

2022 NORTH AMERICAN MISSION STUDY FOR YOUTH

United: Together on Mission

“Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice.”
(Romans 15:5-6, CSB)

STUDY OVERVIEW

The theme for the 2022 Week of Prayer for North American Missions is “United.” The focal Scripture verses are Romans 15:5-6. Paul is encouraging the church in Rome to be gentle toward each other regarding their differences and to work together in harmony. We glorify God and are stronger when we are a unified force operating with “one mind and one voice.”

Through this mission study, youth will learn how important it is to work together to accomplish the task of bringing the gospel to all people, even when it is difficult. They will learn how important it is to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® and to pray for all missionaries in North America.

Students will learn about the ministry of journeyman Brianna (Bri) McKinney. Perhaps some in your group will be inspired to one day become journeymen serving as Bri does through compassion ministries as they learn about her and her ministry in Denver, Colorado.

Prepare for the study

- For overall promotion of the North American Missions Emphasis to your entire church, order the free 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 or AnnieArmstrong.com/resources.
- Work with missions leaders and other church leaders to plan aspects of the study, such as

scheduling, scope and promotion. Encourage these leaders to enlist other church members to take ownership by helping in the planning and implementation of the study. 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.
- Ask small groups and church members to pray for the study outcome. Pray that individuals will be inspired as they learn about missions efforts in North America and will eagerly support those who are serving as missionaries in church planting and compassion ministry with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).
- Consider enlisting an outside speaker, such as a North American missionary, to address the church before beginning the study or as part of it. For assistance, you can make a request at namb.net/contact/request-a-speaker.
- Explore the website, AnnieArmstrong.com/resources, for resources that will enhance the learning experience for your church.
- Download the study materials and video segments from the website, AnnieArmstrong.com/resources. Make sure you have a way to show the video.
- The video segment for students features journeyman Brianna McKinney in Denver, Colorado. Download the video from AnnieArmstrong.com/resource/youth-study. If you don't have a way to show the video, share the story provided with the lesson plan.

- Order or download and print enough *2022 Week of Prayer* bookmarks and prayer guides for each participant or family to have one of each from AnnieArmstrong.com/resources.
- 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.
- The featured missionary for this lesson is named Brianna McKinney. She serves as a journeyman. Go to namb.net/go/journeyman to become familiar with the functions of a North American Mission Board journeyman.
- To conduct the lesson, you will need enough index cards and pens or pencils for each student. You also need a hula hoop and a stopwatch. The clock app on a smart phone has a stopwatch feature.

Note: Your church has permission to download videos and other resources at AnnieArmstrong.com. Downloads are free. You can also check out the Annie Armstrong Facebook page for more missionary stories at facebook.com/aaeo.sbc.

Lead the Study

Introduction and Opening Activity

Welcome students and introduce yourself in case you have students who don't already know you. Introduce the study using the information in the study overview.

Explain what the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is and how your church participates. Note that all donations to the offering go directly to support missionaries in North America and their ministries.

Distribute the index cards and pens. Ask the students to write down at least two things they like to do. What are their interests? Are they artistic? Do they love working with children or building things? Are they adept at working with computer coding? Do they like sports? Are they interested in music?

Have the students hold onto their cards for the time being. They will be used later in the lesson.

Transition to the lesson.

Bible Lesson

Read and briefly explain the focal verses, Romans 15:5-6.

The apostle Paul was writing to the church in Rome, which was made up of Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, rich and poor, strong and weak. They were having difficulty accepting one another because of their differences.

Paul was urging all of them to accept one another as Christ has accepted us. He encouraged them to be patient with one another and not to live only to please themselves, for even Christ did not live to please himself.

God wants us as Christians to patiently accept and encourage one another and to live in complete harmony with each other. We are stronger when we are working in unity toward a single goal, and that goal is to spread the good news of Jesus and the truth of the kingdom of heaven around the world.

We are working in unity when we together support our missionaries—missionaries like Brianna McKinney.

Transition to the lesson/video below.

Missionary Lesson and/or Video

Introduce missionary Brianna (Bri) McKinney. Bri is serving in Denver, Colorado, with the North American Mission Board as a journeyman.

Discuss the role of a journeyman. The information below is from NAMB's website: namb.net/go/journeyman.

NAMB journeymen are recent college graduates who become missionaries for a two-year term. Journeymen work with and through NAMB's compassion ministry, Send Relief*, where they

become a vital part of NAMB missionary teams at Send Relief ministry centers and NAMB Send Cities.

While all journeymen are involved in evangelism, discipleship and church planting, the specific role they play will vary from location to location. Responsibilities could include leadership development and training, volunteer coordination, community development, research and mapping and a variety of other tasks.

While the range of actual tasks will be broad, each journeyman's work will be aligned with NAMB's goals of engaging communities with the hope of the gospel in the areas of poverty, refugees and internationals, foster care and adoption, human trafficking, crisis response and church planting.

Note: Send Relief is a joint ministry of the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board.

Show the video from [AnnieArmstrong.com/resource/youth-study](https://www.anniearmstrong.com/resource/youth-study). If you can't show the video, share the information below about Bri and her ministry in Denver, Colorado.

Bri serves as a NAMB journeyman in Denver, which is the 19th largest city in the United States. This large city only has one evangelical church for every 32,000 people. That means there are a lot of people in Denver who don't go to church and who don't have a relationship with Jesus.

One great way to help people want to know more about Jesus is through compassion ministries. Compassion ministries help people in areas where they are suffering. If people are hungry, food is provided. If they have recently come to North America from another country, help learning the language is offered. Basically, any kind of help people need can be offered through compassion ministry. NAMB's compassion ministry is called Send Relief.

Bri's job is to come alongside churches to help expand their reach into their communities. She loves to match the talent of members of missions teams to the "need of the day."

For instance, Bri was asked to help brighten up the outside of a school for refugee children to make it look "happier on the outside." So Bri helped to bring a missions team from

Tennessee to Denver, and that team brought a guy who worked in a paint store.

Bri put the right Christ-followers in the right place at the right time, and beautiful things happened. The simple act of painting the school brought smiles to the faces of the refugee kids and made them feel more welcome in a country that was new to them.

Bri also helps to coach GenSend student missionaries. GenSend is a NAMB ministry that sends high-school and college-aged students on short-term missions trips across North America, connecting them with missionaries doing compassion ministry or planting new churches. Bri helps GenSenders who come to Denver during spring or summer breaks learn how to live like missionaries.

Bri is raising up an army of believers who will take the gospel to the ends of the earth, and it is all made possible by our generous gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. It is possible because God's people are working together as a unified force in harmony.

Activity (10 minutes)

Ask the students to pull out their index cards. Ask them to examine what they wrote about the things they like or like to do. How might those things they like to do be used in a ministry setting? Ask them to think of ways they can use those interests to serve now in their church, community or schools.

Suggestions for service are below:

- Help in your church's VBS
- Clean up the outside of the church
- Honor the senior-aged people with a party
- Help tutor kids after school
- Make welcome bags for refugees or internationals who are new to your community

Take this to the next level by planning a project to actually implement, either in your church, community or school. Encourage the students to plan together and to work in harmony to develop a plan of action and to carry it out.

Find [ministry guides](https://www.anniearmstrong.com/ministry-guides) to get you started at [SendRelief.org](https://www.sendrelief.org).

Pray

Pray for Bri McKinney and the other Week of Prayer missionaries. Distribute the prayer guides and bookmarks you downloaded or ordered from AnnieArmstrong.com/resources.

Using the prayer guide, verbally review the ministries and prayer needs of all the missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

Note that every dollar given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes directly to resourcing the mission and ministry of these missionaries and more across North America. We emphasize the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during the Easter season, but donations are accepted year-round.

Encourage students to set aside a designated sum of money year-round. Decorate a jar or box in which to put the funds and celebrate as God blesses and multiplies the amount.

Ask for volunteers to pray aloud for the needs of a specific missionary listed in the prayer guide. Encourage students to use the bookmarks as reminders to pray for these and all missionaries in North America throughout the year. The future of North America rests in the power of unified prayer.

Dismiss the class or, if you have more time, play "Thread the Needle" with the hula hoops.

Thread the Needle

This game is great for teambuilding. Students are the thread, and the hula hoop is the needle.

Students should form a circle and hold hands. Position a hula hoop on a player's arm. Students will work together to advance the hoop around the circle, without breaking the circle, by climbing through it and moving it to the next person, until the hoop has made it all the way around.

Students will see that climbing through the hoop may be more difficult for some than others. Since they are working together as a unified team, they should encourage one another and cheer each other on to success. No discouraging words are allowed.

Play against the clock, improving the time with each round of play.

If you can't imagine what this looks like, search "Hula Hoop Circle Game" for YouTube videos.

Play until time to wrap up.