

CHILDREN WITH A MISSION

WITH A



Kids Impacting the World for Christ



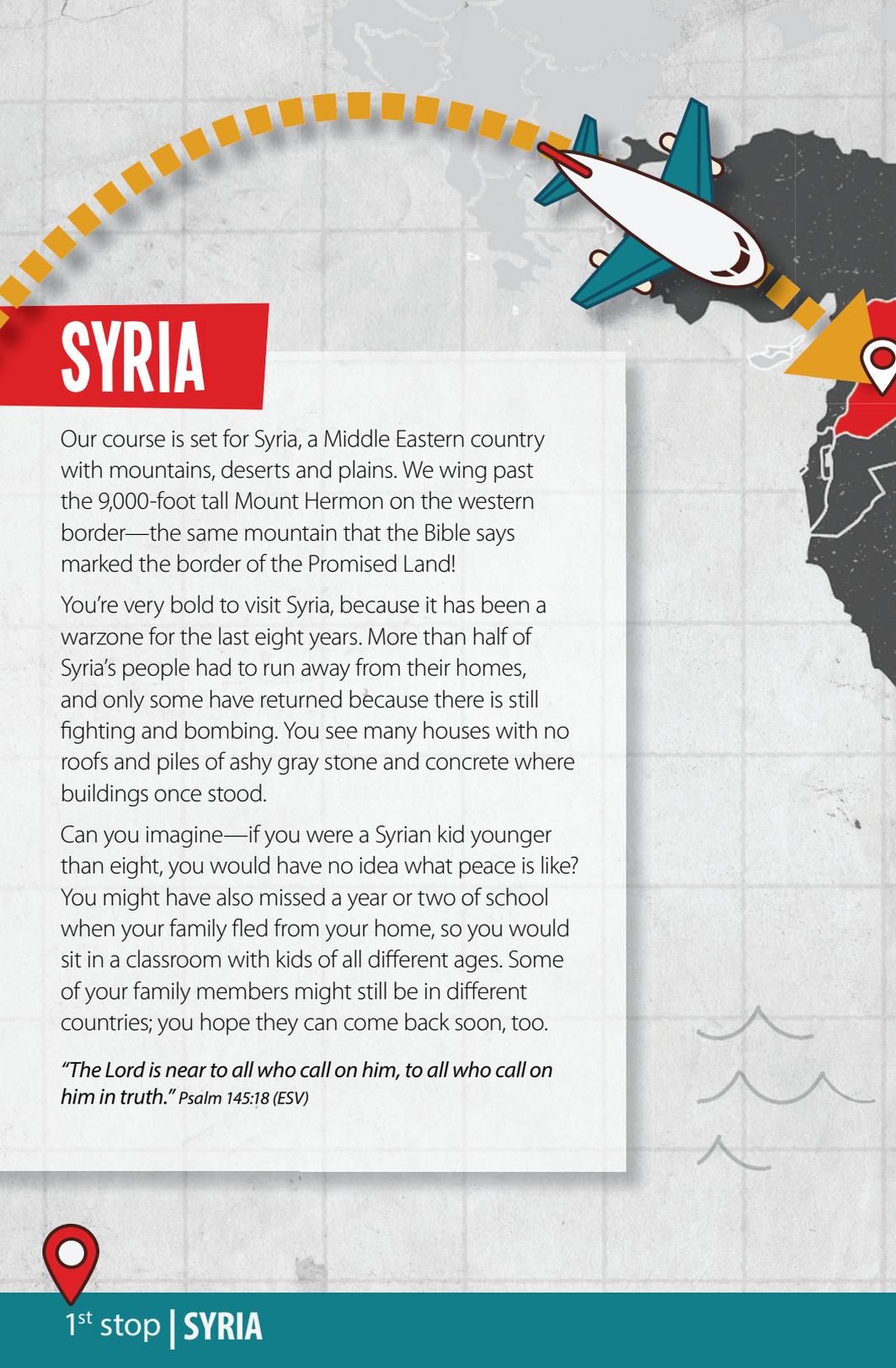
go to



THE
MIDDLE
EAST



DECEMBER 2019



SYRIA

Our course is set for Syria, a Middle Eastern country with mountains, deserts and plains. We wing past the 9,000-foot tall Mount Hermon on the western border—the same mountain that the Bible says marked the border of the Promised Land!

You're very bold to visit Syria, because it has been a warzone for the last eight years. More than half of Syria's people had to run away from their homes, and only some have returned because there is still fighting and bombing. You see many houses with no roofs and piles of ashy gray stone and concrete where buildings once stood.

Can you imagine—if you were a Syrian kid younger than eight, you would have no idea what peace is like? You might have also missed a year or two of school when your family fled from your home, so you would sit in a classroom with kids of all different ages. Some of your family members might still be in different countries; you hope they can come back soon, too.

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18 (ESV)





Syria flag



CAPITAL:

Damascus

LANGUAGE:

Arabic

SYMBOL:



Hawk





FUN FACT! ✓

The Shouting Valley has a special echo so that Syrians can use megaphones to shout to their relatives in Israel!

GOD'S WORK

Most people in Syria believe in Islam, but after other Muslims destroyed their homes and cruelly hurt them, many Syrians feel betrayed. They are eager to hear of a Savior who loves them and who sent His Christian followers to help. One way Syrian missionaries help is through "prayer tents" where people can come for prayer and food.

As a Syrian officer named Abbad* and his soldiers were guarding one of the prayer tents in a dangerous part of Syria, Abbad watched as person after person entered the tent. He even saw the movie about Jesus that the missionaries played for the people. After the missionaries explained the good news of Jesus, Abbad surprised them by pulling them aside and whispering, "I had a dream that someone would share with me about Jesus and it was in a tent." The ministry leaders led him to Jesus, and later baptized him and his entire family! They also helped him move to a new area where he would be safe from persecution.

PRAYER REQUEST

God is saving many Syrians! Please pray that Syrian missionaries would have enough supplies and workers to help their people and tell them about Jesus.

GIVING CHALLENGE

How many times can you find Mount Hermon in the Bible? (Hint: ask an adult for help.) For each time you find it, save five cents to help children like those in Syria hear the gospel.

**Name changed for security*



POP QUIZ!

Prayer tents are one way native missionaries help Syrians.

Q: What is a prayer tent?

A: A tent where native missionaries pray for people, share the gospel with them and often give them food.



Congratulations, you've now visited Syria!
Remember to stamp your passport!



TURKEY

We lift off heading north to Turkey, a mountainous country slightly larger than Texas. You are making the same journey that millions of Syrian refugees have made since the Syrian Civil War started in 2011. Turkey has welcomed more Syrian refugees than any other country in the world.

A Turkish family invites you to breakfast, called “kahvalti,” the most important meal of the day. Spread across the table in small dishes are cheeses, olives, bread, jams, eggs, tomatoes and cucumbers. If you stuck around for dinner, you might have the famous Turkish “tavuk göğsü” for desert, a pudding with shredded chicken in it! Hospitality is very important to Turks, who treat their guests with high honor.

Next you visit Syrian refugee families living in tents outside the city. Many cannot find good jobs or any job at all. If you were a Syrian refugee child, you might go to a Turkish school where you didn’t know the language, while your parents worked very hard to earn enough money to live.

“The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.” Psalm 145:9 (NIV)





Turkey flag



CAPITAL:

Ankara

LANGUAGE:

Turkish

SYMBOL:



Star and
Crescent

GOD'S WORK

Jonathan* and other Turkish Christians have been helping thousands of Syrian refugees with food, blankets and supplies. When they gave one man tarps for shelter, he asked, "Why? Who are you?" They told him they wanted to help because they knew how much he had suffered. "Our God is telling us to do this, so we're doing what He said," they explained.

The man told them that in his Muslim book they were never taught to help people from a different religion. The missionaries explained, "Our Jesus is not the same as yours, our Jesus has a totally different character." Jonathan told the man he could call any time. Late that night, his phone rang. The man asked him to tell him more about Jesus.

Refugees are seeing the love of Jesus through the Christians' kindness. "Just asking them how they are doing shocks them," Jonathan said. "They're surprised that someone cares about them and they value this even more than the food and clothing we bring them."

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Syrian refugees in Turkey to hear about Jesus and believe in Him. Pray that God would provide for their needs.

GIVING CHALLENGE

Each time you get to use a warm blanket, save up 10 cents to help children throughout the world who have needs like refugee children living in tents.

**Name changed for security*

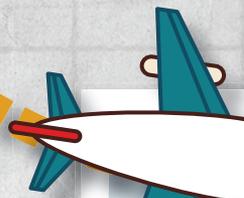


POP QUIZ!

God teaches us to love and do good to all people, including people who do not believe in Him.

Q: Why was the Syrian man confused when the Christians gave him tarps?

A: Because they were helping him even though he was Muslim.





FUN FACT! ✓

Turkey has a city called Batman! The mayor thought their name had been stolen when the first Batman movie came out.



Congratulations, You've now visited Turkey!
Don't forget to stamp your passport!



LEBANON

We skim south over the Mediterranean Sea to Lebanon, tucked next to Syria. You see crunchy leaves on the ground—fall is turning into winter. Most Middle Eastern countries only have two seasons, summer and winter, but Lebanon has all four.

People here are friendly and many speak to you in English. You overhear conversations in Arabic that begin with a French “bonjour!” Lebanon is a mixture of people and cultures, and most people learn to speak two to three languages.

Since Lebanon is next to Syria, 1.5 million Syrians fled here as refugees. One out of four people you see is Syrian! Many live in tent camps that can get very cold and flood in the winter. Others rent apartments in the city. One family you meet with eight children can only afford a room on the roof of a building. They can't all fit, so they use a tent to make it larger, but it's cold and sometimes they still get wet. Their 9-year-old and 11-year-old sons work to help pay the rent.

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:31 (NLT)





Lebanon flag



CAPITAL:

Beirut

LANGUAGE:

Arabic

SYMBOL:



Cedar tree





FUN FACT!

In the spring in Lebanon, it's cold enough in the mountains to ski but warm enough on the beach to swim!



GOD'S WORK

Yana* felt her daughter Ayla's* forehead again. It was still so hot! Worried, she quickly brought Ayla to the hospital. But when she arrived, she didn't have enough money.

She dialed the number of the missionaries who had been visiting her and praying for Ayla and asked them to come. They didn't just help her pay the money—they also stayed and prayed with her. After three days, the doctors finally said Ayla could go home, but she needed to keep taking medicine for two weeks.

After the missionaries drove them to pick up the medicine and then dropped them off at home, Yana started crying. "What's going on?" one of the missionaries asked. "You are so kind to us; you have overwhelmed us with your love," she told them. The missionary explained, "This is what Jesus has asked us to do. Love one another." That night she gave her life to Christ. Now she comes to church every week and wants the missionaries to baptize her, Ayla and her son!

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that God would help native missionaries caring for refugees, and that the refugees would know Jesus as their Savior!

GIVING CHALLENGE

Ask God to help you decide how much to save this week to help children who may be suffering like those in Lebanon.

**Name changed for security*



POP QUIZ!

Helping people in great need can help them understand God's free gift of love to them in Jesus Christ.

Q: How did Yana respond when the missionaries helped her and Ayla?

A: She started crying because they had been so kind, and that night she gave her life to Jesus.



Hooray, you have toured Lebanon! Stamp your passport before you board the next flight!



ISRAEL

Angling south, we land in the tiny country of Israel, the only Jewish nation in the world. As you exit the plane, you hear Hebrew. This language hadn't been spoken since Bible times until a little over 130 years ago! You also hear Arabic; almost a quarter of Israelis are Arabs.

You notice that almost everyone lives in city apartments with modern technology like refrigerators, air conditioning, and computers. If you grew up as a Jew in Israel, you would have to serve in the military at age 18—boys for three years, and girls for two years. Israel is very careful to keep its people safe. As you explore, security guards check your bags at malls and some restaurants.

Do you remember that when Jesus came, not all Jewish people believed that He was the Messiah? Today, most Jews still think the Messiah hasn't come yet and only read the Old Testament. But some Jews believe in Jesus. They are called Messianic Jews, and they are telling other Jews about Him.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" John 1:29 (NIV)





Israel flag



CAPITAL:

Jerusalem

LANGUAGE:

Hebrew

SYMBOL:



Star of David

GOD'S WORK

Did you know that during Christmastime, Jews do not celebrate Christmas? They celebrate Hanukkah, also called the Festival of Lights, by lighting candles to remember rededicating the Temple in Jerusalem to God. To share the gospel with Jews who do not believe in Jesus, Messianic Jews from one church held a Hanukkah celebration and read Bible verses that spoke of Jesus as the Light of life. The small children acted out a play about the most important Light—Jesus.

Jews also celebrate the Passover, the meal that God told the Israelites to eat before He rescued them from Egypt. This meal has a deep meaning. For example, a lamb bone reminds them of the spotless lamb that God told the Israelites to sacrifice. Its blood caused God to spare the Israelites' oldest sons when He was judging Egypt. But the Messianic Jews can explain how Jesus is that spotless (sinless) Lamb who was sacrificed and whose blood causes God to spare those who believe in Jesus from judgment.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the people of Israel to understand that Jesus is the Messiah, their Savior.

GIVING CHALLENGE

After church this week, remember that many children aren't hearing about Jesus like you do. Set aside 75 cents to help missionaries share the gospel with them!

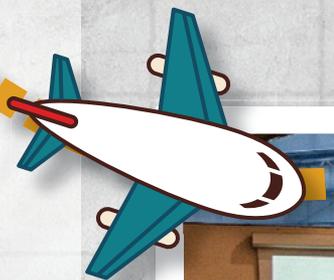


POP QUIZ!

Most Jews in Israel are still waiting for the Messiah to come.

Q: What are Jews called when they understand that Jesus their Messiah has already come?

A: Messianic Jews





FUN FACT! ✓

The Dead Sea in Israel is almost 10 times as salty as the ocean, so you float high in the water without trying!



WOW, You have finished visiting Israel! Make sure to stamp your passport before boarding your next flight!



JORDAN

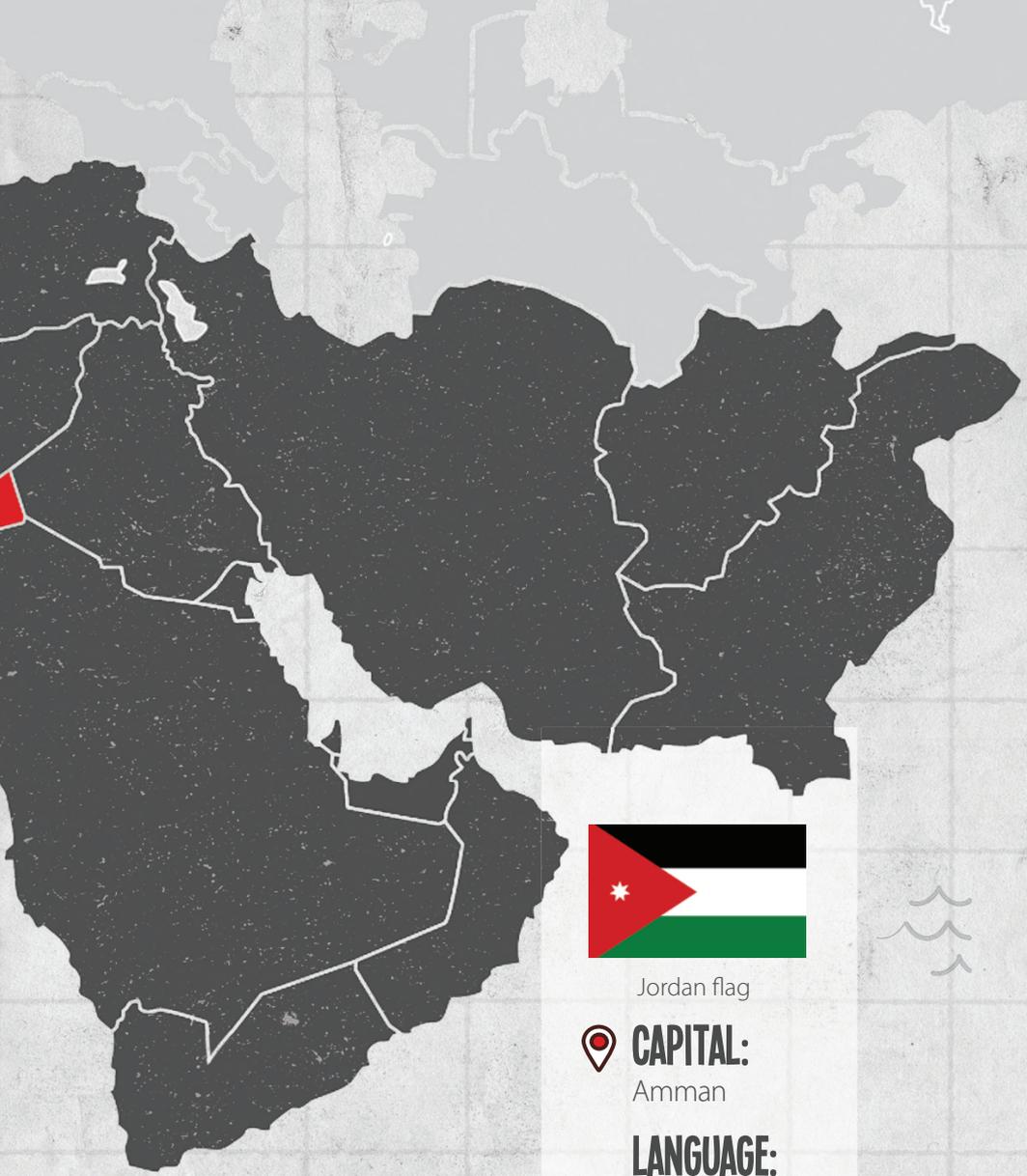
Our last stop is the small country of Jordan, which is full of places from the Bible! From Mt. Nebo, Moses saw the Promised Land. At the Jordan River, Joshua led the Israelites across to Jericho, Elijah and Elisha parted the water with Elijah's cloak, God healed Naaman of his leprosy, and John baptized Jesus. Scholars also believe that Moab (Ruth's homeland), Edom (where Esau's descendants lived), and the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were in Jordan.

As you walk through Jordan's cities (where most people in Jordan live), you jump as you hear shouting in Arabic over a loudspeaker. It's coming from a truck full of vegetables driving very slowly, giving people enough time to run out of their houses and buy them. Other trucks play songs like Happy Birthday and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star to attract customers.

Except for Turkey, Jordan has more refugees than any other country. Most are from Syria, but some are from Iraq. Like in Lebanon, many live very hard lives.

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." Deuteronomy 10:18 (NIV)





Jordan flag



CAPITAL:

Amman

LANGUAGE:

Arabic

SYMBOL:

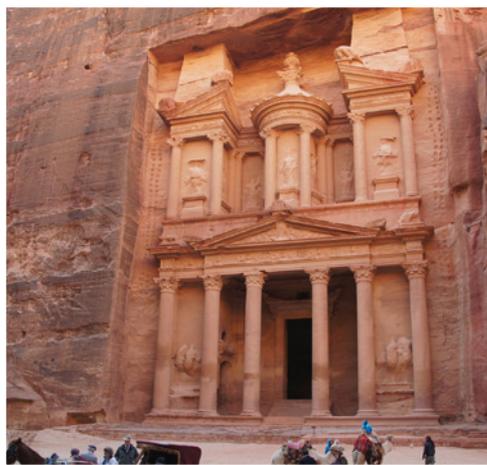


Eagle



FUN FACT!

Petra, or the “Rose City,” is carved out of pink sandstone cliffs in the Jordanian desert.



GOD'S WORK

Can you imagine being in charge of earning money for your whole family? That is what Nadia* has to do. In Syria, bombs destroyed her house, so her family came to Jordan. But Nadia's father died, so Nadia left school to help her sick mother and sister. "I needed to get treatment for them and pay the rent for the apartment," Nadia said.

She heard about a church that helped refugees and discovered they had sewing classes! She loved sewing, so she signed up. When the Christians heard her story, they helped her with food and medical treatment for her mom and sister. Nadia has been sewing and selling clothing to pay the rent. "I have a great responsibility, and I am still a young girl," Nadia said.

Her sewing teacher also taught her the Bible. "I loved listening to the stories of Christ and how he healed the sick and helped the needy," Nadia said. "There are verses of the Bible that touch my heart and help me understand more."

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for refugees living hard lives in Jordan that they would find peace in Jesus.

GIVING CHALLENGE

Ask your parents if you can do a job to earn \$1.00 to help children like Nadia who may be struggling and who need to hear about salvation in Jesus Christ.

**Name changed for security*



POP QUIZ!

The Bible speaks of many places in Jordan.

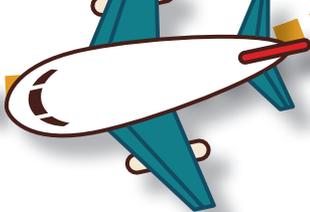
Q: Can you remember three of them?

A: Mt. Nebo, Jordan River, Moab, Sodom, and Edom, Gomorrah.



Hooray, you have toured Jordan! Stamp your passport before you board the next flight!

FUN TIME!



Fill in the blanks with the letter that matches each number to decode an extra fact about a country.

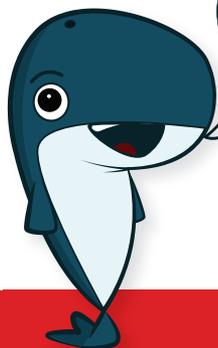
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
4	5	9	2	26	6	19	3	18	1	22	10	16

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
13	11	23	24	12	8	20	7	17	25	21	14	15

20 3 26 13 4 20 18 11 13 4 10 4 13 18 16 4 10 11 6

10 26 5 4 13 11 13 18 8 20 3 26 8 20 12 18 23 26 2

3 14 26 13 4



*Hi I am Wally!
I'm on just one page this time.
Can you find me?*

A: 1. The national animal of Lebanon is the striped hyena.
2. Wally is on pages 10 and 13.
3. 17

Merry Christmas!
How many animals can you find in the nativity scene?



CHILDREN WITH A MISSION



Name

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434-977-5650 | 1-800-977-5650 | info@christianaid.org | www.christianaid.org



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