



The Bible Reaches Europe

Big Idea: God transforms people in Europe when Christians show Jesus' love to them.

#8

Missionary Focus: Patrick of Ireland and Brother Andrew

Students Will:

Know

- Patrick of Ireland was captured as a slave. He chose forgiveness rather than bitterness.
- God miraculously delivered Brother Andrew from the communist guards.
- Europe has more people than all the other continents other than Asia.
- New Testament Structure & Authors: The Apostle Paul sent four letters to encourage Church leaders.

Feel

- Challenged by Patrick's mercy.
- Inspired by Brother Andrew's courage.
- Faith-filled at God's ability to do miracles.
- Sobered by Europe's Christian past and moral decline.

Do

- Participate in an object lesson illustrating the nature of open and closed doors.
- Pray for spiritual progress among the Europeans.
- Take a step toward reaching Europe with the Gospel.



Pray for Wisdom

Lord, just as Your Word came to many around the world through the lands of Europe, give me a heart for the people there still separated from You because they have not yet believed.

Show me how to promote Your love of the people in Europe to the students. Show me how I can personally help promote the mission effort there as well. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson Summary

For hundreds of years, Europe was the main center of Biblical teaching. Many wonderful heroes of the Christian faith taught the Bible, translated it for the common person to read, and went to undeveloped regions of the world with the Good News of salvation through Jesus. Much of the expansion of the Gospel in North America can be attributed to the faith and dedication of European missionaries.

It is important to remember, however, that the Bible was not always taught and believed in Europe. God's Word spread throughout Europe the same way it must everywhere. God entrusted the Gospel to people who would take His wonderful message of love and forgiveness to those who had yet to hear it. This lesson features

two significant messengers to the people of Europe: Patrick of Ireland and Brother Andrew.

In Patrick, students have an example of love and forgiveness as the mistreated becomes the missionary to the very people who once held him in slavery. Brother Andrew's story will show God's ability to use His powerful Word even when enemies of the Gospel try to stop it.

This lesson continues a series of lessons that focus on spiritual needs on each continent around the world. Students will be encouraged and inspired to pray for the people of Europe.



Sing with Joy

Special Songs

Two songs have been created to reinforce the learner targets for this unit. Lyrics and music are printed in this Teacher's Guide.

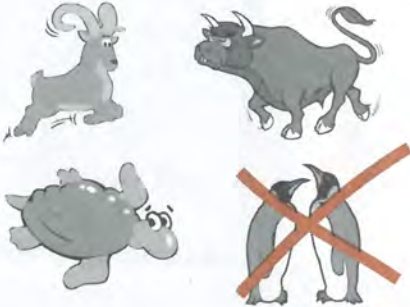
- Treasure Expedition* (Mark Chase, 1998) Theme song for Level 2—motivates students to treasure the Bible and read it regularly.
- God's Great, Wonderful Word* (Mark Chase, 1999) Theme song

The Bible Reaches Europe



ANIMALS OF EUROPE

Cross out the animal that does not belong.



FACTS ABOUT EUROPE

- * Europe is full of beautiful rivers, countryside, and old buildings.
- * Europe has 750 million people living in almost 40 countries. Only Asia has more people.

Why We Got the Bible 2-8-8

29

Talk about Europe and the people who live there.

Have fun doing the animal activity together.

for Unit B—challenges students to share the Good News about Jesus with others.

Memorize Bible Verse

Use your favorite Bible translation to teach and rehearse:

Topic: Grow Strong

Reference: 2 Peter 3:18

Suggested Memory Activity:

Order Challenge

Put each word of the verse on a separate card. Place them all on a table, face up. Mix up the cards and have the students put the words in the right order. (Perhaps even repeat this exercise once or twice more.) Then, after they have had the opportunity to place them in

order, start removing one card at a time, selecting students to recite the verse even as it disappears. If they already seem to have the verse memorized, remove more than one card at a time.

Alternate Passage:

Psalm 19:7-14 (learned through the entire unit).

Pray for Power

Pray that your students would realize that Jesus' command to go into the world is accompanied by the most wonderful of promises: Jesus will be with us until the end!



Spark Interest

You will need: paper plates (two per student), scissors, crayons or markers, paper fasteners.

Before class, draw cut lines on paper plates (or precut them yourself) figuring one cut plate per student. The other plate will go behind the cut plate and be attached with a paper fastener.

With your classroom door open, challenge students by saying, "Who can walk through that door?" After several try to demonstrate that they are indeed able to walk through the door, point out that they actually didn't walk through the door, but through the doorway. Now close the door and ask who can walk through it now. Joke that, of all the difficult things we face in life, one of the hardest things to go through is a door. It's always best if the door has been opened before we try to go through a doorway!

Pass out one paper plate to each student. If you have not already cut the plates, have students cut along the lines that you've drawn. Fold "doors" back. Suggest that students color them to look like the world or decorate them however they wish. Attach the back plate with a paper fastener. Have students write

“Mark 16:15 - Go into all the world...” on the part of the back plate revealed by the open doors. Encourage them to turn their plates in opposite directions and draw pictures that will remind them that we are to take God’s Word to the entire world. Some ideas of things that could be put behind the doors might be a Bible, friends, different forms of transportation, other memory verses, etc.

Explore Scripture


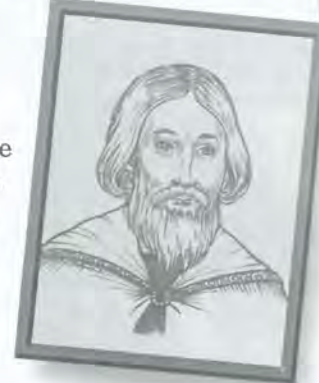
You will need a world globe.

Point to Europe on the globe and ask if anyone would like to volunteer to try to locate the British Isles. Identify the large eastern island as Britain. Explain that the modern-day country of England is on this island, and that our language and many of our American customs come from this part of the world. Identify the smaller island to the west as Ireland. Read or tell in your own words this story of Patrick:

Over sixteen hundred years ago lived a boy named Patrick. He lived with his Christian family on the island of Britain. Patrick was neither an especially good boy nor an especially bad one. Because his father was a very important man in his church, Patrick usually tried to behave in a way that would not embarrass his father. But Patrick wasn’t really sure if he was a Christian or not. He figured that since his parents were Christians, he was probably a Christian, too. He hoped so. When Patrick was sixteen, though, something happened that caused him to think very seriously about his spiritual life.

One day Irish pirates attacked Patrick’s village. Patrick was captured and placed on a ship that set sail for Ireland. Imagine being taken from your family and friends and sold as a slave in another land! That is exactly what happened to Patrick. As a slave of an Irish chief, Patrick’s job was to tend sheep. Can you think of the name of a famous shepherd boy in the Bible? That’s right, David. Like David, Patrick grew close to God while he watched the sheep. It was during this time

IRELAND

Patrick went to Ireland two times. The first time he didn’t want to go, but the second time he did. Why did he go the first time?

- His parents sent him to school.
- He was captured by pirates.
- He ran away from home.

Patrick was a slave for six years.

Circle how you might have felt in Patrick’s situation:

angry	sad	loving
excited	forgiving	hateful
afraid	caring	thankful



DID YOU KNOW?

- * Patrick was the slave of an Irish chief.
- * He grew close to God while caring for sheep.

ROMANIA

Brother Andrew waited quietly as the guards looked through his suitcases.

Draw a picture of what they were trying to find.

After learning about Patrick of Ireland and Brother Andrew, talk about other people who serve God in Europe.

that Patrick gave his heart to the Lord. Before this, he had only hoped that he was a Christian. Now he knew he was a Christian. And even though his family was far away, he knew that Jesus was with him.

Six years later Patrick managed to escape. He went to Britain where he was free and safe at last! Because he had been a slave, you

might think that Patrick would hate Ireland so much that he would never want to see that island again. But over a period of time, God put a strong love inside Patrick for the people who had been cruel to him. It was as if God opened up the door of Patrick’s heart. He remembered the sad and sinful lives the Irish people lived, and he felt sorry for them. He decided to go back and

PRAY FOR EUROPE!

Long ago, Europe was the center of Christianity, but today Europe has deep spiritual needs.

- * Most Europeans don't worship God at all. Many churches are nearly empty during worship times.
Pray that Europeans will be hungry for God.
- * Millions of people are trapped by sin.
Pray that they will turn to Jesus the Savior.
- * Many groups of people are not friendly with each other.
Pray that all Europeans will come to know Jesus, the Prince of Peace.



God has opened "doors" for His people to share the Good News about Jesus' love with people in Europe. How will you help?

- Learn all I can about the people of Europe.
- Pray for the people of Europe.
- Write to a missionary in Europe.

Grow Strong

2 Peter 3:18



sidebar on page 30 to review the story.

Not long ago, there were many places in Europe where it was against the law to spread the Gospel. In these countries, Bibles were destroyed. Missionaries were not allowed to enter the country. Some of the people of these countries were thrown in jail because they were Christians. Romania was one of these countries. You could say that Romania had its doors closed to the message of Jesus.

A man called Brother Andrew knew that the people of Romania needed to hear about Jesus. He knew that if they could just read the Bible, they would find out that Jesus loved them and wanted to save them. Brother Andrew prayed, asking God what he should do. After praying, he believed that God wanted him to take Bibles to the people of Romania. This would not be easy. There were guards at the border of the country. They had orders not to let any Bibles enter the country. Whoever was caught trying to bring Bibles into Romania would be arrested, and the Bibles would be destroyed.

But Brother Andrew trusted God and wanted to obey Him. He packed many Bibles in his suitcases and went to the border. As he waited for his turn to enter the country he watched the guards opening suitcases and packages to check for Bibles. What if they found his Bibles? Quietly, Brother Andrew prayed. "Jesus, when You walked on the earth You made blind eyes see. Now I ask that You will make seeing eyes blind. Please don't let the guards see anything that You don't want them to see."

At last, it was Brother Andrew's turn to have his suitcases searched. As the guards looked through his things, he could see Bibles in plain sight. But the guards didn't seem to notice! "Alright, move along!" he was told. The next thing he knew, Brother Andrew was in Romania with all of his Bibles. God had answered his prayer! When it seemed impossible for the Gospel to enter Romania, the Lord had opened a door with a wonderful miracle!

tell them about Jesus. Some people didn't think that Patrick's church or family would let him go back to Ireland, but God made it possible. Again, it was as if the Lord opened a door and Patrick went through it. During the next thirty years, God used Patrick to help start more than 300 churches. Thousands of Irish people joined the family of God!

Have students turn to page 29 in the workbook and do the animal activity before going over Facts About Europe. Then direct students' attention to page 30 and help them fill in the information about Patrick.

Call their attention back to the globe to find Romania. After sharing with them the story of Brother Andrew (see below), use the

Inspire Action

Direct students to page 31 of their workbooks and take a few moments to discuss Europe's prayer needs as a class. Before doing HeartBeat, place a Bible on a table. Tell students that people have been trying to destroy the Bible for hundreds of years. Ask why they have not been successful. Read Isaiah 55:11 from a modern translation or paraphrase. Ask students to explain the meaning of the verse.

Hold up one of the paper plate projects made earlier. Note that there are two doors. One door represents the enemies of the Gospel. God has the power to open that door to allow His message to be taken places it has never been, just like He did for Brother Andrew. The other door represents their hearts. God must open our hearts to other people, just like He did for Patrick. Use HeartBeat as a tool to help students examine their hearts for bad attitudes or lack of forgiveness toward others. Encourage them to select a specific prayer need and lift it up to the Lord every day for one week. The need may be from the list on page 31 of the student workbook, or it may be in relation to someone they know who needs to hear about Jesus.

Pray for Life-Change


Recall the Gospel arriving in Europe, first through Paul, spreading to other regions such as Ireland through Patrick. Highlight the modern era and Europe's need for the Gospel as Brother Andrew has faithfully delivered it to Eastern Europe.

Thank God for Europe's role in spreading the Gospel around the world as the source of so many great missionaries like Brother Andrew, Hudson Taylor, William Carey, and others.

Pray for Europe, that though many have forsaken God in modern times, that God would have mercy again on that continent and call millions to Himself, one at a time. Pray for European believers to be strong in their faith and to boldly make known the wonderful life found only in Jesus.

✓ I have read Daniel 8.

Draw the two animals described in this chapter.

N.T. Structure & Authors


Paul sent 4 Letters to Leaders.

These personal letters encourage Church leaders.

(Say the name of each book and the person who wrote it aloud.)

Author Key

★ = name of book and author is the same
L = written by Luke
P = written by Paul



Encourage students to complete this page before the next lesson.

Pray for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.

will also identify who wrote each New Testament book.

N.T. Structure & Authors

This section will help your students understand how the New Testament books fit together. They



1. Snack Idea

(10-15 minutes)

Provide shortbread cookies to enjoy European food.

2. Guard House on the Border

(20-30 minutes)

You will need: a number of small suitcases or handbags and many Bibles.

Have the students role-play a border checkpoint as Brother Andrew experienced searches. Some students can play guards while others can play the role of prayer warrior, praying the Bible across the borders. Use the opportunity to emphasize what a blessing it is to have a Bible without fear of persecution.

3. Secret Worship Service

(20-30 minutes)

Simulate life under an oppressive government and explain the risk of imprisonment for practicing your faith. Have different students play various roles. One can be the teacher, another can share Scripture, while yet another can lead in prayer. Others can play guards who crash the service and demand it be stopped or they will be carried away to prison. (Allow the students to plan the agenda to the meeting. Prepare a corner of the room to be a special meeting place for this simulation.)

4. Map of Europe

(15-20 minutes)

Provide students with a map of Europe with the different countries outlined. Ask them to label the following countries: Romania, England, Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia and any others you would like them to learn.

You may provide hints by putting the shapes of the separate countries on the board (in a mixed-up order) with the country names written on them. Review by holding up a country shape and ask them to identify any countries you point to.

Teacher Tip

Sometimes a teacher doesn't realize that a student isn't getting it, and as a result a lot of learning is lost. Foster a comfortable environment that encourages questions and seek feedback on a regular basis. A simple way to check is to ask students to repeat back what they have just heard.

Supply Checklist

General Supplies:

- Bibles, student workbooks
- pencils, pens, markers
- paper, glue, tape
- "Hidden People" Profiles

Spark Interest

- paper plates (two per student)
- scissors, markers
- paper fasteners

Explore Scripture

- a world globe