



Dear Mission Kid 2022 Ministry Leader,

Thank you for sharing this amazing program from Lifeline Children's Services with your church family! Mission Kid presents an amazing way to introduce the children in your church to the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children around the world.

This will be the fourth year our church has done Mission Kid, and we are so excited to spend our VBS time this summer exploring Ukraine and seeing the amazing ways in which Lifeline is supporting ministries on the ground in that beautiful country.

Since the filming of the video footage for this year's program was shot in the fall of 2021, tragedy has befallen the amazing people of Ukraine, and you may be wondering how to address these difficult issues with the children who attend your ministry events and participate in Mission Kid this year.

Lifeline has put together several helpful resources for both church ministries and families to help navigate the complexities of this year's program, and I encourage you to utilize them alongside the main Mission Kid curriculum.

As ministry leaders, we were likely never trained on how to discuss the hardships of war that now play out in front of the children we serve in "real-time." War tangibly reminds us that humanity is fallen, and although it can be difficult to discuss with students, we as children's ministry leaders are unexpectedly given the opportunity to remind them that "ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23) and therefore we ALL need the love, grace and mercy of Jesus- whether it be vulnerable children who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves victims of a brutal invasion, to people on the "other side", who were also created in the Image of God, and are just as in need of the saving grace of Christ as each of us.

Blessings to you as you navigate and share about the beautiful children of Ukraine this year through Mission Kid, and may the Holy Spirit guide your steps as you walk your students through this unique and timely material.

In Him,
Meagan Kish

Director of Children's Ministry at Central Presbyterian Church



Sensitivity Disclaimer



The heart of our Mission Kid curriculum is to equip children's ministries like yours as you teach them about God's heart for orphaned and vulnerable children. The reality is that with over 150-million of these orphaned and vulnerable children in this world, there will likely be children in your congregation that may have a similar history as the children we will be learning about together. It is possible they may be adopted, separated from birth family, or have had a difficult history in general.

Our heart in bringing this to your attention is not to cause alarm in any way but rather to help your ministry be prepared on how you can be aware and best support the children and families in your community. We know the Lord can use this education and these conversations in deep, profound ways in the lives of our children and families, so we encourage your ministry and its leaders to gently lean into these conversations if and when it is appropriate to do so. There are many ways you can best prepare your families, volunteers, and church body as a whole.

Some recommendations we at Lifeline would love to share include:

- Before the lessons, review if any children that may be impacted by this curriculum
- Prepare the family if applicable and needed
- Prepare your volunteers and staff in advance to have a plan if the child needs additional care
- Finally, have resources available in case the family need additional on-going support

Should you have any questions, Lifeline is always here to support you. Please reach out to us anytime at 205.967.0811 or church@lifelinechild.org.



Teacher Talking Points

Note to Teachers & Volunteers:

Thank you for taking the time to teach your children about Ukraine through our Mission Kid curriculum! In the Lord's providential timing, the recording and finalization of this year's focus on Ukraine actually occurred before the Russian invasion of Ukraine (in February 2022).

We know His timing is better than ours, as He knew well before any of us that this year's focus would be a good reminder for us to pray for the people of Ukraine. We realize that your focusing on Ukraine will likely spark bigger conversations in your classes. As we all know, children are incredibly perceptive, and the likelihood is that they have already seen various things on the news or heard things from others.

While we hope these conversations have already been addressed at school and in their homes, we encourage you all to provide updates for your children as you teach these lessons. To assist in this, Lifeline is providing talking points for you to utilize along with some potential questions and encouraged responses. We are also including a power-point that includes some photos of Ukraine since the invasion occurred (so you can have before and after images) in addition to those responding to the needs of others during this time of distress. We believe it is very important that they know what is happening now, how the Church is responding, and to be encouraged that there are others helping in this hard time. With these images, we ask that each ministry uses their discernment to determine what would be the most age-appropriate and/or best for you to share with your children. Please know this is just a resource for you to use should you desire, but this is not required in any fashion.

We ask that your team creates a plan with your children's ministry leadership before teaching this material or sharing these updates so that you may all be on the same page. Additionally, before we jump into the talking points, we would love to share some recommendations in how to gently lean into this conversation with your children.

Some recommendations include:

- In these conversations, we always want to point them to their Heavenly Father and to Christ.
 - Help them understand that God is in control and can be trusted.
- Be sure to share current events in a way that is age-appropriate and sensitive to their hearts.
 - Simple and clear explanations prove to be most helpful.
- Children often feel overwhelmed or anxious when hearing of world events that can be scary, such as war. We need to help them feel safe and know God has put safe people in their lives, such as their parents, to protect them and care for them.
 - We encourage you to help them find the "helpers" as well. Point them to the positive truth of who is obeying God's call to help people hurting and needing help.
- As you share these updates, they will likely have questions or comments. Stay calm and do not be afraid to lean into this time. It can be a sweet opportunity to allow them to process these big thoughts but most importantly to lead them in gaining a deeper understanding of how we are all sinners and are in need of Christ's redemption.
 - If they ask questions and you do not have the answers, please do not lie to them, make things up, or worry. It is absolutely okay to thank them for their question, ask them what they think, and to redirect them to talk about this more with their parents.

- Children are much like us in that they will feel empowered by knowing what they can do to respond or help.
 - o Remind them that we can all pray (you can share the prayer guide with them), and use this opportunity to teach them the importance of prayer.
 - o You can also share with them other ways they can respond, such as: raising money to support those helping, have conversations with or watch videos from local believers and/or missionaries to learn more about what they are doing, and more.

For more tips, please see our additional resources section, especially the World Vision article titled “Tips in Talking to Kids about War & Refugees.” We know you will do a great job sharing this with your students. We hope the next section with talking points will prove to be a useful tool as you do so.

Teaching Script Recommendation for Day One:

Hey everyone! Thank you for joining us and learning more about children in Ukraine. As we spend our time together learning all about the country and culture, some really special children, and about the kind people there who are helping them.

As we spend our time together praying for these children and helpers, we wanted to talk with you about something very important. You may have recently heard about some sad things in the news or at school about the country of Ukraine. Earlier this year, in February, the world learned that Russia invaded Ukraine. Does anyone know what this means? What have you heard or learned about this?

An invasion means that one country has entered another country without permission, likely in hopes of taking it over. What we know is that recently the leaders of Russia invaded Ukraine because they wanted to take parts (or all) of Ukraine back to be part of their country. This is because Ukraine used to be a part of the country of Russia before it became its own country. This means Ukrainians are now trying to protect their people and help each other as they defend their country. And to be clear, not all Russians support this invasion. There are many people in Russia who are saying they are against this or are being confused about what is happening.

The best thing we can all do for everyone in Ukraine and in Russia is to pray. We can pray for everyone and trust God to provide for them. The children you have learned about this week are safe, and God is taking care of them through some very special helpers, like the ones you met in the videos earlier. People are helping the children and families leave and move to safer countries, and they are helping children who stay to have good food, shelter, and care.

Hearing about this can cause each of us to feel sad, scared, or angry. How does hearing this make you feel? Remember, God gave us our parents, special caretakers, and teachers at church to talk to about these things. Be sure to talk to an adult if you have any questions or big feelings that you want to share.

FAQ Scripts

Note to Teachers & Volunteers:

We know that as you may share these updates with children, they will likely have questions (or comments). In efforts to help you feel prepared as a ministry, we have attempted to anticipate some of these questions and to provide some potential responses in case they would prove helpful.

Potential FAQs & Responses:

Question: *What is happening to children in Ukraine? Especially those we learned about?*

Response: Many children, whether they have been living in orphanages or with their mommies and daddies,

have left the country and moved to nearby countries. In these nearby countries, like Romania and Poland, there are many safe and kind people sharing their homes and food with them. Many churches in these countries are helping the children have clothes, food, and school. Many orphanages in other countries are also bringing orphans from Ukraine to their orphanages so they will be safe as well.

One of our favorite examples is (un)adopted's partners from REGEN Foundation in Romania have opened their home to let families come live with them and feel safe. They are helping 38 people right now! These same friends are also taking trucks of food every week into Ukraine to help others there have enough food to eat.

Question: For the children who could not leave Ukraine, how are people helping them?

Response: People like Heritage Ukraine, JAM, and many other ministries and churches are helping children and families who are still living in Ukraine. They are providing food, blankets, and safe homes for the children. They are also making sure they have school and fun activities to do as well. Many people from the USA and other countries are helping, too, by giving money and sending supplies to these helpers so they can keep helping these children and families.

Question: What is a refugee?

Response: A refugee is someone who has had to leave their home country, usually because of a natural disaster or war. These people leave to find new places to live that are safer in other countries.

Question: I hear Putin (the president of Russia) is an evil man. Why should we pray for him?

Response: It is true that Putin, as the president of Russia, is in charge of this invasion. In his mind, he has the right to take Ukraine back, but we know this is not exactly true since Ukraine has been its own nation for many years now. But even so, we need to remember that all of us sin and need Jesus to forgive us of our sins. A good example of this is Saul in the Bible. He was beating and murdering people (for what he thought was the right reason), but God convicted him and forgave him when he repented. We need to pray that Putin will repent of his sins and learn that he can be rescued by God. We need to pray that his heart will soften and that he will stop this invasion - and that he will instead help the people of Russia and Ukraine to live in peace together.



Pray for the those being impacted by this invasion

- For the men, women, and children still living in Ukraine who are trying to find safe places to live (homes, shelters, stations).
- Children in orphanages who are still in Ukraine – that God would keep them safe and protected. And we can pray for children who have moved into other orphanages in nearby countries – that God would also keep them safe and help them adjust quickly
- For those who are fleeing from the country – for safe and open ways to leave.
- For those who moved to other countries to find safe places to live.
- For those fighting in the conflict. Let's pray for the Ukrainians who stayed to fight and defend their country. Let's also pray for the Russian soldiers – that God would open their eyes to truth and for them to stop fighting.
- For those in Russia who are being impacted by this invasion, whether they support it or not. Pray the Lord will show them truth and also provide for their needs.
- For the long-term impacts this war will have on everyone all over the world.

Pray for those volunteering to help others being impacted

- For those who are in Ukraine trying to help others with food, water, shelter, and other physical needs. Pray the Lord would provide for all these things to help others in need.
- For those setting up refugee camps or shelters to protect people who may be fleeing. Pray the Lord would give them everything they need to best help others coming to live in their communities. Ask the Lord to give them the strength, energy, and wisdom they need to provide the best care for the Ukrainians living with them.
- For those raising money and support all over the world to provide for the people of Ukraine's needs. Pray people would give and that these gifts would go directly to those who need them most.

Pray for the Church

- For the churches in Ukraine to stay strong and keep up the faith. Pray they would share Christ's love with everyone they come in contact with, and that they would keep their doors and hearts open to serving everyone in their communities. Pray they would be united and work as a team – to encourage one another and to encourage others.
- For churches in nearby countries to partner with churches in Ukraine. Pray they would open their doors to Ukrainians moving into their countries, and that they would share the love of Christ with those coming into their communities.
- For churches in Russia – that they would speak truth boldly and not be discouraged.
- Pray for churches all over the world to be united in praying for and caring for Ukraine.

Pray for the Lord to redeem everyone – that others would know Him as Lord and Savior!

- This includes everyone in Ukraine, in neighboring countries, and all over the world – even in Russia!
- We also need to pray for the heart and salvation of Russia's President – Vladimir Putin. Let's pray for his heart to soften, for him to end this war, and for him to repent and know Jesus as Lord and Savior.



**RESOURCES
for KIDS**

Book

[My Name is Not Refugee](#)

Book

[When the World Was New](#)

Video

[Kids Meet a Refugee](#)

Read Bible Stories that Relate

- Joseph
- Ruth
- Jesus
- Acts - Persecuted Church



Equipped to Love

Click [here](#) to access this resource to help your church prepare for the needs of vulnerable children.

The Perekotiy Family & Heritage Ukraine Updates

Lifeline's Defender Podcast

["Ways to Talk to Kids About Ukraine"](#)

Video - [Family & Ministry Updates](#)

Ways to Pray for Ukraine

Lifeline's Defender Podcast

["Ways to Pray for Ukraine"](#)

Prayer Guide - [Ways to Pray for Ukraine](#)

