**Infant and Toddler Lesson**

**Special Teaching Lesson**

**I Am Thankful for Missionaries**

**Missionaries are awesome, what more is there to say?! It is our privilege and blessing to help them in any way we can!**

**Purpose**

Teaching your children about missionaries when they are young can be a great way for them to be more interested in going on a mission later in life! It is our privilege and blessing to help the missionaries any way we can! From giving them referrals to inviting them into your home for dinner! Teach your child who missionaries are and what they do, and most importantly teach your child they can be missionaries too!

 “Parents, the days are long past when regular, active participation in Church meetings and programs, though essential, can fulfill your sacred responsibility to teach your children to live moral, righteous lives and walk uprightly before the Lord. With President Monson’s announcement this morning, it is essential that this be faithfully accomplished in homes which are places of refuge where kindness, forgiveness, truth, and righteousness prevail.”~ Quentin L. Cook

**Preparation**

Pull up any links you might need for the lesson – look at the Family Night website for quick links

Mark Isaiah 52:7

Prepare for the Activities you want to do.

Print off Coloring Page: I Hope They Call me on a Mission ~ from melonheadsldsillustrating.com

Prepare Treat ~ Suggested Treat ~Something Fishy! (Fishers of Men)

**I Am Thankful for Missionaries**

**Opening Song** ~ I Hope They Call me on a Mission (Primary Hymnbook; Hymn 169)

**Opening Prayer**

**Scripture** ~ Open Scriptures to Isaiah 52:7, and read. To reinforce the idea that goes with the lesson you can say, “The missionaries are blessed for the hard work they do!”

**Scripture Story** ~ Feed My Sheep

One day Jesus was talking to his disciples.

He asked Peter if he loved Jesus. Peter said yes.

Jesus told Peter if he really loved him then he needed to feed his sheep.

Feeding his sheep means to teach others about the gospel through missionary work!

**Activity** ~ Write a letter to a Missionary!

Missionaries put their lives on hold to serve the Lord, but that does not mean that during that time they don’t miss their families and friends. Write a letter to a missionary to remind them that you are thinking of them, and are grateful for the hard work they do. If you don’t have a close relative that is in your family, you can always write to a missionary from your ward. Often times you can find their address in the ward bulletin every week.

**Coloring Page** ~ I Hope They Call me on a Mission ~from melonheadsldsillustrating.com

**Closing Song** ~ I Want to be a Missionary Now (Primary Hymnbook; Hymn 168)

**Closing Prayer**

**Treat** ~ Suggested Treat ~ Something Fishy! (Fishers of Men) See FHE website for links to some fishy recipes!

**Extra Activities for This Lesson ~**

**1** ~ Missionary Care Package

What is better than a letter for a missionary?! A care package! A fun thing to do with care packages is for them to have a theme of whatever holiday is coming up! Even a birthday themed package, close to their birthday would be fun! The care package doesn’t have to be big either – you can get a flat rate box from the post office so you know it wouldn’t cost much, and stuff everything you can in there!

 **2** ~ Invite the Missionaries over!

What a better way of learning about the missionaries than having them over! Especially if you invite some investigators over too! In my experience, it isn’t how long FHE is, it is just the fact that you are having it and letting the spirit into your home. Most of these lessons for infants and toddlers really only last about 10 minutes tops, and the rest is just fun and treats! It would be a great way to show non-members the blessings of having family home evening and the joy it brings into your lives!

 **3** ~ Be a Missionary!

Go do some missionary work! Invite a friend to church, memorize a scripture, do service, or watch past conference talks online. Any of those things and so much more, are what missionaries get to do every day! It helps invite in the spirit and blesses their lives! Make a goal to do one extra thing every week that will help your family be more like missionaries, and hopefully it will encourage your little ones to serve a mission if it is the right thing for them to do in their lives when the time comes!

 **4** ~ Fishers of Men

Jesus asked his disciples if they wanted to be fishers of men, or to do missionary work! So I put together this fun little activity, where you get to fish and learn about preparing to be a missionary! You will need a long stick, some string, the printouts, some paper clips, and a small bar magnet! Check out the printable for more instructions!