Missions Object Lesson

Bear the Burden of Love

■ Key Scripture
Matthew 22:39  “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

■ Materials Needed
- book bag
- large, heavy rocks with the following words written on them: Poverty, Sickness, Abuse, Lost

■ Preparation
Place the rocks in the book bag.

Did you know?
The BGMC Digital Verse Traxx DVD contains all 12 Key Scriptures for this missions manual. Each verse is created with high-tech backgrounds and music. Use as a fun, attention-grabbing way for the kids to learn the verse. Comes with the Missions Manual Video Clips in a 2-disk set. Order from AG Healthy Church, 1-855-642-2011 or visit www.MyHealthyChurch.com (item 715-487, $10).

Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
■ Presentation

Choose one child to come to the front. This might work best with the smallest child you have. Put the book bag on him/her. It should be very difficult to carry. Tell the child to start walking across the stage. Ask him how he feels. Ask, “Is it difficult to carry that heavy load?”

This is how a lot of people in this world feel, overloaded with the weight of problems. It would be easy to ignore this person and not worry about his problems. However, Matthew 22:39 says that we are to “love our neighbor as ourselves.”

Wouldn’t you want someone to help you carry a heavy load? So let’s see how we can help our friend. Let’s take a look at what you have in this bag that is causing you such a struggle.

(While the bag is still on the child’s shoulders, open the bag and take out the rock that says Poverty.) No wonder this bag is so heavy; you are carrying the burden of poverty. Many people must carry the heavy weight of poverty in the world. Some people do not know where they will get their next meal or how they will find enough money to provide shelter for their family. When you give to BGMC, you are helping to eliminate poverty so that people can see the love of Christ as our missionaries provide food and shelter for them. (Toss the rock aside.)

(Pull out the rock that says Sickness.) Many people are carrying the weight of sickness. In many countries people do not have access to proper health care and immunizations. By giving to BGMC, you boys and girls are helping to stop sickness. Your offerings send medical missionaries to share Christ’s love to the hurting and dying. (Toss the rock aside.)

(Take out the rock that says Abuse.) Many people around the world are dealing with abuse. Some children are being forced to work instead of going to school. When you give to BGMC, you are providing money for missionaries to take kids out of abusive situations and help them get an education. (Toss rock aside.)

(Take out the last rock that says Lost.) Millions of people around the world are lost. I am not talking about being lost from home; I am talking about being spiritually lost. They do not know how to get to God. But when you give to BGMC, you are helping missionaries go to places where people have never heard the gospel. You are helping them find Jesus. (Toss rock aside.)

(Direct the following question to the child holding the book bag on his back.) Do you feel better now that all of that weight is off of you? (Allow him to respond.) Boys and girls, this is how our neighbors close by and far away feel when we share the love of Jesus with them. When you give your BGMC offerings and pray, you are helping to take away the heavy load that sin brings, like poverty, sickness, abuse, and spiritual lostness. We should never look away from other people’s problems. Instead, we should ask God how can we love our neighbors and help relieve them of their heavy burdens.