

# 2021 NORTH AMERICAN MISSION STUDY FOR CHILDREN

## The Mission Moves Forward

“Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”  
(1 Corinthians 15:58, HCSB)

### STUDY OVERVIEW

The theme for the 2021 Week of Prayer for North American Missions is “The Mission Moves Forward.” The focal Scripture verse is 1 Corinthians 15:58. Paul is encouraging the church in Corinth to keep the mission of the gospel moving forward, even when it’s hard. Why? Because through Jesus Christ, they have victory (v. 57). Because Jesus conquered sin and death through His death on the cross and His resurrection, their efforts are not in vain.

Neither are our efforts, nor the efforts of missionaries all over North America, in vain. Paul instructs us all to be steadfast and immovable in advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ despite hardship. We are in this together.

Our gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® provide the funds missionaries need as they train and serve all over North America.

Through this mission study, children will learn how church planting missionaries Bobby Williams and his wife, LaKeisha, keep the mission moving forward in Slidell, Louisiana. They will learn how important it is to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and to pray for all missionaries serving in North America.

#### Prepare for the study

- For overall promotion of the North American Missions Emphasis to your entire church, order the free North American Missions Emphasis theme poster, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelopes and prayer guides from your state WMU office or from the Annie Armstrong website. Ordering information can be found at [AnnieArmstrong.com/StateWMU](https://AnnieArmstrong.com/StateWMU) or

#### [AnnieArmstrong.com/Resources](https://AnnieArmstrong.com/Resources).

- Featured missionary video segments and additional downloadable promotional resources can also be found on the site for use with your overall church promotion. You can order a DVD if needed with the missionary video segments by calling 1-800-634-2462 or email [AAEO@namb.net](mailto:AAEO@namb.net).
- Download the children’s study materials and accompanying video segment, “Children’s Mission Study: Slidell, Louisiana,” at [AnnieArmstrong.com/Resources](https://AnnieArmstrong.com/Resources). Make sure you have a way to show the children’s study video. It features church planting missionaries, Bobby and LaKeisha Williams in Slidell, Louisiana. **This video is only available on the website to view or download.**
- Order 2021 Week of Prayer prayer guides for each participant, or the guides can be viewed online at [AnnieArmstrong.com](https://AnnieArmstrong.com). Download bookmarks to print from the site or order a supply from NAMB.
- Work with your children’s leaders to plan aspects of the study, such as scheduling, scope and promotion. You may choose to do the study as a special event or incorporate it into an existing meeting or group setting.
- Publicize the study through church bulletins, social media, churchwide announcements, newsletters and so forth.
- Pray that children will be inspired as they learn about missions efforts in North America and will eagerly support those who are serving as missionaries with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

- Connect with your pastor to receive clear understanding of how your church supports the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Be prepared to share that with your class.

*Note: For more missionary stories and North American missions news, check out the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Facebook page at [facebook.com/aaeo.sbc](https://www.facebook.com/aaeo.sbc).*

### Prepare for the Lesson

- Ensure you are equipped to show the featured video and that you have previewed it with the equipment and in the setting in which you will be showing it.
- Read through the lesson plan and become familiar with it.
- Acquire a map of the United States. Display it in a prominent place.
- Purchase a package of blank 3 x 5-inch index cards for use in the Bible verse memorization and game sections of the lesson.
- Provide cellophane tape.
- Write 1 Corinthians 15:58 on the whiteboard or on posterboard.
- Decorate the room with missions items to enhance the learning experience.
- Make a copy of the word search activity at the back of the lesson plan for each child.
- Make one copy of the word search solution for yourself.

### Arrival

As the children arrive, allow them to work the word search activity found at the back of the lesson until all the children have arrived. Help those who need it.

### Welcome

After all the children have arrived, welcome them to the mission study. Introduce yourself and your helpers. Explain that they will be learning about missionaries Bobby and LaKeisha Williams who live and serve in the New Orleans area of Louisiana, specifically Slidell, Louisiana.

Show them where New Orleans and Slidell are on the map of the United States.

Tell them that in August 2005—before they were even born—a terrible hurricane struck New Orleans. Much of New Orleans and the surrounding area, including Slidell, was destroyed and to this day hasn't been rebuilt. Many people there are poor and still suffering.

Bobby and LaKeisha planted a church they named Next Level Church to teach people about Jesus and to help them have better lives. The work isn't easy, and the Williamses often encounter obstacles or things that make it difficult to accomplish the mission God has given them. Their goal is to keep moving the mission forward.

Ask the children what they think the Williams's mission is (teach people about Jesus and help them have better lives). Do they think this mission might be hard to do sometimes?

*Transition to the missionary video.*

### Children's Video and Discussion (10–15 minutes)

#### The Hidden Gym

Seat the children and prepare to play the video about church planter Bobby Williams and his wife, LaKeisha. Before showing the video, tell the children that one of the ways Bobby helps the people in Slidell is to teach them to take care of their bodies while at the same time teaching them about Jesus.

He helps kids by conducting summer fitness camps they call Level Up Fitness Camp. He teaches them the importance of exercise and eating the right foods to be healthy. While the kids are exercising, he offers encouragement through verses from the Bible.

*Show the video.*

Discuss how tough it is for Bobby to minister in Louisiana. People are sad and have many needs. The ministry work is hard and can be discouraging. But God wants us all to continue doing His work well. Sometimes that means making choices to keep the mission moving forward.

To illustrate, present the following scenarios and ask for appropriate responses:

1. You are not allowed to meet at church or in groups anymore. What should you do?

- a. Have online worship services
  - b. Give up
2. You want to provide food for the community, but you have no money. What should you do?
    - a. Give up
    - b. Ask others to partner with you to help
  3. You know someone who needs to know that Jesus loves them, but they won't listen. What should you do?
    - a. Be a friend to them, so they see Jesus through you
    - b. Give up
  4. A person's home needs some repair, but you don't have the materials or money to fix it. What should you do?
    - a. Ask the local hardware store for donations
    - b. Ignore the need
  5. Someone you know doesn't have any friends and is sad. What should you do?
    - a. Ignore the person
    - b. Invite the person to your house to play

These are some of the things that make a missionary's work—and ours—difficult. But if we pray and ask God to show us how, we can help more people find Jesus and also help to solve some of their problems.

Ask the children if they noticed any other problems Bobby and LaKeisha have in ministering to people in Slidell.

*After the discussion, play the game called "Work It Out!"*

### Work It Out! (15 minutes)

Have your own fitness camp by playing Work It Out!

#### Items Needed:

- 5 Chairs
- 10 Index cards

On five of the index cards, write one of the following

encouraging Scripture verses that emphasize perseverance. You will have five verses total:

1. "Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).
2. "A man who endures trials is blessed, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12).
3. "So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up" (Galatians 6:9).
4. "I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).
5. "Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize"(1 Corinthians 9:24).

On the other five write the following basic exercises: Run in Place, Jumping Jacks, Squats, Knee Lifts, Toe Touches.

Arrange the chairs so there is enough space for a simple workout, as in stations. Place a Scripture card and an exercise card in each chair. The Run in Place card should go with the 1 Corinthians 9:24 card.

Divide the group of children into pairs. Each pair will have an exerciser and a reader. If you have an odd number of children, enlist one of the leaders to complete a pair.

On your mark, the exerciser will do 10 repetitions of the exercise indicated (10 seconds for running in place) as his or her partner reads the Scripture card. Then the exerciser and the reader will reverse roles.

Continue until each child has completed all five exercise stations. Go around again if there is time.

\*Note: Adapt this activity as needed for the size of your group and ages of the children.

### Bible Verse Activity (10 minutes)

“Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58, HCSB).

First Corinthians 15:58 is the focus Bible verse for the 2021 Week of Prayer. This activity will help children understand and memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58.

#### Items needed:

- Whiteboard or poster board
- Index cards
- Tape
- Pencil or pen

#### Prepare:

Write the entire verse on a whiteboard or a poster board.

Number the index cards and write a portion of the verses as follows below:

1. Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable
2. always excelling in the Lord’s work
3. knowing that your labor
4. in the Lord
5. is not in vain
6. 1 Corinthians 15:58

### Bible Verse Memorization

Tell the children that there is a verse in the Bible that offers encouragement to the Williamses, and us, whenever we are trying to do something for God and we encounter problems.

Read the verse and explain to the children that in simple terms this verse means that we should not give up doing our very best when serving God, just as you have been discussing. Memorizing the verse will help them to recall it when they need it.

Erase or hide the verse. Distribute the index cards to six children. When the number on each child’s card is called, beginning with number one, he or she is to

come to the front and read what is on the card. The class will repeat the phrase several times as they memorize it. Children will then tape the index card to the wall or a table edge so it can be read.

Child number two will then come to the front and do the same. After taping the card to the wall, have the class read aloud what is on cards one and two together.

Continue in this way until the verse is complete.

Challenge the children to recite the verse from memory. Ask them to explain what the verse means.

Collect the cards and repeat the activity at the end of the session while children wait for their parents, if there is time.

*Transition to the prayer activity.*

### Prayer Activity (5–10 minutes)

Remind the children that it is important to pray for our missionaries in North America. Using the prayer guide you downloaded or ordered, read the missionary prayer requests one at a time, inviting the children to pray aloud for each missionary couple’s requests.

If the children don’t wish to pray aloud, they can pray silently. Distribute the bookmarks to remind the children to pray for missionaries often.

Invite the children to also pray that many people will give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering so missionaries will have what they need to keep moving the mission forward. Encourage the children to give as well. Have offering envelopes handy.

When we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, it helps missionaries who have limited resources to do more. It allows them to impact their communities.

### Closing

While the children wait for their parents, they may practice the memorization of 1 Corinthians 15:58. Use the cards from the Bible verse activity.

You can also offer a snack at this time.

# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY: WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words from the word bank below.

X O F F E R I N G G R P I M  
H M N U P C T P X M O F I I  
D R G O S P E L J E S U S S  
O N C H U R C H M I W T U S  
K M I J C S I Y I A X O R I  
N O R T H A M E R I C A U O  
P R A Y E R J U O L M V E N  
E Q K C S Z F A O L O Q R S  
X X O C P B W C C W V A F C  
M B H O P T B I B L E G Q H  
X U S S M I S S I O N A R Y  
A N N I E A R M S T R O N G  
X V S O E T S W D E D E P B  
L Y F S G Z Y Q D K O R L Y

## Word Bank

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

BIBLE

CHURCH

GOSPEL

JESUS

MISSIONARY

MISSIONS

NORTH AMERICA

OFFERING

PRAYER

# WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

X O F F E R I N G G R P I M  
H M N U P C T P X M O F I I  
D R G O S P E L J E S U S S  
O N C H U R C H M I W T U S  
K M I J C S I Y I A X O R I  
N O R T H A M E R I C A U O  
P R A Y E R J U O L M V E N  
E Q K C S Z F A O L O Q R S  
X X O C P B W C C W V A F C  
M B H O P T B I B L E G Q H  
X U S S M I S S I O N A R Y  
A N N I E A R M S T R O N G  
X V S O E T S W D E D E P B  
L Y F S G Z Y Q D K O R L Y