



# MISSION POSSIBLE

CHILDREN DISCOVERING PURPOSE, GIFTS, AND CALLING

MARIAH CUNNINGHAM

**mtw**<sup>®</sup>  
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THEME: PURPOSE

## LESSON 1: WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD

FOR THE TEACHER:

### INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF PURPOSE

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism* explains our purpose this way:

**Q.1.** What is the chief end of man?

**A.1.** To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

In this curriculum, we want students to understand that they have an ultimate purpose as explained in the catechism and that God has made each of them with gifts and talents not only to realize this purpose personally but also to help others attain it.

Children will learn how God made every person to reflect His image and to represent Him in a broken world. Our purpose is realized when we enjoy God through worship and by praising Him. Our mission is to share Jesus with others by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to identify and define key words in the scripture passage, explain the purpose for which they and mankind were made, discuss similarities and differences in worship, and identify ways to share Jesus with others by carrying His love and goodness everywhere they go in the coming week.

This week's lesson focuses on **Psalm 86:9**.

*All the nations You have made shall come  
and worship before You, O Lord,  
and shall glorify Your name.*

This passage highlights that God created all the nations and that all are called to worship and glorify Him. It is important to see that, in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament, *all* the nations were being called to worship God. To reiterate, this concept is not just a New Testament commandment. God has *always* wanted people from every tribe and tongue, place and time to worship Him.

## LESSON 1: WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD

After the Fall, the seed of sin became a part of every human heart, but even as God punished Adam and Eve, He had a plan to rescue His people (Gen. 3:15). The Old Testament is the story of God putting His plan of rescue in motion. Even though mankind unified in rebellion against God at the Tower of Babel so that God separated all of mankind into different people groups (Gen. 11:9), God continued to work out His plan, pursuing His people from among the nations. He called out Abraham (Gen. 12), and then, more than 400 years later, rescued His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus) to represent Him among all nations.

The story of rebellion, consequences, and repentance continued for generations of God's people throughout the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Jesus. We see God's heart for all people to know Him through Christ. In Acts, we see the restoration of unity of God's people at Pentecost when "devout men of every nation under heaven" were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:5 and following). The vision we want children to understand is that—throughout history—God loves all groups of people, and He desires all to know Him and glorify Him.

As you begin to explore purpose and mission and your and your students' roles in missions, consider how God implemented His plan of salvation throughout the Old and New Testaments, calling all nations and all people groups, and how He has called you and your students to worship Him. As you read the texts for your preparation this week, especially note God's instructions to Israel as they wandered in the desert and then claimed the promised land. Every time the people of Israel were called back to worship God, the foreigners amongst them who believed in God were also called to worship. You may also be reminded of other examples throughout the Bible where God called nations beyond Israel unto Himself.

Here are just a few scripture references to read as you think about God's call to all nations: Exodus 12:43-50; Numbers 9:14; Numbers 15:11-16. (The word *stranger* or *sojourner* may be used to reference people outside the tribe of Israel.)

### PREPARATION:

- Read the Introduction, Psalm 86:9, Acts 2, and at least one of the other suggested passages above.
- Print the Building Background Visual or have it ready to project as a slide. Find the visual for this lesson at <https://pcacdm.org/mission-possible-curriculum/>
- Check out the additional options/resources given in the boxed area and determine how to integrate them into the lesson if class time allows. (Preview each video to determine which is appropriate for your class.)
- Gather the following:
  - Whiteboard or chart paper (if not provided)
  - Markers
  - **Option:** maps of the world with "God loves all people." printed for each child
  - Vocabulary Cards (You will need to make these with the words on one side and the definition on the other and large enough for students to see as you hold it up.)
    - › **Worship** – telling God He is worthy of our love and respect
    - › **Glorify** – honoring God by enjoying and obeying God
    - › **Praise** – telling God how great He is
    - › **Mission** – to share Jesus with others by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go

## THEME 1: PURPOSE

- **Scripture Cards** (You will need to make one large one and copy enough smaller ones for you and each student.) **NOTE:** We want children to understand the importance of the Bible, so in addition to having the scripture cards, be sure you have a Bible and read the verse from the Bible, so children understand the authority of Scripture. Read the scripture from the Bible together, or if your students are old enough to read, have them read it to the class. Then review the verse using the scripture card. Hang, hold, or have a student helper hold up the scripture card.)

› **Psalm 86:9**

*All the nations You have made shall come  
and **worship** before You, O Lord,  
and shall **glorify** Your name.*

- Craft Supplies (as noted in the Appendix if you are using it)
- Snack Supplies (as noted in the Appendix if you are using it)

### FOR THE CLASS:

## THE LESSON

(Note: Teacher's words are in italics.)

**WELCOME:** (Greet the students and let them work on listing the names of as many countries as they can while waiting for the class to begin, or for younger children, color a map of the world that says, "God loves all people.")

**OPENING PRAYER:** (Pray specifically for students to worship and glorify God in their words, actions, and thoughts.)

**LESSON INTRODUCTION:** *Today, boys and girls, we are going to learn about why God made us and every person who has ever lived. Did you know that God made you for a purpose? You were not a mistake or an accident. In fact, from the very beginning, God created men and women to be in relationship with Him—forever.*

*The first and foremost purpose God made man is to glorify God and enjoy Him. God created people with talents and abilities for this purpose and to carry out a mission: to reflect Him, that is, to carry His love and goodness everywhere we go. This purpose and mission have always been very important jobs, from the very beginning.*

*And God's purpose isn't just for individuals; His desire has always been for all nations and all peoples to worship and glorify Him. Today, we will talk about our purpose and mission as we look at our vocabulary words, read our scripture passage, and learn what the Bible says about God's desire and how His desire applies to our own lives.*

**INTRODUCE VOCABULARY:** (Show the vocabulary cards as you introduce the words. Choose students to hold the vocabulary cards for you as you are talking about them. See classroom management for other ideas on engaging students in the lesson.)

*Today our vocabulary words may be familiar to you. Let's look at **worship** first.* (Point to the word on the front of the card.)

## LESSON 1: WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD

**Worship.** *Have any of you heard this word before? Does anyone know what this word means?* (Allow time for discussion. After a short discussion, read the definition on the back of the card). **Worship** is telling God He is worthy of our love and respect. *How do we worship God?* (Take one or two answers.) *We can use words and music to show God how much we love and respect Him, but worship isn't something we do only on Sunday. Worship is about showing God He is worthy of our time and attention all the time.*

*When we live a life of worship, it not only pleases God, but it shows God to other people. That brings us to our next vocabulary word: **glorify**.* (Point to the word on the front of the card.) *What word do you think **glorify** comes from?* (Wait for answer: glory.) *Does anyone know what the word **glorify** means?* (Allow time for answers. Flip the card and read the definition on the back.)

**Glorify** means honoring God by enjoying and obeying God. *God made us to have one overarching purpose: to glorify and enjoy Him forever. We glorify God by enjoying Him and obeying Him. One way we obey Him is to tell others about Him so they can know and enjoy Him too.*

*An important part of glorifying God is our next vocabulary word: **praise**.* (Point to the word on the card.) *Can anyone give me an example of **praise**?* (Allow time for answers.) *We can praise other people or even our pets for things they do.* (Flip the card and read the definition on the back.) *But how is praise used in worship or to glorify God?*

**Praise** is telling God how great He is. *What are some ways we praise God?* (Allow time for answers which may include: we sing to Him, we pray to Him, we read the Bible. . .) *What are some qualities God has that make you want to praise Him?* (Allow time for answers which may include: "He loves me," "He takes care of me," "He made everything," "He is holy," "Jesus died for our sins" . . . Close the vocabulary time with a short prayer of praise. The last vocabulary word will be after the Bible lesson.)

*Those are all great reasons to praise God. Let's praise Him now. Dear Father, thank You for all these blessings that were mentioned. We praise You for each one and for giving us the wonderful purpose to glorify and enjoy You forever. Amen.*

**BUILDING BACKGROUND VISUAL:** (Project on the wall or screen the Theme 1 Lesson 1 Visual or have a student hold up the visual if you printed it. Ask discussion questions and write the students' answers on the whiteboard or on chart paper. Keep the answers available for the lesson's application section.)

*Let's look at these photos.* (Allow time for students to answer the questions and discuss the pictures. Pictures represent reading the Bible, communion, learning in Sunday school, praying, and attending church in Belize.)

**Q:** *What do you see the people doing in the pictures?* (Wait for answers and write them as they are given. Answers may include reading the Bible, praying, sharing a meal, looking at a map, having a worship service . . .)

**Q:** *How do we worship and glorify God in our church?* (Wait for answers and write some of them as they are given. Answers may include read the Bible, pray, sing songs together, hear God's Word, communion, offering . . .)

**Q:** *How do we worship and glorify God at home?* (Wait for answers and write some of them as they are given. Answers may include read the Bible, pray, share a meal, talk about God, love and serve others . . .)

## THEME 1: PURPOSE

**Q:** *Why do you think it is important to worship and glorify God at home as well as at church?* (Wait for answers and write some of them as they are given. Answers may include "Because God loves us, and we want to show Him we love Him too," "Because it makes God happy," "Because it takes practice to think about God." Feel free to ask additional questions if needed or to clarify.)

(Transition when you're ready to move on.) *Those are some great answers. Now let's look at our scripture for today. Listen for two of our vocabulary words as we read the scripture.*

### SCRIPTURE LESSON:

(Point to the large scripture card.) *Let's read God's Word together.*

#### **Psalm 86:9**

*All the nations You have made shall come  
and **worship** before You, O Lord,  
and shall **glorify** Your name.*

*Did you hear the vocabulary words? What are they? (worship and glorify) Who is going to come and worship? (all the nations God has made) Whom are they going to worship? (The Lord) What else will they do? (glorify His name)*

*Good job! Now let's dig deeper into those details. (Keep the scripture card and the photos available to reference during the lesson application. Reread the whole verse.)*

#### **Psalm 86:9**

*All the nations You have made shall come  
and **worship** before You, O Lord,  
and shall **glorify** Your name.*

(Point to the first line of the verse.) *Here it says, "all the nations You have made." The word "nations" in this scripture is talking about all the different people groups and the areas they live in from all over the world. Can you name some nations?* (Allow students to respond one at a time. Younger students may need to be prompted with examples to be able to answer.) *Wow! You thought of several different nations. Here's another question: Who made all the nations? (God)*

*It's so exciting that this verse says God made all the nations. And He has a plan for the people in every nation to know Him. In fact, at the end of the Bible we're told the same thing as in Psalm 86:9—one day all of God's people from all the nations will worship Him. I can't wait for that day!*

*But wait a minute! How do all the nations learn about God? How do they know He made them so they can worship Him? This is our mission! We get to carry God's love and goodness everywhere we go by telling people about Jesus!*

*You see, ever since man first sinned in the Garden of Eden, people have lost sight of their purpose because they have wanted their own way more than they wanted to obey God. Later in the book of Genesis after mankind rebelled together against God, as a consequence for their sin, God divided people into different groups and gave them different languages so they couldn't understand each other. The differences have made it hard for*



## LESSON 1: WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD

people to understand each other ever since. People fight and don't want to be friends. Sin separates people from each other and from God. But remember, God made all people. He loves all of us, and He didn't want any of us to be separated from Him. So, what did God do?

God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. In fact, Jesus paid the price for the sin of all His people from every nation, every language, and even every time period of history when He died on the cross.

The sacrifice of Christ shows us God's heart for all people.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He told His disciples to go tell all the nations about Him and His love for them. It is actually a command for us today to obey as well. And that brings us to one last vocabulary word: **mission**.

Our first three vocabulary words, **worship**, **glorify**, and **praise**, are part of doing our last vocabulary word, **mission**. (Point to the word on the front of the card.) After studying our scripture, what do you think our mission from God is? (Allow time for answers. Flip the card and read the definition on the back.)

**Mission** for Christians is to share Jesus with others by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go. How do we reflect God? We live a life of **worship** by **glorifying** God and **praising** Him—that's how we carry His love and goodness everywhere we go. The other three vocabulary words work together to help us understand our **mission**.

Right! Our mission is to carry God's love and goodness everywhere we go by telling people in our neighborhood and in every nation about Jesus so they can worship Him too. God wants people in every nation to know and worship Him.

As you think of the different nations in the world, do you think they all worship God the same way we do at our church? (Refer to the visual again. Allow children to answer.) Though worship might look a little different in different places, the Bible tells us that when God's people worship Him, there are some important things we should all do. We can see some of those things in our pictures. Can you name some of the things that are similar to our worship services? (Encourage the children to look for clues in the photos. Answers should include: going to church, reading the Bible, praying, teaching God's Word, singing songs, communion/sharing a meal, giving money.)

Yet, even when we do similar things, it can look very different in different places. (Point to the photo of the congregation meeting in a tent.) Look at this photo of a church meeting. Where are they meeting? Outside, under a tent! That is different than how we go to church, isn't it? The people in the picture live in Belize, in Central America, and sometimes they meet in tents for church.

What else do you think may be different? (Allow children to think creatively. Answers may include: speak a different language, sing different songs, wear different clothes.)

Let's think about those similarities and differences as we reread our Bible verse.

### **Psalm 86:9**

All the nations You have made shall come  
and **worship** before You, O Lord,  
and shall **glorify** Your name.

THEME 1: PURPOSE

Isn't it interesting that we can be different and still be one when we worship God? It's a miracle that God can take our differences and make us into one Body or group—the Body of Christ, who can work together to glorify God.

That's why it is so important for us to carry out our **mission** of telling others about Jesus by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go. Remember how we carry His love and goodness everywhere we go is by living a life of **worship**, of **glorifying** God and **praising** Him. When we share Jesus with people, whether they are the same or different than we are, we are inviting them to be a part of worshipping God and glorifying His name!

Wow. We have an awesome God who can receive the praise of people all over the world! In fact, have you ever stopped to think about the fact that when we worship God with our songs, even if we sing in different languages, together we make one beautiful sound to God? Isn't that cool?

As we close our lesson, I want to tell you about a cross-cultural worker in Madagascar, an island off the coast of Africa. He used music to tell others about Jesus. He and his wife invited some musicians to their house to play music. The musicians didn't know Jesus, but as they got to know the missionaries, they learned about Jesus, and they learned to sing worship songs. God used the music to draw the hearts of the men to Jesus. It is exciting to think that God used this music to bring more people into the family to worship Him. (Show the video if time allows.)

**OPTIONS—IF TIME:**

<b>VIDEO</b>	<b>Music Speaks Truth in Madagascar</b> ( 5 mins.) <i>Let's watch a video of some young men in a country called Madagascar in Africa who praise God through their music. (Use this link: <a href="https://vimeo.com/331049862">https://vimeo.com/331049862</a>. This video has subtitles that will need to be read to children who cannot read.)</i>
<b>MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT</b> (5-10 mins.)	(Share information about and prayer requests from a cross-cultural worker whom your church supports. See Appendix for the template.)
<b>CRAFT:</b> (20 mins.)	(See instructions for Windchimes in Appendix.) <i>Today, we are going to make windchimes for you to take home and hang up, maybe on your porch or in your room. When a light wind (or you!) blows on a windchime it makes a beautiful noise to remind us of the beauty of our praise and worship to God.</i>
<b>SNACK:</b> (10 mins)	(Choose one of the options from the Appendix and explain its origins.)

**LESSON APPLICATION:** *As we go through our week, let's remember our **mission**: to share Jesus with others by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go.*

*Where are some places you will go this week? (Allow children to answer.) How can you show God's love and goodness in those places? (Allow children to answer.)*

*What is something you could do this week to glorify God? (Allow children to answer, some may include: read my Bible, obey my parents, go to church, praise God, tell others about Jesus.) How can you tell God how great*

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*He is by what you say or do?* (Challenge children to think about how obeying God and acting with kindness is a way to praise God without saying the actual words.)

*Those are some great ideas! When we show others God's love and goodness, it's actually fun! And as we do, we get to glorify and enjoy God.*

**PRAYER:** (Pray with the students thanking God for all the nations, for cross-cultural workers to be able to share the gospel message with other nations, and for the students to worship and glorify God in all they do throughout the rest of the day and the coming week.)

**TAKE HOME:** (Distribute the Family Letter and Scripture Card to the students or parents. You may also want to include a Missionary Highlight/Prayer Sheet [See Appendix.] for each family.)

LESSON AT-A-GLANCE	
<b>WELCOME</b>	Greet students as they arrive and ask them to name (write on the board) as many different nations as they can or color a map of the world.
<b>PRAYER</b>	Pray to worship and glorify God in all we do.
<b>LESSON INTRODUCTION</b>	Introduce God's desire for all nations to worship and glorify Him.
<b>VOCABULARY</b>	Use Vocabulary Cards to define <b>worship, glorify, praise, mission.</b> (Discuss <i>mission</i> at the end of the lesson.)
<b>BUILDING BACKGROUND VISUAL</b>	Use the poster/slide to describe ways people worship. Ask the following questions to prompt discussion. Q: <i>What do you see the people doing in the pictures?</i> Q: <i>How do we worship and glorify God in our church?</i> Q: <i>How do we worship and glorify God at home?</i> Q: <i>Why do you think it is important to worship and glorify God at home as well as at church?</i>
<b>SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON</b>	<b>Psalm 86:9</b> <i>All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.</i>
<b>BODY OF THE LESSON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss our purpose</li> <li>• Discuss the three details in the verse:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“all nations” – different countries, different people, different cultures</li> <li>“worship” – many ways to worship</li> <li>“glorify Your name” – make a list of reasons to glorify God</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discuss how those details define our mission</li> </ul>

THEME 1: PURPOSE

<b>OPTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Video</li><li>• Missionary Highlight</li><li>• Craft</li><li>• Snack</li></ul>
<b>LESSON APPLICATION</b>	During the week as students remember the list of reasons to glorify God, they stop to give Him praise and worship, and by doing so share God's love and goodness with others.
<b>PRAYER</b>	Thank God for all the nations and pray to worship and glorify Him in all we do throughout the rest of the day and the coming week.
<b>TAKE HOME</b>	Parent Letter, Scripture Card, and (optional) Missionary Highlight/Prayer Request Sheet

## PARENT LETTER: WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD

Dear Parents,

This week our lesson focuses on our **purpose** and **mission**. As the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* states, our chief purpose is to “glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” We discussed *praise* and *worship* as means to this purpose and that those created for this purpose are from every nation in the world and every period of human history.

We focused on Psalm 86:9, “All the nations You have made shall come and *worship* before You, O Lord, and shall *glorify* Your name.” Then, we asked how people know about this purpose and discovered that our mission as God’s people *is to tell others of God’s salvation through Jesus by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go*.

During our lesson application, we talked about what it may look like in other nations to worship God. We looked at a photo of an outdoor worship service in Belize and discussed how it is both different and similar to our worship services; both glorify God.

You’ll find the scripture passage and vocabulary words from this week’s lesson below. Please read over them with your child(ren) and continue the conversation about God’s desire for people from every nation to worship and glorify Him. There is also a suggestion for a family activity to “live out” this week’s lesson.

Finally, if you would like to read stories or watch videos about missions around the world to share with your family, check out this link: <https://mtw.org/stories/read>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE (ESV):

#### Psalm 86:9

*All the nations You have made shall come  
and worship before You, O Lord,  
and shall glorify Your name.*

### VOCABULARY:

- **Worship** – telling God He is worthy of our love and respect
- **Glorify** – honoring God by enjoying and obeying God
- **Praise** – telling God how great He is
- **Mission** – to share Jesus with others by carrying His love and goodness everywhere we go

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Attend an international church service or watch one online. Then take time to discuss how God was worshiped and glorified during the service. Talk about similarities and differences between the service you watched and the worship service you attend.

**Psalm 86:9**

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You have made  
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