

# THE CANADIAN MISSION FIELD

## CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- String or yarn, tape, markers, pens, enlargement or copies of ice breaker map (page five)
- Copies of the downloadable “622 service” and “Prayers & Thanksgivings” booklets
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader’s notes - *note fifth page re ice breaker*
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

## ICE BREAKER: PLACES WE’VE BEEN

Enlarge a map of the world and post it on a wall. As the teens arrive invite each of them to indicate the places they’ve travelled to by attaching string or yarn to the map marking their movements. Alternatively, a letter-size map is included on page five which can be used in the same way for individuals or small groups.

*Encourage the teens to view the resulting web as something they are a part of, rather than to be concerned about whether they have travelled less than others.*

## 622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order for service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

## DISCUSSION: READY, SET... EQUIPPED!

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- What are some of the different places you’ve visited or lived in?  
When you arrive somewhere new, do you feel like you know where you are going?
- Describe a time when you felt you’d been well trained or prepared for a task.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, **“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”** Would you say that you feel “equipped for every good work”?

*A few things worth pointing out (if they don’t otherwise arise during the discussion):*

- *Chances are when you first arrived in a new place you felt a bit disoriented. That’s normal! It takes time for us to adjust and get our bearings when we are facing something new.*
- *Perhaps you studied really hard for an exam and when the time came to write it, you felt like you were totally ready. Or perhaps you have been on a camping trip where someone taught you how to practice survival skills that you later needed to use. This and the previous question are great opportunities to share a story of your own.*

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- Oftentimes, even if we have studied or prepared ourselves, we still feel anxiety and uncertainty about being tested. The passage in 2 Timothy can provide us with a challenge and an encouragement. It tells us that by inwardly digesting scripture, we can be equipped for every good work – this should challenge us to spend time with God’s word, but it should also encourage us in the knowledge that if we do, we can be “competent” to serve God wherever we find ourselves.

## THE LESSON: AND NOW, OVER TO YOU

Lessons 13-42 follow a slightly different format from previous lessons. The story of the saints being studied is interspersed with verses from scripture that provide added perspective. You may prefer to read the lesson text aloud together as a group, or ask the teens to read it silently to themselves.

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
 baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
 (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Those first disciples shared the Gospel with all those they encountered. In every generation since, faithful Christians have “guarded the trust”, carrying the message of Jesus Christ with them wherever they went, whatever challenges they faced. Through the saints of the Church of every age the Gospel has been preached. It has been carried by ordinary Christians fleeing persecution, by believing tradesmen travelling for work, and by missionaries intentionally setting out for that very purpose. It has been carried by men and women whose sins and failures have left a fractured legacy, as well as by people of great virtue who were an unqualified blessing to the societies in which they lived.

There were many times when people believed they had reached “the ends of the earth”, and yet there was more to be done, there were more people loved by God who needed to hear his message. And so, in God’s perfect time, the Gospel also reached Canadian shores.

*“These all died in faith... And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of...”  
 (Hebrews 11:13, 32)*

Together we’ve only scratched the surface in exploring saints of the early Church, monastics, and saints of the medieval, reformation, and modern periods. And what more can be said? For time would fail to tell...

- of **Robert Wolfall**, who celebrated the first Anglican service of Holy Communion on Canadian shores in 1578.
- and of **Charles Inglis** (1734-1816), Canada’s first Anglican bishop.
- and of **John West** (1778-1845), missionary to the Red River settlements.
- and of **Henry Budd** (1812-1875), the first Native Canadian to be ordained as an Anglican priest, and who translated both the scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer into the Cree language.
- and of **John Horden** (1828-1893), first bishop of Moosonee, who led worship in the languages of his parishioners, including Cree and Inuit.
- and of **Robert McDonald** (1829-1913), missionary to the Western Arctic, who developed a dictionary and grammar for the Gwich’in language, also translating scripture, the Prayer Book, and many hymns into that language.

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- and of **Edmund James Peck** (1850-1924), missionary to the Inuit of Baffin Island, who documented the culture and history he encountered, also developing an English-Inuktitut dictionary.
- and of the countless other founders, benefactors, missionaries and saints of the Church in Canada, from that day to this day.

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’...  
 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”  
 (Hebrews 3:13-14)*

And now, consider this: someone you know has shared the Gospel with *you*, even if it is through the simple act of inviting you to participate in this lesson. So now here you are, in this place and time. The mission field awaits a new generation of saints. How will *your* story read?

Then ask the teens to respond to what they’ve just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- Did you notice any common themes among the Canadian missionaries mentioned in today’s lesson? What can we learn from them?
- Of all the saints that we’ve talked about this year, which do you relate to most? Why? Which do you find most inspiring? Why?
- Have you ever thought about your everyday life as a “mission field”?
- If someone a century from now was writing your story, how would you want it to read?

*A few notes and reflections for reference:*

- *Many of the Canadian missionaries that we celebrate in the BCP calendar went to great lengths to understand the people they wished to share the Gospel with – to learn their languages and in some cases to develop alphabets, dictionaries, and histories. Many of them translated scripture and liturgical resources into the languages of the people. Before they could share what they’d come to share, they needed to learn to simply be with the people, to speak in their languages and to live in their communities. Jesus is the best model for us in this. When he brought the good news to humanity, he took on flesh, became one of us, showing us love in both word and deed.*
- *Often the saints that we find most engaging are those who had pointed failings, weaknesses and struggles – perhaps we identify with Augustine’s “restless heart” or with Thomas Cranmer’s weakness under pressure. Yet even those saints who had memorable failings are still saints and they were still used powerfully by God – and we can be too. The saints we admire the most are often also saints with whom we have something in common. Perhaps like Florence Nightingale we have a heart of compassion, or like George Herbert we love to write poetry. Just like these saints, when we use our gifts to serve God, amazing things can happen.*
- *If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you are also a missionary for him. The Holy Spirit is with you wherever you go, and no matter where you are or who you meet, you have the opportunity to share the Gospel: in how you live, in your words, and in your actions.*
- *The saints we’ve looked at briefly this year have shown us that remarkable lives have been lived by an amazingly diverse group of people – illustrious bishops from North Africa and illiterate teenagers from rural France, those who lived peaceful lives in obscurity and those who ruled tumultuous kingdoms. In the end, though each story is unique, each is also the story of someone who placed their trust in Jesus Christ and in the end sought to honour him with what they’d been given. Whether we aspire to be great intellectual apologists or heroes of mercy, we should aspire to place our trust in Jesus and honour him through all of the days that God gives us.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON’T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU’LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

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## PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Review today's lesson. Choose a line of scripture or a phrase from the lesson that you find edifying, inspiring or instructive:

Throughout this week, spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the phrase you've chosen. Over the course of the summer, continue to reflect on the mission field in which you live, and how you can best serve God in it.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through the following prayer.

*O eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: We beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved thee and served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into the fulness of thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(PRAYER FOR THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, PAGE 56)

## CLOSING PRAYERS (622 AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE "PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS" SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the "Grace", the final prayer in the booklet.

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