

Free Sample Activity

First Steps in Missions

**Ideas and
Activities for
Preschoolers
and Teachers**

Volume 24

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With **First Steps in Missions** you'll be prepared to lead preschoolers through hands-on activities as you talk, listen and demonstrate God's love in practical and tangible ways.

Each activity is short and customizable to your group. Select those that work with your setting, time frame and resources.

Be sure to set up your room or teaching space before preschoolers arrive so they can begin an activity right away!

Each leader
needs one copy of
***First Steps in
Missions.***

Each chapter features facts about the people group, geographic location and topic.

Chapter 2

Romania



Facts about the Missions Area

Romania is a country in Eastern Europe. It is a country where old meets new. Romania has many ancient castles and monuments, as well as many modern cities. It has large marshes and unpopulated areas, and also busy streets and neighborhoods.

The River Danube is Europe's second longest river. It ends in Romania at the Danube Delta. The delta region is known for its many fish and birds. People enjoy visiting the Danube Delta to see the wildlife that lives there.

Bucharest is the largest city in Romania. It is also the capital city, with more than 2 million people who live in or just around it. Bucharest is rich with culture, art, and architecture. It is also considered the most modern city in Romania. It has historic buildings, as well as large modern shopping and recreational areas. Parks in the city are a popular place for families to gather and enjoy time together. Thousands of college-age students come to Bucharest to study at the 16 public universities in the city. Fast-food restaurants have also become very popular there!

Sports are popular in Romania. Soccer is the favorite sport and people gather in large stadiums to watch teams play. Romanians also enjoy playing and watching basketball, tennis, rugby, and other

sports. Missionaries can use an interest in sports to get to know people and build relationships with them.

Missionaries in Romania are able to raise their families with many modern conveniences, but they are still far from family in the United States. Missionaries often feel alone as many people in Romania know about Jesus, but choose not to follow Him. Pray that missionaries will forge strong relationships in Romania. Pray that they can plant churches and help people become disciples of Jesus who make additional disciples. Pray that the small groups missionaries disciple and mentor will eventually become healthy churches. Pray for students in the seminary who are studying to be pastors.

During 2018–19, additional information about specific missionaries is available in *Mission Friends Leader*, Fall issue, October unit.

MISSIONS EXPLORERS

Materials: world map or globe, scissors, tape, library books about countries of the world, computer, printer

Help preschoolers understand that people and cultures are different all over the world. Help them to know that God loves all people and wants us to love all people, too. Talk about missionaries who go to tell people in other lands about Jesus.

First Steps in Missions Sample

In four sessions, help preschoolers explore four areas of the world, such as Asia, Middle East, South America, and Europe. In each session, they may look at books about different countries in the area.

In advance, preview online videos and children's websites that tell about children around the world. In small groups, help preschoolers view those videos and sites on your tablet or laptop.

If you have printer capabilities in your room, help preschoolers in each session to choose online pictures of children from that session's area of the world to print in wallet size. Preschoolers may cut out the pictures and attach them to a world map or globe.

Note: Focus mostly on the people of the world, as preschoolers may have difficulty understanding the symbolic representation of the map.

At the end of the unit, place your picture display outside your room with a caption that reads *We Can Pray for People Everywhere*. Invite your church to pray for these cultures and people groups.

ART

Clay Sculptures

Materials: modeling clay or dough, paper plates

Provide each preschooler with a paper plate and a piece of clay. Say: The cities of Romania have many statues and sculptures. Some are very old and some are very new.

Guide preschoolers to make sculptures out of clay. Say: God helps us make things with our hands.

Painted Romanian Eggs

Materials: 10-inch oval shapes drawn onto white construction paper, paint, cotton swabs, child safety scissors, paint smocks, electronic tablet

In advance, search for images of painted Romanian eggs.

Show preschoolers the pictures on your electronic tablet. Say: People in Romania make beautiful painted eggs that are very popular. Artists paint and sell wooden, glass, and plastic eggs.

Preschoolers may use the cotton swabs and several colors of paint to make designs on their papers. Talk about how people in Romania need to hear about Jesus.

When dry, preschoolers may cut out the oval shapes. Use to make a bulletin board (p. 20).

Art in Romania

Materials: construction paper, colored paper cut into thin strips of various sizes, glue

Say: In Romania, you would see many beautiful kinds of art, such as paintings, murals on walls, woven blankets, painted eggs, and sculptures. Some of the art is displayed in museums.

Preschoolers may use the materials to create a collage on their paper. As they work, talk about the colors they are choosing. Tape their collages to the wall to make a museum display.

Open the Bible and read: God gives us things to enjoy (see 1 Tim. 6:17).

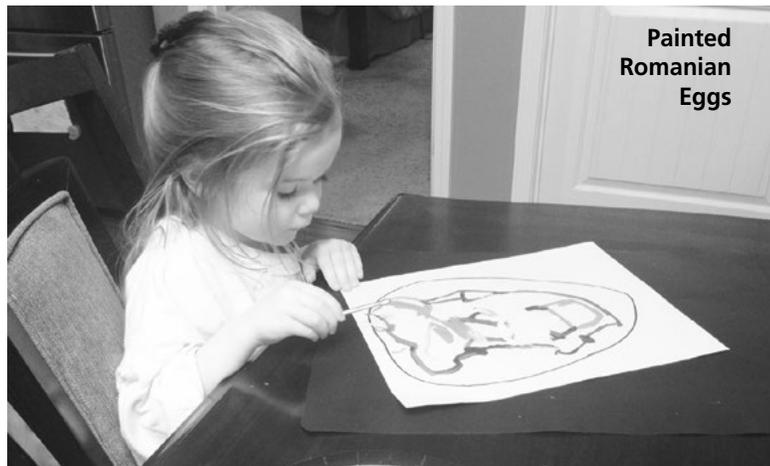
BLOCKS

Build a Castle

Materials: blocks, paper-towel tubes, paper rolled into cone shapes

Invite preschoolers to work together to build a castle. Say: Romania has many beautiful and very old castles. Missionaries who

Scripture is included with many of the activities.



Painted Romanian Eggs

First Steps in Missions Sample

live in Romania are happy to live where they can tell people about Jesus.

Colorful Walls

Materials: interlocking blocks in many colors

Invite preschoolers to use the blocks to make a wall, using many colors. Say: In Romania, people often paint colorful scenes on walls in the city. Thank You, God, for the beautiful colors You give us.

Busy City

Materials: blocks; several small boxes and containers covered with paper (examples: toothpaste, cereal, and cracker boxes, drink mix containers, etc.); crayons; toy vehicles

Invite preschoolers to draw windows and doors on the covered boxes, making tall buildings they can use with blocks to build a city.

Say: Some missionaries live in Bucharest, Romania. Bucharest is a big city with many buildings and a lot of traffic. The missionaries live there so they can tell people about Jesus.

BOOKS

Beautiful Romania

Materials: *God's Beautiful World*, electronic tablet

In advance, locate online photos of Romanian landscapes and forests.

Read *God's Beautiful World*. Show the photos on an electronic tablet. Preschoolers may swipe through the pictures to choose their favorite ones.

Say: Romania has big cities, but Romania also has a lot of beautiful countryside. Thank You, God, for creating the beautiful country of Romania. Thank You that Christians in Romania tell others about You.

Bible Study in a Home

Materials: preschool picture Bibles

Arrange an area to look like a living room or dining room. Say: In Romania, missionaries invite people into their homes. They read the Bible together.

Give each preschooler a Bible. They may browse the pages and look at the pictures. Ask each preschooler to choose a picture and show it to the group. Talk about the Bible story that is depicted.

Pray: Thank You, God, for giving us the Bible. Thank You for the missionaries who read the Bible with people in Romania.

Open the Bible and read: All that the Bible says is from God (see 2 Tim. 3:16).

Books You Find at Church

Materials: books used in your church (Bibles, hymnals, Sunday School literature, children's books, etc.)

Place pillows on the floor where preschoolers may browse through the books. Talk about how each kind of book is used.

Say: In Romania, missionaries are starting new churches and teaching students who will become pastors. Let's pray that they will have Bibles and books that they need.

Open the Bible and read: I like to go to church (see Psalm 122:1).

HELPING OTHERS

Art Gifts

Material: This Picture Is for You Label (p. 18); crayons or markers; paper

In advance, make copies of This Picture Is for You. Arrange for your preschoolers to visit another group that meets at your church (group of children, choir, adult Bible study, etc.).

Say: In Romania, children's pictures are often given to others.

Each preschooler may draw a colorful picture, decorate a copy of This Picture Is for You, and attach it. Go as a group to deliver the pictures to others in your church.

HOMELIVING

Picnic in the Park

Materials: toy food, toy dishes, picnic basket, blanket

Invite preschoolers to pack the picnic basket with the toy food and dishes. Spread the blanket and have a picnic.

Say: Families in Romania enjoy going to parks. A missionary family likes to take their young daughter to a park to feed the birds. They tell new friends they meet about Jesus.



First Steps in Missions

Reproducibles are included in many activities.

First Steps in Missions Sample

Pantomime Chores

Ask preschoolers to name things they do at home to help, such as wipe off the table, dry the dishes, sweep the floor, feed the dog, make the bed. Each time a chore is named, encourage preschoolers to act out the chore.

Say: Children in Romania do chores to help their families, too.

Open the Bible and read: Help one another (see Gal. 5:13).

Meatball Tasting

Materials: homemade or frozen meatballs, slow cooker, small paper plates, napkins, spoons

In advance, fully cook the meatballs. Keep them warm in the slow cooker. Post an allergy alert chart.

Ask preschoolers to help you set the table with plates, napkins, and spoons. Place a meatball on each preschooler's plate. While it is cooling, say: Different types of meatballs are popular in Romania. Sometimes they serve meatballs with noodles.

Preschoolers may taste the meatballs.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Romanian Folk Music

Materials: ribbons in different colors, recording of Romanian folk music

Play the recording. Say: People in Romania enjoy this kind of music.

Each preschooler may move around the area, waving a ribbon in time with the music.

Sit-Down Soccer

Materials: foam or inflatable ball, plastic laundry basket, masking tape

In advance, turn the laundry basket on its side. Place strips of masking tape on the floor at distances of 3 feet, 4 feet, and 5 feet from the basket.

Each preschooler may have a turn to sit on the first tape strip and try to kick the ball into the laundry basket. Then he may try again while sitting on the second and third tape strips.

Say: Soccer is the favorite sport of most people in Romania.

Sing about Missionaries

Materials: sandpaper, blocks of wood

In advance, glue squares of sandpaper onto the blocks of wood. (See Bonus page for songs.)

Sing "What Missionaries Do," page 34, and "Missionaries Tell," page 35. Preschoolers may rub two sandpaper blocks together as they sing. Say: Missionaries go to places such as Romania to tell people about Jesus.

NATURE

Birds of the Danube Delta

Material: Birds (p. 19); crayons; yarn; craft feathers; glue; paper plates; hole punch; electronic tablet

In advance, make copies of the bird pictures. Use the search term "Birds of the Danube Delta" to find an online video.

Show preschoolers the video on your electronic tablet. Say: Many different types of birds

are found in the Danube Delta in Romania. People like to go there just to watch birds.

Preschoolers may color three or four bird pictures then glue feathers onto the paper plate. Punch a hole in the top of each picture. Punch holes around the edge of the paper plate. Use yarn to tie the bird pictures to the paper plate to make a mobile.

Make a River

Materials: blue plastic rectangular table cover, recording of river sounds

In advance, find an online recording of a rushing river.

Preschoolers may stand around the plastic and shake it gently to make a river. Play the recording of river sounds. Ask: Have you ever been to a river? Did you swim? Did you ride in a boat?

Say: Romania has several rivers. One famous river is called the Danube. Thank You, God, for beautiful rivers.

Marshes in Romania

Materials: box lid, aluminum foil, green shredded paper, construction paper, glue, scissors, colored pencils, electronic tablet

In advance, locate online pictures of marshes in the Danube Delta region of Romania.

Show pictures to preschoolers on your electronic tablet. Encourage them to work together to create a marsh ecosystem, using the box lid as a base. They may use foil to represent water and shredded green paper as grass. They may use scraps of paper to draw and

Planning ahead is quick with a materials list for each activity.

First Steps in Missions Sample

cut out pictures of marsh animals such as pelicans, swans, frogs, and fish, then glue the animals into the box lid.

Open the Bible and read: Look at the wonderful things God made (see Job 37:14).

PUZZLES AND MANIPULATIVES

Make a Flag

Materials: 8½-by-3½ strips of blue, yellow, and red construction paper; glue sticks; white construction paper; picture of the Romanian flag (online or in a book)

Show preschoolers the flag picture. Each preschooler may arrange colored strips to make a flag that looks like the picture. Then they may glue the strips to a piece of white paper.

Say: If you traveled to Romania, you would see this flag. It is important to people there. Let's pray that people in Romania will hear about Jesus.

Castle Count

Materials: various sizes of paper squares, rectangles, triangles

Say: Many castles are in Romania. Some are very old.

Preschoolers may arrange the shapes to create castle designs on a tabletop. Challenge them to see how many different castle designs they can create together.

Say: Missionaries like to explore interesting places. They moved to Romania to tell people about Jesus.

Fish and Birds

Materials: Fish and Birds (p. 19); card stock; blue construction paper; bag; tape

In advance, draw a simple river across the bottom of the paper. Draw clouds for the sky at the top. Copy the Fish and Birds pictures, glue onto card stock, cut out, and place in the bag.

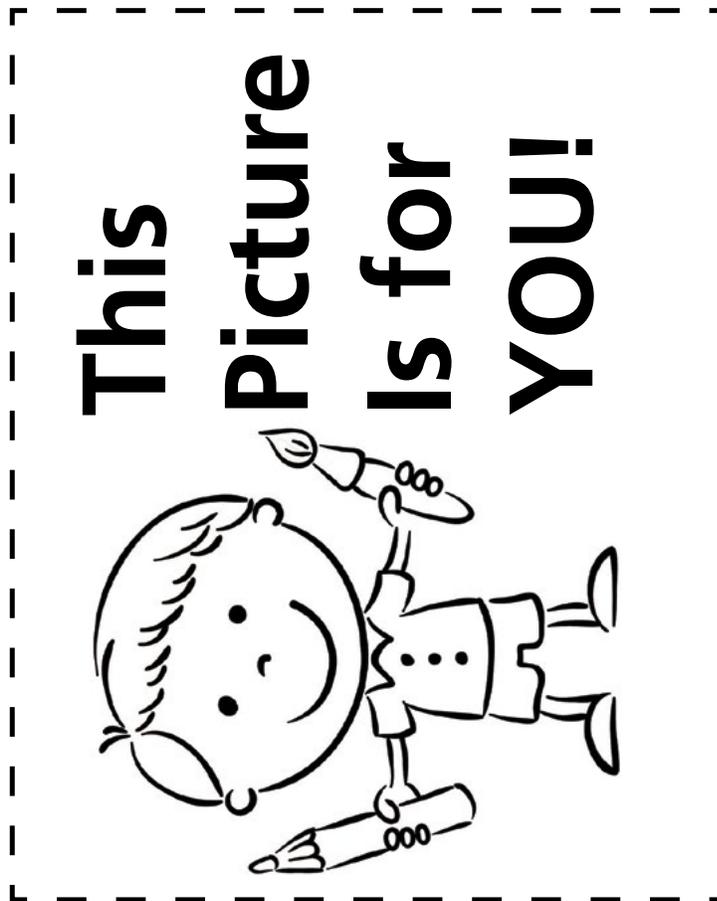
Tape the sky/river paper low on a wall. Invite preschoolers to take turns reaching into the bag and drawing out an animal. If

they get a fish, they may tape it onto the river. If they get a bird, they may tape it onto the sky.

Say: Romania has many birds and fish. Thank You, God, for the birds and fish You made.

ENLISTMENT IDEA

Make copies of the Globe Invitation (p. 20). Each preschooler may color and decorate an invitation. Say: Invite a friend to come to church with you. Give him your invitation so he will know when to come.

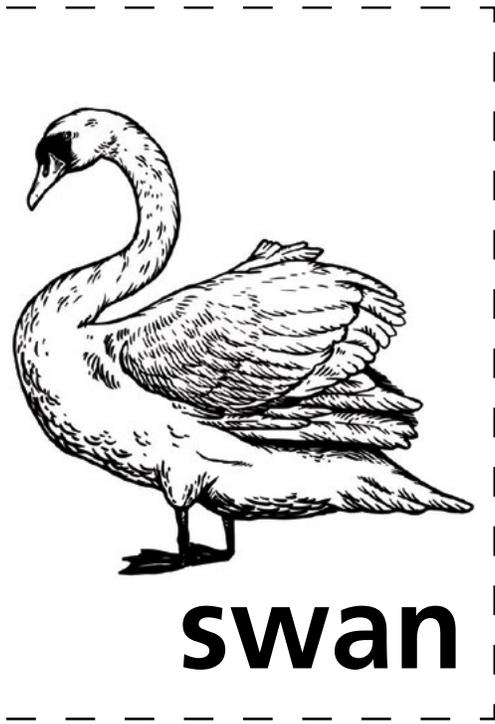


Use this reproducible with the activity on page 16.

REPRODUCIBLE PATTERNS This Picture Is for You Label

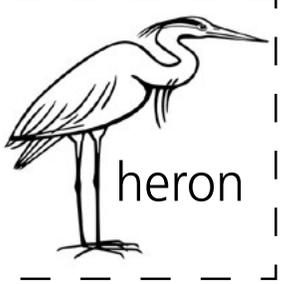
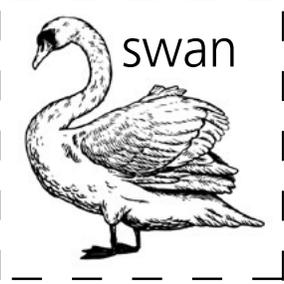
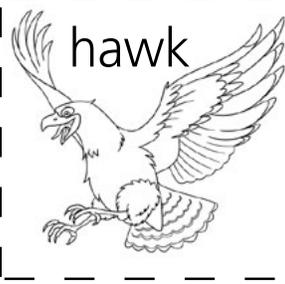
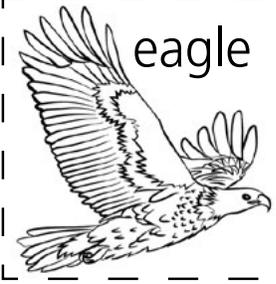
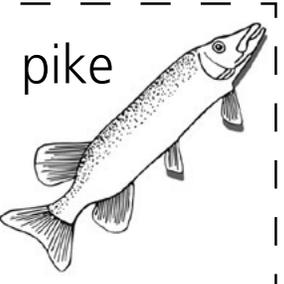
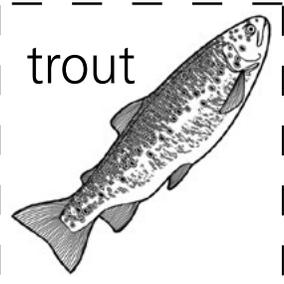
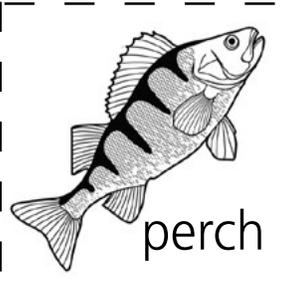
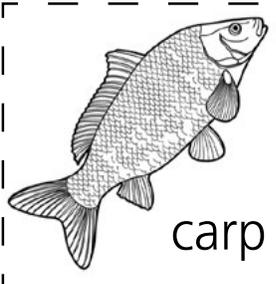
First Steps in Missions Sample

Use these
reproducibles
with the activity
on page 17.

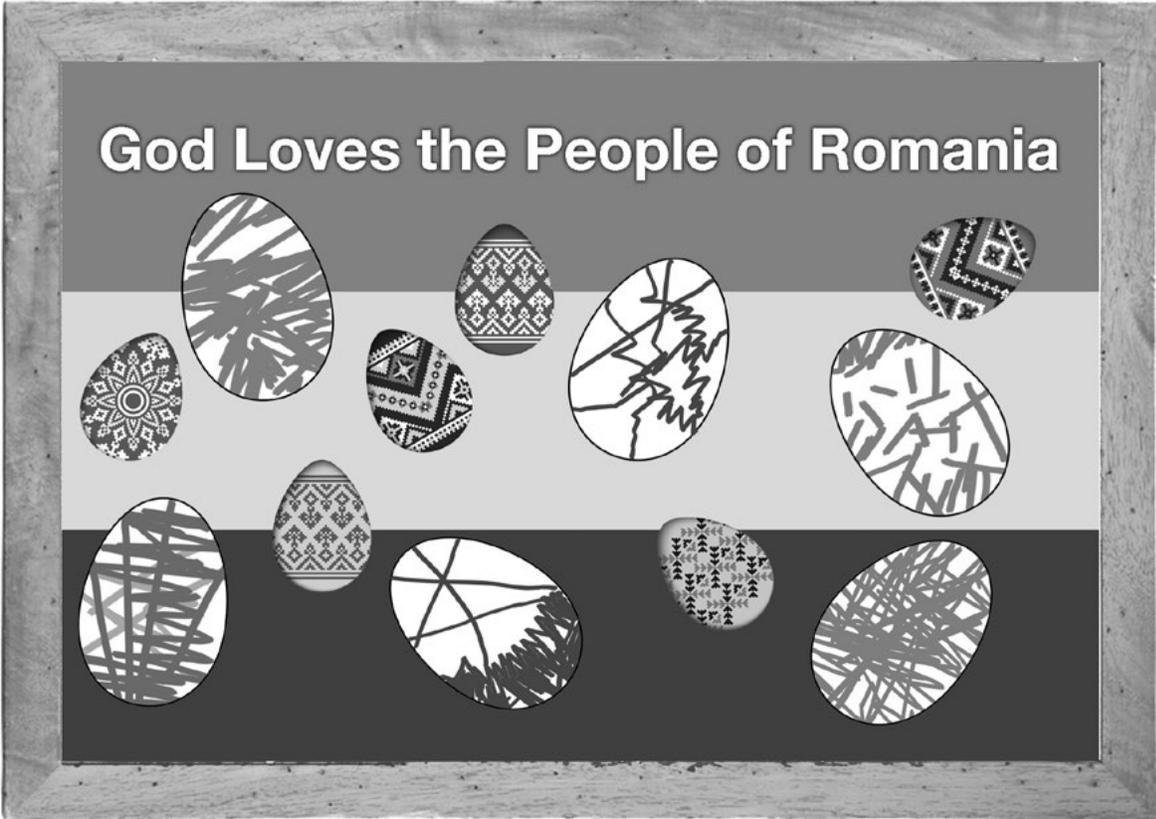


Birds

Fish and Birds



Use these
reproducibles
with the activity
on page 18.



Use this reproducible with the activity on page 15.

Come explore the world with us!

Day _____

Time _____

Place _____

BULLETIN BOARD
Cover the board with strips of paper in three colors—blue, yellow, red—which are the colors of the Romanian flag. Attach egg shapes that preschoolers made in the Art area (p. 15). Print and attach small pictures of painted Romanian eggs, if desired. Write *God Loves the People of Romania* on the board.

Globe Invitation

First Steps in Missions

Use this reproducible with the activity on page 18.

Bonus: Songs from the *Sing to the Tune* Book

Lead preschoolers to tell about God's love through familiar tunes.

What Missionaries Do

(Tune: "London Bridge")

The Goombis live in Omaha, Omaha, Omaha.
The Goombis live in Omaha.
They share God's love each day.

The Goombis work to help their church, help their church, help their church.

The Goombis work to help their church.
They share God's love each day.

I can be a helper too, helper too, helper too.
I can be a helper too.
And share God's love each day.

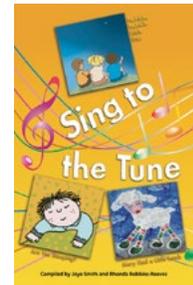
Substitute the names of other missionaries, places they live, and types of work they do.

Missionaries Tell

(Tune: "The Wheels on the Bus")

Missionaries tell the whole wide world
Whole wide world, whole wide world
Missionaries tell the whole wide world
That Jesus is God's Son.

I'm like a missionary, how about you?
How about you? How about you?
I'm like a missionary, how about you?
Let's tell our friends about Jesus!



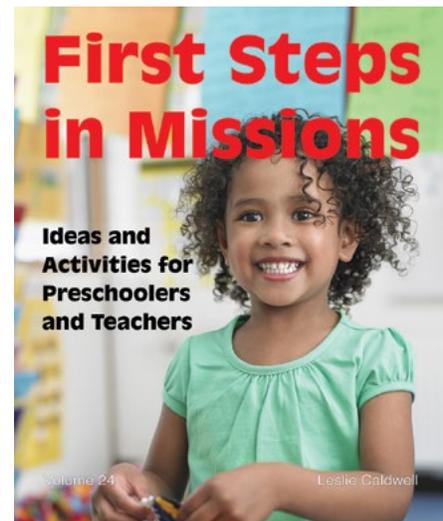
SING TO THE TUNE

Make any moment missional (and musical!) as you lead preschoolers to tell about God's love through these familiar songs replaced with new, missions-focused words.

Help them take their first steps!



Develop preschoolers' love for missions with **First Steps in Missions, vol. 24**. This book offers fun and engaging activities, games, reproducibles, bulletin board ideas and more! It also features all 12 missions areas studied throughout the year in *Mission Friends*.



To order *First Steps in Missions* for your preschoolers, visit wmustore.com/preschool or call 1-800-968-7301.

