

Missions Lesson
IMB Affinity Group: Deaf Peoples

July, Week 3
By Stacy Nall

Objectives:

- Children will learn about the needs of Deaf people all over the world.
- Children will learn how missionaries communicate the gospel to the Deaf.
- Children will learn ways to share Jesus with the Deaf.

Materials:

- “American Sign Language Words” (print from web site)
- “American Sign Language Alphabet” (print from web site)
- Laptop with internet connection to <https://deafpeoples.imb.org/>
Choose from available videos to show one to children or choose a story from the site to share.

Preparation:

- Make copies of “American Sign Language Words” and “American Sign Language Alphabet”.
- Set up a laptop to show selected video from the IMB on ministry with the Deaf.
- Review the website www.bible.is/deaf/ASESLV to see examples of telling Bible stories in sign language.

Procedures:

1. Sign, “Hello! My name is _____.” What is your name? (See “American Sign Language Words” and “American Sign Language Alphabet for help in signing.)
2. Say: *Today we will be learning how missionaries tell the deaf about Jesus.*
3. Ask: *How many people in the world are deaf? (more than 30 million) How do Deaf people communicate? (sign language) Deaf people in America use American Sign Language, but sign language is not the same around the world. There are 120-200 different sign languages. Often, Deaf people can understand other sign languages because the signs are similar to their own sign language. Sometimes Deaf people can relate better to Deaf people from other countries better than to hearing people from their own country. A program called StoryOne helps Deaf believers tell Bible stories in sign language. Words become pictures that are then signed as stories. (You may want to show the StoryOne website or download the StoryOne app to show how the program works.)*

4. Say: *We can learn to share the Good News of Jesus with Deaf people.* Distribute copies of "American Sign Language Words". Help children sign "God is love."
 5. Say: *Let's watch this video about ministry to the deaf.* (OR tell story about ministry to the deaf from the web site.)
 6. Sign, "Hello! My name is _____. What is your name?" Distribute "American Sign Language Words". Help children finger spell their names, and then answer your question in sign language.
 7. Share these prayer requests with children:
 - Pray that Deaf people will find jobs. They are often discriminated against.
 - Pray that more people will learn to use StoryOne so that more Deaf people will hear about Jesus.
 - Pray that missionaries to the Deaf will have more opportunities to share.
- Lead in prayer.



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