

# LESSON

# 1



In October 2021 Lifeline was blessed with the opportunity to spend time with our partners, Slavik and Alyona Puzanov after an extended period of time, due to the global pandemic that began the year prior. We had the opportunity to witness first-hand, the incredible work Heritage Ukraine was doing in spite of the limitations they had faced for nearly two years. Little did we know then that the country would be facing an invasion from the East only a few months later. As you encounter the ministry and work you'll see in this Mission Kid series, we humbly request that you do two things. First, recognize the amazing things that God has done, and continues to do through this amazing ministry. Second, pray for them and all those in Ukraine who have been so brutally impacted by the global pandemic and now, war. The ministry may not look exactly like it did at the time of filming, but Heritage continues to minister to those in Ukraine, and those displaced by the conflict.



## Welcome to Mission Kid!

We're going to take some time to focus on MISSIONS! Who knows what "missions" means?

**(Time for kids to answer)**

Missions is a really cool part about following Jesus. It means that when we learn about Jesus and the Bible, just like you're doing today, then we go and tell other people about what we learned. AND we get to help other people by doing the good things Jesus taught us to do. What are some things Jesus teaches us to do to help others?

**(Time for kids to answer)**

These are all great answers! Jesus calls us to help a lot of people in a lot of ways. This week, though, we're going to focus on how Jesus calls us to care for orphans and vulnerable children! Kids all around the world need to know that Jesus loves them, and there are a lot of people in the world who want to make sure kids around the world know it! So, do you think you can join us on this mission to share the love of Jesus to kids around the world?

**(Let the kids shout "YES!" as loud as they can.)**

Great! Then welcome to Mission Kid!

There are many people who have started this mission, and they will be so glad to know you're joining them! One of these places that's a part of this mission is Lifeline Children's Services. Lifeline is a place here in America that helps Christians around the world to share the love of Jesus to kids. Lifeline wants to teach Christians about children who live in their city or in faraway places who do not have a mom or dad. Kids who don't have a mom or dad are called "orphans." Orphans live all over the world. Some may be in your city, but there are many across the world too. Many of these kids are living in really difficult situations. We know that God tells us in the Bible that we are supposed to care for orphans. So, we want to teach you more about orphans and vulnerable children living in another part of the world and how you can follow God's command to help them and show them the love of Jesus.

Thanks to Lifeline and other organizations, Jesus' love is already being shared to kids in so many places, and this week we're going to learn about one of these places. It's called Ukraine.

Can you say "Ukraine?"

**(Have the kids repeat it a few times. Say it a few times loudly and a few times softly and have the kids match your tone.)**

Let's learn a few things about Ukraine!

First, we need to know where Ukraine is located. It's located on the continent of Europe. Does anyone know where Europe is on a map? If you look at a map of the world, Europe is the small continent in the middle. Ukraine is on the right side of Europe. It's about the size of Texas!

**(If you want, print out a map of the world. Put a dot where you live and a dot where Ukraine is. Connect the dots with a line and show the kids to help them see where Ukraine is.)**

Next, we need to know how many people live in Ukraine and what the land is like. There are 42 million people in Ukraine! And most of those people live on a vast plain. Some of them live on the mountains in the southwest or on the beach in the south. Ukraine has the Black Sea in the south and the Azov Sea in the southeast. Ukraine has very cold winters and warm summers. Ukraine is home to animals like deer, eagles, foxes, wolves, and bears!

Which of these animals would you most want to see if you were visiting Ukraine?

**(Time for kids to answer)**

Now, can you guess what language people speak in Ukraine?

**(Time for kids to guess)**

Ukrainian is Ukraine's official language! People also speak Russian and 40 different minority languages and dialects.

It's also important for us to know that about 70% of people in Ukraine claim to be Christian, but often they are not aware of the true gospel.

What is the true gospel?

**(Time for kids to answer)**

That's right- the true gospel is that Christ died to save us from our sins. Most of the other people in Ukraine who don't claim to be Christians don't believe in any religion or are Hindu.

The last thing we need to know about Ukraine is the culture! Do you know what the word "culture" means?

**(Time for kids to answer)**

Culture is what makes a place unique and special! It's the things people love to do and the things that mean the most to them. One really fun part about the culture of Ukraine is that basketball and rugby are popular sports. People also like to play chess. Who can show me their best basketball moves?

**(If there's space you can let the kids stand up and show you their best moves. You can have a few kids volunteer or have the entire group stand up and participate.)**

Another fun part about Ukraine's culture is that they eat a lot of fish from the surrounding seas and sausage, and grains like bread and porridge. Does that sound yummy to you?

Alright, I think we're ready to begin our mission!

While Ukraine is an interesting place, there are also some sad things about Ukraine. Because Ukraine has some sad parts to its history, like communism and war, many moms and dads do not have a good way to care for their children. Sometimes this means children are abandoned, overlooked, or even become orphans because their parents have passed away.

In Psalm 139:13-14 we read *"For you formed my inward parts: you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well."* We know that even if a child is left alone without a mom or dad, or their parents can't take care of them, he or she is still made in the image of God and can be His son or daughter through faith. In Jesus How does it make you feel knowing no matter what your family looks like or what another kid's family looks like that you can all still be children of God through faith in Jesus?

**(Time for kids to answer)**

You can rest assured that many of these kids are being well taken care of by Lifeline's friends in Ukraine. Lifeline's friends are a ministry called Heritage Ukraine. Can you say "Heritage"?

**(Have the kids repeat it a few times.)**

This ministry is important because while kids are involved, they learn many skills and receive meals. Our friends at Heritage have also been sharing with vulnerable children in Ukraine how they can be children of God! This is so wonderful! They share the love of Christ all over a city in Ukraine called Odessa.

Tomorrow we'll meet kids who come from different circumstances than we do, but who aren't much different than us.

Before we go, will you pray with me that we would team up together to share Christ and His love with vulnerable children around the world? And can we pray that vulnerable children in Ukraine would come to faith in Jesus so they can be His children too?

**(Have the kids hold hands in a circle to show that we need each other to work towards Jesus' mission. Then lead them in prayer.)**

## **Day 1 Activity Options**

### **1. Individual Option- Mission Together Bracelets**

Using string and beads, yarn, or any materials you would like, have each child make a bracelet they can wear to remind them that they are all on one team that is on a mission together to love orphans all around the world.

### **2. Group Option**

Using a drop cloth, tablecloth, or other large fabric, write "Mission Together" in big letters and have the kids put their handprints on the fabric to remind them we need everyone for this mission. They can make handprints with washable paint or trace their hands with washable markers and decorate the inside.

### **3. Special Take Home Option**

Using the next page of this PDF, you can print and photocopy our free Mission Kid Ukraine worksheet that contains facts about Ukraine and helps kids remember where it is on a map. This is a great tool to send home with the kids to help their parents learn along with you!

# UKRAINE

Ukraine is a country on the Eastern side of Europe. Ukraine shares borders with seven countries: Moldova, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Slovakia, Belarus, and Romania. The Black Sea is south, and the Azov Sea is southeast of Ukraine. It has a population of about 42 million people and is about the size of Texas. Ukrainian is the official language, but over 40 different other languages and dialects are spoken. The country's capital is Kyiv.

People in Ukraine enjoy playing sports like basketball and rugby. Chess is also very popular. Ukrainian meals often include meats like sausage and fish from the surrounding seas, and grains like bread and porridge.



*For the Parents!*  
Take a closer look at what we learned today!



What is the capital city of Ukraine? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one country that borders Ukraine? \_\_\_\_\_

What is another country that borders Ukraine? \_\_\_\_\_

Ukraine's southern coast is on what two seas? \_\_\_\_\_

On which continent is Ukraine located? \_\_\_\_\_



