



The Bible Reaches North America

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

#10

Missionary Focus: David Brainerd and Cameron Townsend

Students Will:

Know

- David Brainerd was a young, sickly man God used to reach Native Americans—even before the United States became a country.
- Cameron Townsend thought every person should be able to read God's Word in his or her own language. He started his work in Guatemala.
- There are still language and people groups in North America that have not yet heard the Gospel.
- New Testament Structure & Authors:* The Book of Revelation tells what God will do in the future.

Feel

- A sense of adventure in reaching out to Native Americans more than 200 years ago.
- A yearning for all people to have God's Word in their own language.
- Compassion for those without Christ on the continent of North America.

Do

- Participate in an activity demonstrating the difficulty of communication and the wonder of having God's Word.
- Pray for the needs and salvation of the people of North America.
- Beware of dangers that threaten their own spiritual health.



Pray for Wisdom

Lord, You have blessed North America with so much, yet the needs of the people on this continent are so great!

Let me see what Isaiah saw when he was inspired to say, "Here am I. Send me!" In the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Lesson Summary

The continent of North America has gone through enormous changes in a relatively short period of time. Only a few generations ago, the center of much of the world's commerce, technology, and Christian activity was very different. The North American wilderness of the 1700s was not a missionary sending base, but a mission field. European settlers brought the message of salvation through Jesus to those who were native to the land.

This lesson features two people who ministered to the people of this continent. David Brainerd (1718-1747) was a New Englander who felt called to minister to

Native American tribes. His story emphasizes the importance of prayer. Cameron Townsend (1896-1982) was a missionary to Guatemala before founding Wycliffe Bible Translators, a ministry that has helped to make effective evangelism possible all across the globe.

The Bible Reaches North America

ANIMALS OF NORTH AMERICA

Cross out the animal that does not belong.

FACTS ABOUT NORTH AMERICA

- * Most North Americans speak English, but languages from all over the world are also spoken.
- * The largest countries in North America are Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Why We Got the Bible 2-8-10 37

treasure the Bible and read it regularly.

- *God's Great, Wonderful Word* (Mark Chase, 1999) Theme song 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: Sow the Good News

Reference: Proverbs 11:30

Suggested Memory Activity:
Disappearing Verse

Put each word of the verse on a separate card. Lay the cards on the table in order. Allow one student to read the verse aloud. Turn one card over and choose another student to read the verse aloud again. Turn yet another over and continue the process until all cards are turned over. Toward the end, it might be necessary to call for volunteers so those more confident may recite the verse without embarrassment.

Alternate Passage:

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

Pray for Power

Pray that your students would have a distinct sense that God already has a plan for what He wants to do, who He wants to do it through, and that each one has a part to play.

*Talk about North America and the people who live there.
Have fun with your students as you do the animal activity.*



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



Spark Interest

You will need: miscellaneous camping gear such as a tent stake, a compass, firewood, a small pocketknife, etc.

Display the items on a table and ask students where they might see these things. Acknowledge the nice aspects of modern campgrounds. Get them to think about what it might have been like to camp alone in the wilderness 250 years ago. What nice things do campgrounds provide that they wouldn't have in the wild?

Explore Scripture


You will need a world globe.

Have a volunteer point to North America on the globe, then the State of Connecticut. Read or tell in your own words this account of the life of David Brainerd:

Let's go back in time to the days when the United States of America was not yet a country, but still only thirteen colonies. Every day, a young Connecticut farmer named David Brainerd couldn't wait to finish his chores so that he could get back to doing what he enjoyed the most—reading the Bible and praying. He loved the Bible and couldn't wait until the day when he could tell its Good News to others.

Soon David was offered that chance. When David was old enough and educated enough to become a minister, two churches asked him to become their pastor. To those who knew him, this must have seemed like the opportunity he had been waiting for. Yet David refused both invitations. By this time, a strong desire had made its way into his heart. David believed that God wanted him to take God's message to the people who had lived in that land for many years.

UNITED STATES



Two Churches asked David Brainerd to be their pastor.

He decided not to because:

- They did not pay enough.
- He wanted to be a farmer.
- He wanted to tell Native Americans about Jesus.


Sometimes David would go into the woods all alone to pray. What do you think he prayed about?

How did God answer his prayers?

God gave him opportunities to preach to different tribes through an interpreter.

DID YOU KNOW?


- * David Brainerd preached during the time when George Washington was a boy.
- * Christians who read David's writings are often motivated to pray more.



GUATEMALA

One day a man from a tribe in Guatemala asked Cameron Townsend, "If your God is so powerful, why doesn't he speak our language?"

After years of work, Cameron translated the Bible into this tribal language. Why are Bible translators important?



After sharing the stories of David Brainerd and Cameron Townsend, talk about other people who serve God in North America.

David wanted to be a missionary to Native Americans. How does a person begin preaching to people whose language he doesn't even know? To David there was only one way to start. Many times he would bravely go into the woods alone and pray. He would ask the Holy Spirit to help him reach the people he cared about so much. God answered his prayers.

Whether in the woods or in the camps of different tribes, David would preach and a tribe member would interpret (put the words in the language of the tribe). When David was finished giving his message, people would give their lives to Jesus.

David did not get to preach many years. His life ended before his thirtieth birthday because of sick-

PRAY FOR NORTH AMERICA!

The people of North America have many spiritual battles.

- * Many people in North America care more about worldly things than spiritual things.
Pray that they will fall in love with Jesus and turn from their sins.
- * Many missionaries come from North America.
Pray that God will keep sending Christians to people who have never heard about Jesus.
- * Some North Americans are blessed with much wealth, but others are very poor.
Pray that those who have much will share with the needy.



For some, living in North America means blessings and opportunities. There are also some spiritual dangers. What blessings do you want to thank God for?

*freedom material blessings
able to hear Gospel*

What spiritual dangers should you watch out for? _____

*take things for granted
become lazy or careless*

Sow the Good News

Proverbs 11:30



them about Cameron Townsend (see below), use the sidebar on page 38 to review the story.

In the beautiful land of Guatemala it was not hard to sell Spanish Bibles. Many thankful people would smile at Cameron Townsend as the precious books went from his hands to theirs. They knew what a wonderful thing it was to own a Bible of their very own. Cameron was happy to help make sure Bibles were always available. Yet he couldn't stop thinking about the many Native American tribes in the jungle, in the mountains, and in the land of Mexico to the north. These people did not speak Spanish. How were they going to hear about Jesus' love for them?

Cameron heard about a tribe that spoke Cakchiquel. He wanted to put the New Testament in their language, but Cakchiquel didn't even have an alphabet! Do you know any words in a different language? You would have to study hard to learn the entire language, wouldn't you? Imagine how hard it would be if there were no dictionaries or other books to help you study that language. There was nothing written because that language had only been spoken, never written or read.

How did Cameron translate the New Testament into the Cakchiquel language? Maybe you've guessed it. Cameron Townsend had to make a new alphabet for them! This was very hard work, but the love of Jesus for these people made him do it. It took Cameron several years, but the tribe finally had their New Testament. Later, Cameron started a summer camp that taught students how to translate the Bible into other languages. That camp was the beginning of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Today, more than 6,000 Wycliffe missionaries live in over seventy countries!

Lead your students in prayer for the people of North America.

ness. But during his short life he was able to take God's Word to many Native American people in Massachusetts (point to these states on the globe), New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. After David's death, many people were so touched by his courage and commitment that they decided to follow David's example and serve God as missionaries.

Have students turn to page 37 of the student workbook and do the animal activity before going over Facts About North America.

Then direct students' attention to page 38 and help them fill in the information about David Brainerd.

Call their attention back to the globe and point to Guatemala (south of Mexico). After telling

Inspire Action

You will need: a Greek New Testament. (Perhaps your pastor has one. If not, a Spanish New Testament or some other foreign language may be substituted.)

Direct students to page 39 of their workbooks. After discussing North America's prayer needs as a class, hold up the Greek New Testament. Let them see the printing. Ask if anyone would like to try to read a verse from it. Point out that the Bible has not always been in our language. For hundreds of years there were no English Bibles. Lead a discussion about how our lives would be different today if no one had ever shared God's Word with us. Help them to feel compassion for those who need to hear the Gospel in their own language.

Have students form pairs. Tell them that you are going to give them a simple message to share with their partners, but they cannot speak or write any words. They may only use hand signals. Whisper the message into the ear of one partner of each group. Allow students to try to communicate for thirty seconds before switching roles. This time, whisper a different message to the other partners. Choose one easy message and one that is a bit more difficult. Some suggestions are:


- God loves you.
- Jesus is God's Son.
- Jesus died for your sins.
- God wants you in His family.

Allow time for students to do HeartBeat on page 39 of their workbooks.

Pray for Life-Change

Speak openly with the children about what consecration to God means, about what it means to lay your life before Him.

Acknowledge in prayer that God is indeed the rightful owner of all things, and doubly so of Christians, first because He created all people and second because He redeemed His children back with the price of Jesus' blood. Thank God for not leaving us to





Explore More


✓ I have read Daniel 10:1—11:1.

Who touched Daniel's lips? angel

Draw a picture of Daniel beside this heavenly messenger.







N.T. Structure & Authors

Prophecy books tell what God will do in the future.

(Name each book and the person who wrote it.)

Author Key

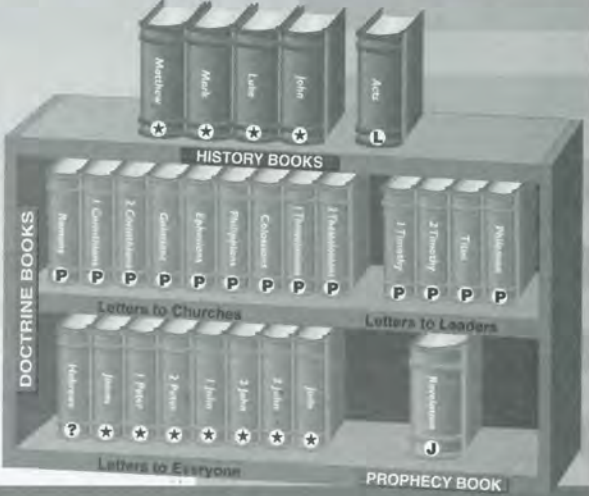
★ = name of book and author is the same

L = written by Luke

P = written by Paul

? = nobody knows who wrote this book

J = written by John



Encourage students to complete this page before the next lesson.

our own chosen end, but for providing a way back to Him.

Pray that each might walk in obedience fitting for a loving and wise God as He directs each person's steps.

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

N.T. Structure & Authors

This section will help your students understand how the New Testament books fit together. They will also identify who wrote each New Testament book.



1. Snack Idea

(10-15 minutes)

Serve popcorn in honor of this food native to North America.

2. Play Junior Translator

(30-40 minutes)

Cameron Townsend learned many languages and taught others how to learn any language. Bible translators need to be able to listen to languages, write them down and figure them out. Invite a speaker of another language to come to the class and teach three to six very basic phrases and perhaps the numbers in his or her language.

Give the students the opportunity write down what they hear, either matching the closest English letters to the sounds or use the script that the speaker of the language teaches. Have the students listen and imitate what they hear. Have them identify any new sounds in the second language they are not familiar with. Remember the limited attention span of your students and mix the activity up with listening, writing, asking questions, and practicing speaking the language. Language is fun!

3. Native American Mission

(30-45 minutes)

David Brainerd gave his life to share Jesus with Native Americans. Have some of the students pretend to be or even dress up as Native Americans. Have a few of the students prepare to come from their villages to the Native Americans to share Jesus with them. Talk beforehand about what a missionary might tell someone who had never heard about Jesus. Ask the students what they might say to draw people to God and His love. How might they serve the Native Americans so that they can SEE the Gospel. (Prepare at least one or two of the students to "receive the Gospel" and believe.)

4. Letter to God

(15-20 minutes)

God is looking for faithful people He can send to proclaim His Word. In Isaiah 6:8, God asks, "Who can I send?" Give the students the opportunity to write their response to God's question in a letter. Prompt them but don't tell them what to say. Gently ask, "If God asked you this question, what would you say? Write Him what you think and feel."

5. "The Good Seed" Video

(\$7.95; 30 minutes)

Order the video from Wycliffe Bible Translators at (800) 222-1495. Depending on the age of your students, you might want to accompany the video with sharing and discussion between segments. Or simply show the portion of most interest to your students.

This video captures the work of Bible translation on four continents. It is a story of two Wycliffe translators returning to a people who have been transformed by God's Word translated into their language.

Teacher Tip

As you approach the end of this unit, remind your students that in Lesson 12R they will play DiscipleLand Baseball. This will give them the opportunity to share all the wonderful things they have learned about why God gave them the Bible.

Supply Checklist

General Supplies:

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

Spark Interest

- miscellaneous camping gear

Explore Scripture

- a world globe

Inspire Action:

- a Greek New Testament (or Spanish or some other language)