

10/40 Window and THUMB

Theme Lesson

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will take a contemporary look at the world and its need for Jesus.

Outcomes

1. Students will be introduced to the 10/40 Window and its importance.
2. Students will compare the beliefs of five major religious blocks (THUMB) with the truth of the Bible.

Directions

1. Prepare a house for the “10/40 Window Demonstration.” Cut three strips of black construction paper for the walls and floor. These strips should be 2 inches wide. Two strips should be the same length as the sides of your world map. The third strip should be the same length as the bottom of your world map.
2. Cut a triangle shape for the roof. The bottom side of this triangle needs to be long enough to reach across the top of the world map. Cut out a 4 x 6-inch rectangle for the window. Cut out the middle section of the rectangle to make a window frame.
3. Use a marker to print the title “10/40 Window” on the index card.
4. Place objects on a table.
 - Tribal: nature picture that includes trees, water, and rocks
 - Hindu: baby doll
 - Unreligious: mirror
 - Muslim: balance scale
 - Buddhist: empty jar or box
5. Make a “THUMB” poster. Print the word “THUMB” in bold, black letters on a piece of white, 8 ½ x 11-inch paper.
6. Cut out the “Verse Strips” and arrange them in the order to be read. Place them in your Bible. Using your Bible gives students a visual assurance that the truth you are teaching comes from God’s Word.



PREPARATION: 20 min.

TEACHING: 35 min.

Materials

- Bible
- “Balance Scale” (p. 2)
- “Verse Strips” (p. 3)
- a small world map
- “God’s Story Bookmark” #2 (Introduction p. 23)
- two pieces of black, 12 x 18-inch construction paper
- one 4 x 6-inch index card, any color
- one piece of white, 8 ½ x 11-inch paper
- five items to represent THUMB beliefs
 - Tribal: nature picture that includes trees, water, and rocks
 - Hindu: baby doll
 - Unreligious: mirror
 - Muslim: “Balance Scale” (p. 2)
 - Buddhist: empty jar or box
- table
- marker
- scissors
- tape or tacks
- “THUMB” song (AS)
- TV/DVD

Balance Scale



Tribal

Psalm 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Hindu

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Unreligious

Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Muslim

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –
not by works, so that no one can boast.

Buddhist

Isaiah 9:6b And he (Jesus) will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

TEACHING (CORE)

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY: 10/40 WINDOW DEMONSTRATION

Directions

1. Pass out the construction paper pieces for five students.
2. Mount the world map on a wall or bulletin board.
3. Say, *“This map is a picture of what?”* (world or earth) *“The earth is a home for all the people God has made. Think about a real house.”*
4. Ask the student holding the triangle shape to bring it to you. Hold it up and ask, *“What part of a house is this?”* (roof) *“A roof goes on the top of your house.”* Attach the roof near the top of your map.
5. Have the students with the three paper strips bring them to you. Attach two strips to roof for the sides of the house. Attach the third strip across the bottom to make the floor. Say, *“The walls go on the sides of your house. The floor goes on the bottom.”*
6. Have one student bring up the rectangular frame. Turn it so the long sides are on the top and bottom. Attach it so it covers the middle of the map. Ask, *“What do you think this part of the house is?”* (a window) Say, *“Running across the middle of the world is a rectangular area shaped like an imaginary window. Many people live here. Most people who live in this part of the world do not know about God. Most have never heard that Jesus died for their sins. They do not know that they can go to heaven or be God’s children.”*
7. Say, *“Your house has an address so that people know where you live. This window-shaped area of the world has an address, too. It is called the 10/40 Window. Can you say that?”* Have the students repeat as you attach the “10/40 Window” sign to the map. Say, *“The numbers 10/40 make the window easy to find on a world map.”*
8. Say, *“Just like a real window, it can open and close. Many countries in the 10/40 Window are closed to the good news about Jesus.”* Have the students put their two hands side by side, pinkies touching (like an open book). *“Most people there do not get to hear about God, read the Bible, or go to church. There might not be a Bible in their language. It could be against the law to tell people there about Jesus.”*
9. Say, *“In some areas, the window is open.”* Show the students how to pull their two hands apart, palms facing each other. *“It would be all right to talk about Jesus here.”*
10. Demonstrate how to put palms together (as if to pray). Ask, *“Why do you think we should pray for the people who live in the area of the world called the 10/40 Window?”* Allow students to share their reasons and lead the group in prayer based on their responses.

Materials

- a small world map
- “10/40 Window” sign (see p. 1)
- construction paper rectangular window frame
- construction paper triangle roof
- three construction paper strips – one for a floor and two for walls
- tape or tacks

THEME LESSON: THUMB

Directions

1. Say, *“Many groups of people around the world do not have a friendship with God.”* Fold out “God’s Story Bookmark” #2. Lead students to review the motions and words for bookmark #2: Break clasped hands apart and cover eyes with hands. Repeat the sentence, *“Sin breaks friendship with God and people live in darkness.”*
2. Summarize, *“Living in darkness means that these people cannot find their way to God. They do not know that God loves them or that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for their sins.”*
3. *“Today we are going to learn about five sets of beliefs held by many people in the world who do not have a friendship with God and what God’s Word says about these different beliefs.”*
4. Set the five items on the table and say, *“I have five things to help us to learn about and remember what each group of people believes.”*
5. Choose five students to come to the front. Hand each student one item. Have them hold the items up high with the words facing the group and allow others in the group to identify these items. Thank students and have them sit back down. Collect the items and place them on the table.
6. Say, *“First we will talk about what many tribal people believe.”* Hold up the nature picture. *“Tribal people believe that spirits live in water, rocks, trees, or mountains. Even though tribal people cannot see these invisible spirits, they are afraid of them because they believe that the spirits have enough power to hurt or help their families. To keep these invisible spirits happy, tribal people leave them gifts. If you visited a tribal village, you might see a bowl of rice by the trunk of a tree, a gift for the tree spirit.”*
7. *“Moms and Dads sometimes give their children special bracelets or necklaces thought to have power to protect them from evil spirits. What would it be like to live in fear all the time?”* Allow response.
8. Open your Bible and say, *“Let’s see what the Bible says about tribal beliefs.”* Read the “Verse Strip” for Psalm 95:6: *“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”*
9. *“Boys and girls, the Bible says we are to worship God, the one who created the trees, rocks, water, and mountains. God cares for us and loves us. He does not want to hurt us.”*
10. Hold up the doll and say, *“Hindu people do not know that Jesus can forgive their sins, but they think they need to stop being bad on their own. It may take a very long time to get rid of all sin and be perfectly good, much longer than one lifetime on earth.”*
11. *“This doll is like a baby that was just born. Hindus believe after people die, they are born a second time and come back to earth for another life. If you do good things now, you will come back as a better person in your next life on earth. If you behave badly now, you may come back as an animal or a bug.”*
12. Open your Bible and say, *“Let’s see what the Bible says about Hindu beliefs.”* Read the “Verse Strip” for 1 John 1:9: *“If we confess our sins,*

Materials

- five items to represent THUMB beliefs on table
- “THUMB” poster (see p. 1)
- “God’s Story Bookmark” #2 (Introduction p. 23)
- “Verse Strips” (p. 3), placed in order in Bible
- “Balance Scale” (p. 2)

he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.’ God says that if anyone asks him to forgive the wrong things they do, say, or think, God will forgive them. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for all of our sins, including Hindu people.”

13. Hold up the mirror and say, *“This mirror helps us understand the next group of people. They are unreligious.”* Invite students to repeat *“unreligious.”* *“Unreligious means that people do not think that God is real.”* Ask, *“What do you see when you look into a mirror?”* (yourself, your reflection) Say, *“Unreligious people trust in themselves for everything they need. They might say, ‘I don’t need a god. My school will make me smart. My money can buy everything I need. My leaders tell me what to do to have a good life. My country’s army protects me from danger.’”*
14. Open your Bible and say, *“Let’s see what the Bible says about unreligious beliefs.”* Read the “Verse Strip” for Psalm 14:1: *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”* Hold up the mirror again and say, *“God says that counting on myself is foolish. It is not smart to believe that I am smart enough, rich enough, and strong enough to do without God.”*
15. *“Our next group of people is Muslims. Muslims believe in one God, Allah. They do not believe that Jesus is God’s Son or that Jesus died for the wrong things they do. Muslims try to do more good things than bad things.”* Hold up the “Balance Scale” picture and say, *“Scales weigh how heavy things are.”* Point to the scale tipping. *“Muslims believe if their good behavior weighs more than their bad behavior they will go to heaven, but they have no way of knowing for sure.”*
16. Open your Bible and say, *“Let’s see what the Bible says about Muslim beliefs.”* Read the “Verse Strip” for Ephesians 2:8-9: *“‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.’ God says that we cannot get into heaven by doing more good things than bad. God loves us so much that he made a way for us to go to heaven. Jesus took the punishment for our bad things when he died on the cross. If we believe in Jesus, we can be sure that we will go to heaven.”*
17. Hold up the empty jar and ask, *“What is in this jar?”* (nothing, it’s empty) *“You’re right. This empty jar helps us understand the next group of people called Buddhists. Buddhists want to have peace in their hearts and in the world, but when they look around, they see people getting into fights, arguing, teasing, taking things that do not belong to them, and hurting each other. Buddhists try to have peace inside their own mind by forgetting about all of these bad things and thinking of nothing. They look forward to a future where their mind is empty, like this jar. They think they will be happy then.”*
18. Open your Bible and say, *“Let’s see what the Bible says about the way Buddhists can have peace.”* Read the “Verse Strip” for Isaiah 9:6b: *“‘And he (Jesus) will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ Real peace comes from God. The Bible says that one of Jesus’ names is Prince of Peace. When Jesus comes into our hearts, he takes away the wrong things we have done and gives us strength to be kind and loving.”*
19. Point to each object on the table as you say, *“Tribal people live in fear of spirits. Hindus hope to get rid of the bad things they do by being born*

over and over again. People who are unreligious do not believe that God is real so they depend on themselves. Muslims are never sure they have done enough good things to go to heaven. Buddhists want peace and try to create peace inside themselves by thinking of nothing. All of these groups of people need to learn that God loves them and sent his Son, Jesus to take away their sin and give them hope for a future with God."

20. Hold up poster with "THUMB" printed on it. Ask, "Do you know what word these letters spell?" Allow students to respond. Then say, "T, H, U, M, B spells 'thumb.' Everyone, hold up your thumbs."
21. Point to each letter on the poster and say, "'T' is for 'Tribal,' 'H' is for 'Hindu,' 'U' is for 'Unreligious,' 'M' is for 'Muslim,' and 'B' is for 'Buddhist.' That spells 'thumb'!"

IN CLOSING: THUMB SONG

Directions

1. Say, "Let's sing a song to help us remember the THUMB people." Play the "THUMB Song" on the DVD and have the students listen to the words and watch the motions. Describe motions as needed. For example, when the students trace a rectangle with their fingers, they are making the 10/40 Window, the part of the world where most THUMB peoples live.
2. Have the students stand up, spread out, and sing the song together.

Materials

- "THUMB" song (AS)
- TV/DVD



VIDEO: 10/40 WINDOW AND THUMB

Before the Activity Directions

1. Preview the “10/40 Window and THUMB” on the DVD.

Directions

1. Say, *“In some places in the world, people do not have much chance to learn about God and his Son, Jesus.”*
2. *“Let’s watch a video to find out where many people who do not know Jesus live and what they are like.”*
3. Show the “10/40 Window and THUMB” video.



PREPARATION: 7 min.

TEACHING: 8 min.

Materials

- “10/40 Window and THUMB” (VF)
- TV/DVD



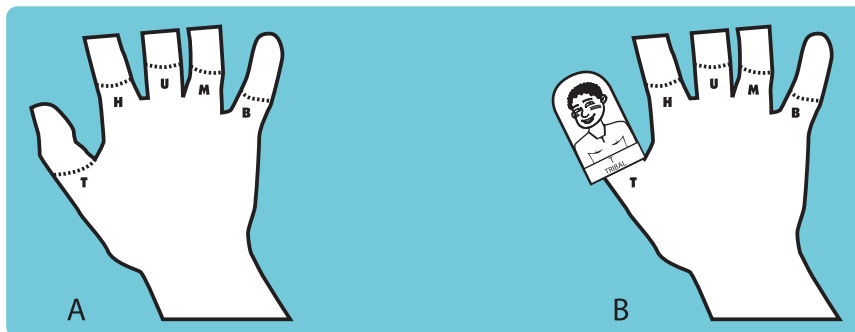
CRAFT: THUMB PRAYER HAND

Before the Activity Directions

1. Copy one “THUMB Prayer Hand” onto cardstock and cut it out for each student.
2. Cut apart “THUMB Peoples” strips.

Directions

1. Remind students that God loves people from every nation and wants them to know and worship him. Say, *“We have learned that for people to believe in Jesus, they must first hear about him. There are still many people in the world who have not heard about Jesus. Some of these people do not believe that God is real. Some worship idols. Others try to please God by following rules. We will make a hand to remind us to pray for the THUMB peoples.”*
2. Pass out crayons or markers and a “THUMB Peoples” strip to each student. Direct students to color the pictures. As they color, review what THUMB stands for: *“‘T’ is for ‘Tribal,’ ‘H’ is for ‘Hindu,’ ‘U’ is for ‘Unreligious,’ ‘M’ is for ‘Muslim,’ and ‘B’ is for ‘Buddhist.’”*
3. Pass out scissors and have the students cut out their five pictures.
4. Pass out the “THUMB Prayer Hand” sheet to each student. Show them how the letter on each finger matches with the letter of one of the pictures they cut out. (See A below.)
5. Pass out glue and tell the students to glue their pictures onto the matching fingers on the hand. (See B below.)
6. Allow students to take the hand home as a reminder to pray for the THUMB peoples.



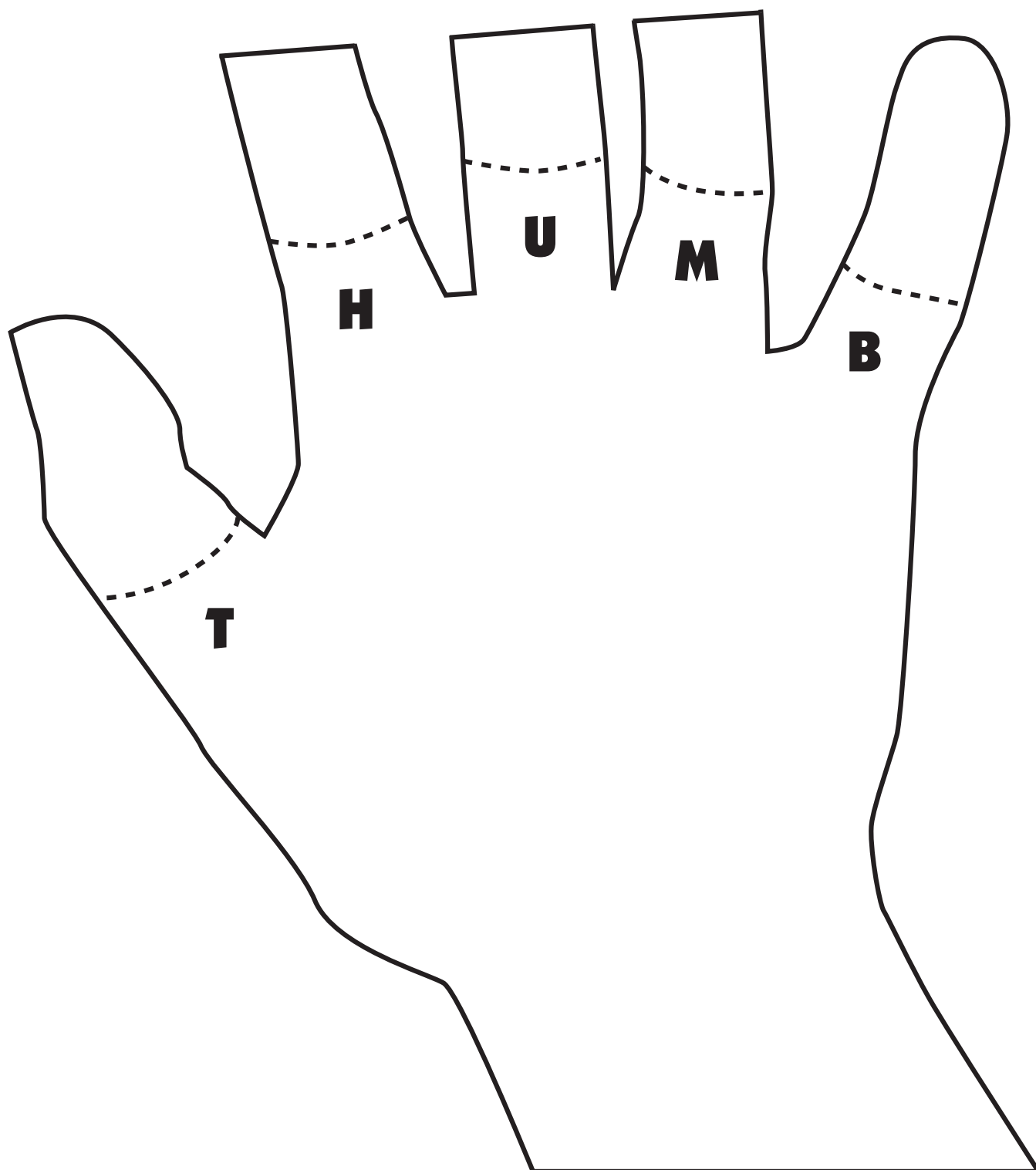
PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

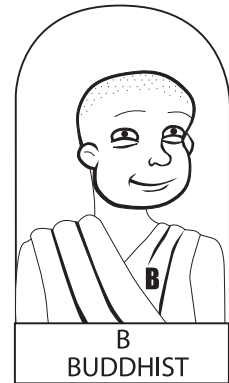
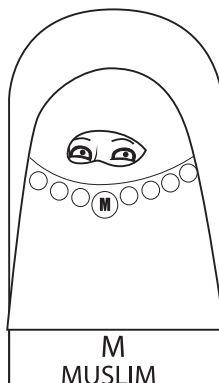
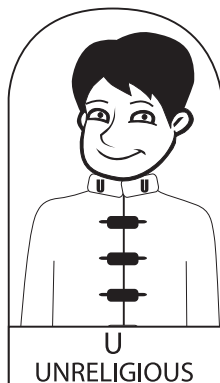
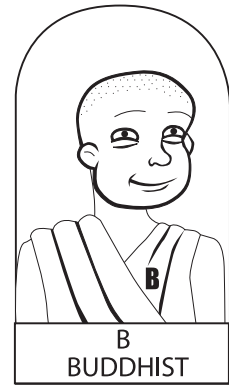
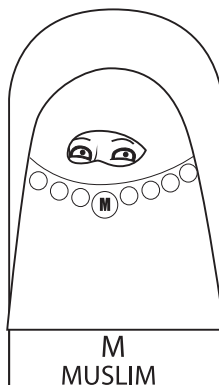
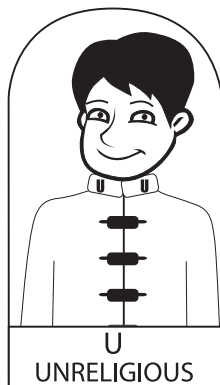
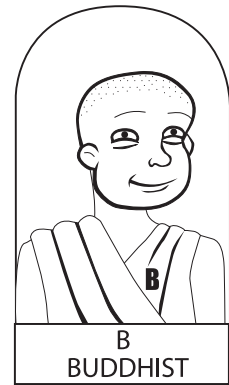
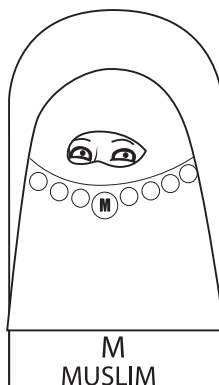
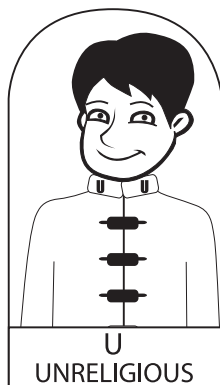
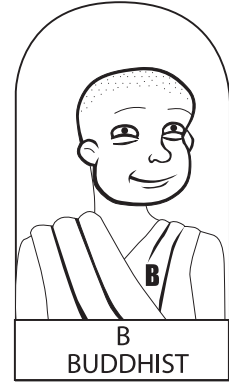
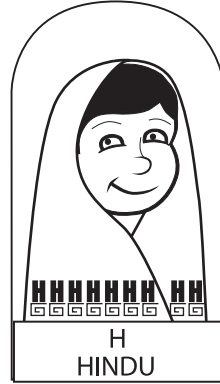
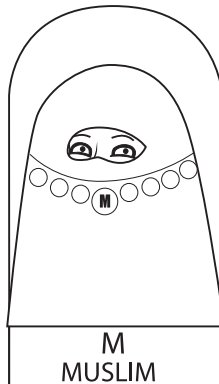
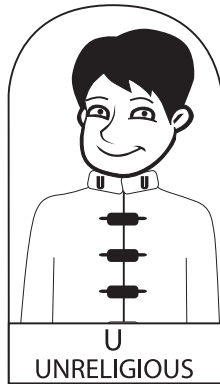
Materials

- “THUMB Prayer Hand” (p. 10)
- one strip of “THUMB Peoples” for each student (p. 11)
- cardstock
- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue or glue sticks

THUMB Prayer Hand



THUMB Peoples





GAME: THUMB FREEZE TAG

Directions

1. Have students put up one hand and review what THUMB means, beginning with their thumb: “T” is for “Tribal,” “H” is for “Hindu,” “U” is for “Unreligious,” “M” is for “Muslim,” and “B” is for “Buddhist.” Remind students that they are blessed to know Jesus. and that many people in these five groups do not believe in Jesus yet.
2. Choose one student to be “it.” When the leader blows the whistle, the student who is “it” will chase and try to tag the others. If a student is tagged, he must freeze in his position.
3. Other students may unfreeze those who have been tagged by touching them with their thumb. But before a student can be totally unfrozen, he must say the name of one of the five THUMB peoples.
4. Demonstrate the rules by using a few students.
5. Make sure to change the person who is “it” often. Blow the whistle to signal the end of each round.
6. Play as long as time allows.



PREPARATION: none

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- whistle



SNACK: THUMB'S UP

Makes 10 servings (one serving = one lettuce leaf, one tomato slice, and five mini carrots)

Before the Activity Directions

1. Cut the tomatoes in thin slices.
2. Put the mini carrots in serving bowls for each table.

Directions

1. Tell students that they will make a “THUMB’s Up” snack to help them remember the THUMB peoples. Have the students use the fingers on one hand to review what each letter in the word “THUMB” represents. Remind them that the people in these groups do not worship Jesus. Many do not know who he is or have Bibles.
2. Pass out plates and put a lettuce leaf on each one.
3. Put one slice of tomato on each lettuce leaf. Make a fist and hold it up so the students can see. Say, *“These round slices of tomato look similar to the shape of my fist. To make the tomato slices look more like hands, we will need to add fingers.”*
4. Place the bowls of mini carrots on the tables and direct the students to choose five carrots to put on their plate.
5. Show them how to arrange the carrots around the tomato slice to resemble fingers.
6. Put ranch dressing on the plates of those students who want to dip their vegetables.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- two tomatoes
- 50 mini carrots
- 10 lettuce leaves
- bottle ranch dressing
- small bowls for serving
- small paper plates
- napkins



PRAYER ACTIVITY: THUMB PRAYER

Before the Activity Directions

1. Prepare a prayer cup for each student you anticipate. Put five Skittles® in each cup – one red, one green, one yellow, one purple, and one orange.

Directions

1. Pass out the prayer cups to students and direct them not to eat any candy yet. Ask students, “How many candies are in your cup?” (five) Remind them about five groupings of people that still need to learn about Jesus – the THUMB peoples. There are thousands, even millions of people in these groups.
2. Have students put up one hand and review what THUMB means, beginning with their thumb: “T” is for “Tribal,” “H” is for “Hindu,” “U” is for “Unreligious,” “M” is for “Muslim,” and “B” is for “Buddhist.” Remind students that they are blessed to know Jesus. One way they can pass this blessing on is by praying for the THUMB peoples.
3. Explain that each color of candy stands for one of the groups of THUMB peoples. Have a student choose a color. All students may pick that color candy out of their cup and hold it in their hand as they listen to the prayer request.
4. As a student calls out a color, the teacher matches that color to the prayer request at the end of this activity. Read the request and invite a volunteer to pray. Students may eat that color candy.
5. Choose another student to call out a second color. Find the matching prayer request, pray, and eat.
6. Continue until all the candy is eaten and all of the THUMB prayer requests are completed.

Prayer Requests

red = tribal Pray for more workers to translate the Bible into the languages that tribal peoples speak.

orange = Hindu Pray that Hindus would turn away from worshiping idols that cannot hear them, see them, or help them. Ask God to send workers to teach Hindus about him, the only real God.

yellow = unreligious Pray for children living in countries where it is against the law for their parents or teachers to teach them about Jesus. Pray that these boys and girls would learn about God.

green = Muslim Pray that Muslims will understand that God sent Jesus to take away their sin and that they cannot get rid of their sin by doing good things.

blue = Buddhist Pray that as Buddhists seek for the truth, God will open their hearts and minds to understand the Bible as the true word of God.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- one small paper drinking cup for each student (such as Dixie® cups)
- Skittles® candies, five per student
- prayer requests at the end of this section