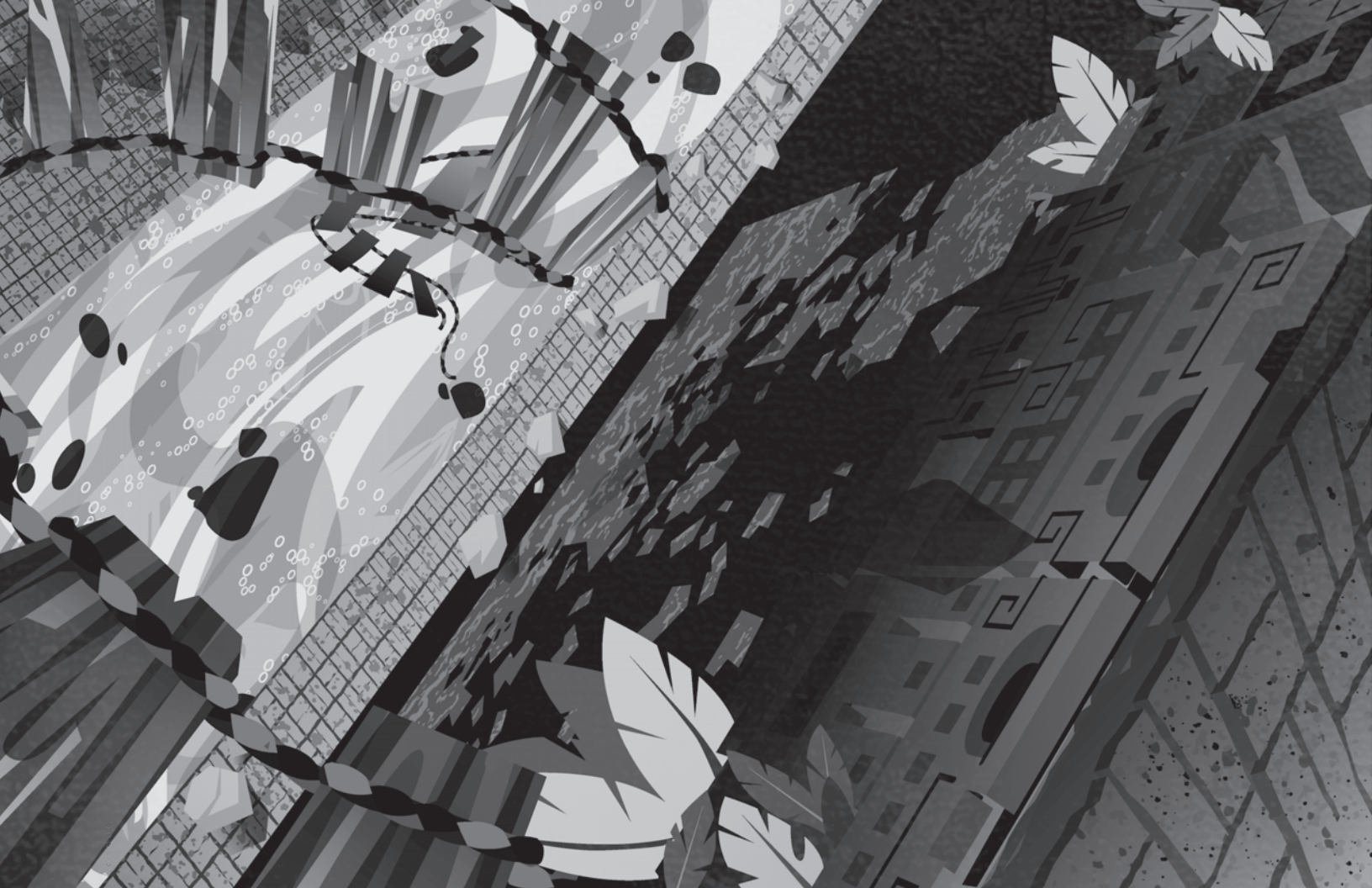
Pray for the missionary that you have researched and consider ways you can get involved with missions today.



Explore

Matthew 28:18–20 says,

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



Missions Experience Application

I, _____, would like to be considered as a participant in the *Explore* preteen mission experience.

I confirm that Jesus Christ is my personal Lord and Savior. The following is my personal story of faith:

I have thoughtfully prayed about this decision. I understand the responsibilities involved in my participation.

Why I want to be part of the *Explore* preteen mission experience:

What I hope to gain:

What I hope to give:

I have talked to my parents and together we have decided I am ready spiritually to participate.

Preteen's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____



Congratulations

**on exploring God's Word
and discovering His plan for you!**

**Go and encounter your
mission for God!**

explore