

Missions Fest Module #8

Missions Mongolia

This year's module has a different emphasis. It focuses on a country, not a theme, and is designed to be used with the Kidz Mission and Faith Promise Activity Booklet, which is part of this year's Missions Conference Promotional Kit. The module can be used during your missions conference or at another time during the year.

Model Environment

The yurt or ger is the traditional dwelling of the nomads in Mongolia. It is a tent-like structure made from a wooden frame and covered by wool felt. A traditional yurt is easy to collapse and reassemble, and it can be transported on three animals (horses, camels, or yaks). See the picture of the yurt in the Missions and Faith Promise Activity Booklet.

A possible model environment could include tents with rugs or fake fur or skins on the floor. Place a pretend fire made of logs with a flashlight in the center with red or orange tissue paper cut like flames in the middle of the tent. You also could set up an archery range nearby, using a child's bow-and-arrow set.



Alternative Ideas—Maps of Mongolia, globes, Mongolian and/or other country flags.

Introducing the Missionary (10 minutes)

Mongolian dress varies with the climate. In winter those living in pastoral areas (where domesticated animals are herded) usually wear a sheep fur coat with silk or cloth on the outside. In summer, they wear loose robes, usually in red, yellow, or dark navy, with long sleeves and silk waistbands called bus. High leather boots with the toes turned up are often worn.

Mongolian farmers wear a cloth shirt and robes, or cotton-padded clothes and trousers, along with a waistband. Felt boots are worn in winter. Men wear black or brown pointed hats, and some of them wrap their heads with silk. Women wrap red or blue cloth on their heads and wear a cone-shaped hat in winter.



Use the article "What's So Special about Living in Mongolia?" by Jeremy Fields. Someone in your church could role-play Jeremy Fields.



One person could read the article, and then someone else could interview him using information from the article. Or “Jeremy” could just talk about life in Mongolia and dress like a Mongolian.

Or interview a missionary. Possible questions could include the following:

1. How old were you when you decided to become a missionary?
2. How did God call you to be a missionary?
3. What did you do to prepare to become a missionary?
4. What can these boys and girls do to help you and other missionaries?



Scripture Focus (15 minutes)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19–20a

(see M&FP Activity Booklet)

Music is an integral part of Mongolian culture. Among the unique contributions of Mongolia to the world's musical culture are "long songs." This genre is not called "long song" because the songs are long, but because each syllable of text is extended for a long duration.

Activity

Display the verse on the wall or screen. Have everyone read it aloud several times.

Make your own version of the "long song." Try singing the verse to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" or another familiar song while holding out each syllable. Sing it a few times.

Or break participants up into small, multi-age groups of five or six kids and adults. Challenge groups to put the verse to music. They can make up their own tune or use the tune from a familiar song like "Row Row Row Your Boat." Let them practice it a few times. Then have each group perform its song for the whole class. If your church is large, the groups can perform for a few other groups.

Possible Learning Activities (15–30 minutes)

The three main sports in Mongolia are horse racing, archery, and wrestling. After a day of work,



children, teenage boys, and male adults under age 50 frequently gather before the yurt and wrestle. In archery, the target consists of a row of small woven leather rings about 10 feet long. Some of the rings are painted red. In the last few decades, women have joined in the competition.

Archery Game

Buy a child's archery set with rubber-tipped arrows at a sporting goods store, or buy any other game that uses targets. Or make an archery-type game with hula hoops or other rings and make your own "arrows." This teaches the children to keep their eyes focused on Jesus and accomplishing the mission that He gave us.



Discussion Questions

1. What made it hard to hit the target? (lost focus, too hard or far, not strong enough, took eyes off target)
2. What made or can make it easier to hit the target? (move closer to the target, keep your eyes on the target, practice)
3. What makes it hard for us to fulfill the Great Commission? (too busy, don't care enough, not willing, afraid)
4. What makes it easier for us to fulfill the Great Commission? (study God's Word, memorize, being filled with the Holy Spirit, working together with other Christians)
5. What can we do to help spread the word in Mongolia? (pray, give, and send/go ourselves ... see M&FP Activity Booklet)

Complete the Lost and Found maze and decode the Secret Message in the activity booklets or have them do it at home.





Pray (10+ minutes)

Use information under “God’s @ work in Mongolia” (M&FP Activity Booklet) to form prayer requests. You can find more prayer requests under You can Pray (M&FP Activity Booklet). You also could pray for requests from missionaries from your church, from missionaries who come for your missions conference, or pray for all the Mongolian missionaries by name.

Activity

Option 1—Have the children build small, model yurts that you could keep in the classroom for the year. You could use them as prayer reminders and pray each week for the Mongolian people and missionaries. Pray in small groups after you finish building them. See the following Web site for details on building a small model yurt: <http://depts.washington.edu/reecas/outreach/nomadism/yurt/>

Option 2—Use Popsicle sticks for the walls, toothpicks for the roof, markers or pens, construction paper, and glue to construct a yurt on a piece of construction paper. On each Popsicle stick have them write a word to remind them what to pray for and then glue it to the construction paper in the shape of a yurt. See diagram below for how to construct a yurt.

Faith Promise Activity (5–10 minutes)

Have the children complete the “What do you spend your dollar on?” exercise in the M&FP Activity Booklet. Next, have kids look at the Faith Promise card and trading card (M&FP Activity Booklet). Explain how the Faith Promise works. Pray with the children as they ask God what He wants them to give. If they’re ready, they can give you their Faith Promise card, or they can turn them in later if they need to talk to their parents. Remind them that when they give to the Great Commission Fund, they are giving toward helping Mongolians come to know Jesus.

For more information, visit www.cmalliance.org/kidz/mongolia.

Novel Options

Snacks

Tea and/or milk, hard butter cookies Or make your own version of these traditional Mongolian foods. Suutei Tsai (tea with milk and salt)

Put the tea into a pan of water and let it boil for a moment. Now add about the same amount of milk to the water, and boil the mix again. Instead of stirring, the Mongolians will lift out some liquid with a ladle and let it splash back from a certain height. This brings enough movement into the liquid in the flat



pan on the yurt stove. Season to taste with salt and strain into a teapot. This tea is served in little bowls. It is the standard beverage for every meal. You can also buy milk tea as instant powder.

Boortsog

Boortsog are deep fried butter cookies that are eaten as sweets or as a snack. You can put butter or honey on them or even cheese, depending on how much sugar you used. Often they are dipped in tea.

Ul Boov (Shoe Sole Cake)

This cake is made for locals festivals as well as for personal festivities like a wedding. The name is derived from the shape, which is like the sole of a shoe. The patterns in the center are stamped with a wooden block; the bulge around it is also a result of the stamping. The sole cakes are stacked into a big tower, which is filled with aruul (hard cheese), wrapped candies, and sugar cubes. There is always an uneven number of levels in the tower, and each level is formed by five cakes. At the top comes a little heap of urum (like clotted cream/whipped cream). They always make an odd number of layers. Traditionally, grandparents have seven layers of Ul boov, parents five layers, and young couples three layers. They place two side by side with a space in between and lay another two crosswise on top of these.

Web sites for Mongolian recipes:

www.asiarecipe.com/monmain.html#Boov

www.cooks.com

www.mongolia.worldvision.org.nz/mongoliarecipe.html

Other Options

Because wrestling is so popular in Mongolia, have a wrestling exhibition, possibly from a local school. Mongolians love horses. Their main employment is raising animals, especially sheep, cows, and horses. Have a veterinarian come and talk about horses to the group, host a petting zoo, or give pony rides.

Resources, Supplies, and Information

www.orientaltrading.com

www.cmalliance.org/kidz

www.everyculture.com/wc/Mauritania-to-Nigeria/Mongols.html

www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/mongolia/

Written by Debra Newby. Produced by Disciplemaking Ministries.
© 2008 Disciplemaking Ministries, The Christian and Missionary Alliance,
8595 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

