

CHARLES STUDD

PIONEER MISSIONARY

PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

Charles Studd was totally surrendered to the Lord. He gave up home, wealth, comfort and family for Christ. The goal of his life was the glory of God in the evangelisation of the unreached. He was human. He had his weaknesses. But he set an example in his burning love for the Lord and for the lost.

This missionary story was written to encourage Christian boys and girls to be witnesses for Christ where they are, and to seek God's will about becoming missionaries. The need today is great. There are more unevangelised people living in our world during this quarter-century than during all the preceding years of history.

“Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35).

Resource material

“C.T. Studd. Cricketer and Pioneer” - by Norman Grubb, published by Lutterworth Press.

“C.T. Studd and Priscilla” - by Eileen Vincent, published by Kingsway Publications and WEC Publications.

“C.T. Studd, Cricketer and Missionary” - by Edmund Julian and Christopher Scott, published by WEC Publications.

“Well Played, Sir” - by Phil and Miriam Booth and Bill Caldwell - Cassette recordings produced by Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ.

Important dates in the life of C.T. Studd

1860	Born in Wiltshire, England.
1876	Converted through the witness of Mr Whetherby.
1885	Went to China.
1888	Married Priscilla Stewart.
1894	Returned to England with family.
1900-1906	Pastor at Ootacamund in India.
1910	Explored needs in Central Africa.
1913	Started WEC work in Africa.
1917	Returned to Africa for the last time.
1931	Died in the Congo.

Practise using the visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the flashcards or PowerPoint slides and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Lesson 1

A life given over to Christ

Flashcard 1-1

Can you imagine being a student in the most famous grammar school in Britain? Eton was known as the top school, where only the sons of wealthy parents could go. The greatest honour at Eton has always been to be chosen to play for the cricket team.

Cricket is an open-air game. Each team-member tries to hit the ball with his bat out of the reach of those in the field. That gives him time to run between the two sets of wickets (upright sticks). There are different ways in which he can be “out”. One way is if the bowler, the one who throws the ball, hits the wicket. He can also be out if a fielder catches the ball, or throws to the wicket when the batsman hasn’t completed his run. For a batsman to get over 50 runs is a high score.

Only once in the history of the school of Eton (in 1877) were three brothers on the Eton cricket team at the same time. Their names were Kynaston, George and Charles Studd. All three were very good cricketers. That year the Eton cricket team beat their great rivals, Harrow. During the first innings of one match, against Winchester, the oldest brother, Kynaston, scored 52 runs; the second, George, scored 54 and the youngest of the three, Charles, scored 53. You can imagine that it was a remarkable cricket match.

Flashcard 1-2

The same year as the three boys were playing cricket for Eton, their father was invited by a friend to hear a preacher from America. The preacher’s name was D.L. Moody. He told the Gospel simply.

“You have put other things in the place of God. You want to run your life your own way. God is holy and must punish sin. One day Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took the punishment for our sin on the cross. He died for us and rose again. You need to ask Christ to save you. Will you trust Him today?”

Mr Studd knew that Moody was telling the truth and he came back to hear him again. One evening, during the meeting, he trusted Christ to save him from his sin. Right away he began to tell others about the Lord Jesus and to invite them to his home to hear the Gospel. He invited his three sons to go with him to hear Mr Moody preach, but they did not feel that they needed the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives.

Some of you have trusted Christ like Mr Studd did. Can you remember what it was like when you asked the Lord Jesus Christ to save you? I

PowerPoint 1-1

PowerPoint 1-2

am sure you too want to tell others the Good News. I'm sure you have found out that some want to hear and others don't want to listen. That shouldn't stop us from telling people about the Saviour. It wasn't easy for Mr Studd either.

Flashcard 1-3

A year passed. The boys were home for the summer holidays. Each weekend their father had someone staying in the house who spoke at the meetings on Sunday.

One Saturday morning the boys planned a trick on the man who had come to preach. They asked Mr Whetherby to go horse-riding with them and their father, for they discovered that he couldn't ride very well. The three boys rode on their horses behind the father and the preacher. Suddenly they rode past the other two as fast as they could. This meant that it was very difficult for their father and the preacher to hold their horses back. Somehow the preacher managed to hang on as his horse strained forward. The boys repeated their trick several times, and their father couldn't say anything, because he himself wanted so much to laugh.

It wasn't very nice of the boys to make fun of this man, who had come to teach the Bible. Have you ever done anything like that? Perhaps you talked to your friend during the Bible lesson, or you laughed about it together afterwards. It is wrong to make fun of those who are telling us the Gospel. They want to help us and this is the most important message we can ever hear - about how to be saved from sin.

Flashcard 1-4

The preacher was not put off by the boys' trick. He spoke to all three of them individually about the Lord Jesus Christ that afternoon.

As Charles was going out to play cricket the man caught him unawares and asked, "Are you a Christian?"

Charles answered, "I'm not what you call a Christian. I have believed in Jesus Christ since I was knee-high. Of course, I believe in the church, too."

The preacher answered, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life' (John 3:16). Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe the other half of the verse - that those who believe in Christ shall have everlasting life?"

"No," said Charles, "I don't believe that."

PowerPoint 1-3

PowerPoint 1-4

The preacher said, "Either God or you is not speaking the truth. Do you think God is a liar?"

"No," said Charles.

"Will you always hold back from doing what is right - believing one half of the verse and not the other half?"

"I suppose not always," said Charles, but he realised he needed to face the question there and then.

The preacher said, "Eternal life is a gift. When someone gives you a present at Christmas, what do you do? You say 'thank you'. Will you say 'thank you' to God for this gift?"

Charles Studd got down on his knees and said "thank you" to God. He asked the Lord to save him from his sin, and right away joy and peace came into his heart. He knew that he had new life from God, eternal life.

It was only a few days later that the brothers discovered something; the man had talked to all three of them separately that afternoon and each of them had prayed to ask Christ to save them. That was the most important day in the lives of all three of them.

Flashcard 1-5

Charles liked cricket a lot. He could bowl and bat very well. He spent hours practising his batting in front of a tall mirror in his bedroom. He would not smoke in case the smoke would affect his eye-sight.

After his older brothers had left the school, he became captain of the cricket team at Eton. When he went to study at Cambridge University, he was chosen for their cricket team and soon became their best player and captain. In fact in 1882 he was named the finest cricketer in England. The following year he was a member of the English national team which went to Australia and won the series of matches.

Through playing cricket Charles learned about courage, patience and teamwork. However, even though he was a true Christian, he allowed cricket to take too great a place in his life. He spent a lot of time on this game and did not have much time for God. Are there things that seem to be more important to you than living for the Lord Jesus Christ? If you are a Christian the Lord Jesus Christ should come first in your life. Pleasing Him and doing what the Bible says is more important than anything else.

Flashcard 1-6

For six years, while he was a student, Charles did not tell others about the Lord Jesus as he should. He knew the Gospel, but he did not have the courage to share it. There were people praying for him that he would have a new love for Christ.

PowerPoint 1-5

PowerPoint 1-6

Towards the end of his time at Cambridge University, the Lord used the serious illness of his brother George to show him that the most important thing in life is doing what God wants. George almost died; his trust in the Lord was strong. Charles realised then that the only thing that really matters when you face death is to have Jesus Christ ruling in your life as Lord of all.

He said, "It doesn't matter how famous a cricketer I am, or how rich, or how popular. Knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and serving Him is far, far greater."

Flashcard 1-2 (again)

PowerPoint 1-2 (again)

His brother George finally got well again and Charles went back to hear the preacher, Mr Moody, who was holding meetings in London.

As Moody spoke, Charles realised, "I have not been living for the Lord as I should. I have been putting cricket before my work for the Lord."

Charles asked the Lord to forgive him and to take full control of his life. He let the Lord have first place. Right away he began telling his friends about the Lord Jesus Christ. Before long he saw the first one come to Christ.

He said, "The joy I had of seeing my friend saved was greater than any joy I have ever had in playing cricket."

He still played, but now he wanted above all to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Flashcard 1-6

PowerPoint 1-6

Charles Studd had to learn another very important lesson - that He could not serve the Lord in his own strength. He had to learn to depend completely on the Lord to work through him. He could not count on his own abilities or even the advice and help of others. There were things he thought he could do on his own, without asking the Lord to guide him and help him. For example, he had courses to study at university - did he need the Lord's wisdom and strength for that?

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Then he realised the great truth: "... you are not your own for you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). In his room one evening he got down on his knees and yielded every part of his life to the Lord. He used the words of a hymn as his prayer.

"Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise."

That night he saw that he needed to trust in the Lord like a little boy who trusts in his daddy to bring him somewhere he had never been

before. He was to live his whole life simply trusting in the Lord. He knew that the Lord was more than able to keep him, if he gave everything over to Him. So he trusted God to do His will in and through his life. The Lord Jesus gave him wonderful peace and joy as he gave over every part of his life to Him.

If you are a Christian, are you willing to say, “Dear Lord, all I am, all I have and all I ever hope to be, I now and forever dedicate to You for Your use and glory. And please Lord, hold me to it. Amen.”

Remember if we are going to serve the Lord, then it must be in His strength. He wants us to give ourselves completely over to Him, trusting in Him alone.

Review questions

- 1 What were the names of the three Studd brothers? (Kynaston, George and Charles.)
- 2 Which game did they like to play especially? (Cricket.)
- 3 What did their father, Mr Studd, especially want to do, after he trusted Christ to save him from his sin? (Tell others about the Saviour.)
- 4 How did the three boys come to trust in Christ? (Through a preacher, Mr Whetherby, who talked to each one of them about the Lord Jesus.)
- 5 Why was Charles not living for the Lord as he should? (He allowed cricket to take too great a place in his life.)
- 6 What did God use to show Charles what was most important in life? (His brother, George, almost died.)
- 7 What did Charles say gave him a greater joy than he ever had in playing cricket? (The joy of seeing his friend come to Christ.)
- 8 Which lesson did Charles learn which would be important for his whole life? (He learned to depend completely on the Lord.)

Lesson 2

Charles obeys God's call

Charles Studd came to Christ when he was a student at Eton College. However, he allowed cricket to take too great a place in his life. It became his "idol" - it became the most important thing in his life, more important than living for the Lord. He came back to the Lord while at Cambridge University through the illness of his brother. He asked the Lord to forgive him and started witnessing. Charles later realised that he needed to give every part of his life over to Christ. He saw that he could not serve the Lord in his own strength; it had to be the Lord working out His will in him and through him.

Flashcard 2-1

When Charles came back to the Lord, he wanted to serve Him with all his heart. As he read the Bible and prayed, he felt that, rather than getting a job after university, the Lord wanted him to use all his time to bring the Gospel to others. He took as his special Bible verse: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). Belonging to the Lord was worth more than owning all the riches in the world. He decided to find out God's will for his life. It wasn't long after he had given his life completely to the Lord that he felt the Lord was calling him to go as a missionary to China.

Maybe there is a Christian boy or girl here, and the Lord has been leading you to understand that He has an extra special plan for your life. He wants you to use all your time to bring the Gospel to others. He asks some Christians to do that, you know. If the Lord is calling you to be a missionary or full-time worker, you should thank Him. You can trust Him to work things out, if you obey His will.

Flashcard 2-2

Charles attended a meeting where a missionary going back to China shared the great need for more workers there. As he prayed about what God wanted him to do about China, he knew there was one thing alone which could keep him from going and that was his love for his mother. His father had died only two years after he was saved and so there was only his mother left.

It was then that he read the passage in the Bible which says, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:37). After that he knew it was God's will for him to go to China. He wanted to obey the Lord above everyone else. He knew too that he could trust God to take care of his mother back home in England.

PowerPoint 2-1

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-2

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

It was not easy. The more sure he was about God wanting him to go to China, the more strongly his family was against his leaving for the missionfield.

Flashcard 2-3

Several people tried to persuade Charles not to go. His own mother pleaded with him to stay in England. Some Christian friends said he could do a lot for God among young people in Britain, instead of going to China.

His oldest brother said, "You're making a mistake. It will break your mother's heart."

"I don't want to be stubborn and go out because of my own decision. I only want to do God's will. Let's ask God!" Charles answered.

So both of them knelt down and prayed that the Lord would make His will to be done.

That night Charles could not sleep. He kept thinking of a verse in the Bible. "Ask of Me, and I will give You ... the ends of the earth" (Psalm 2:8). He took this as a promise from the Lord, that people in far-off China would hear the Gospel and put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Charles was sure that the Lord was speaking to him through this part of His Word. He knew he must obey what the Lord had asked him to do - no matter what his friends and relatives thought.

It is not always easy, when you follow God's will. Others may try to stop you. Some of them may even be from your own family. Would you be prepared like Charles, to leave your family, even though they did not understand that the Lord had called you?

Flashcard 2-4

When Charles Studd was sure God was calling him to go to China, he went to talk with Hudson Taylor, the director of the China Inland Mission. He was accepted as one of their missionaries. Stanley Smith, a friend from university, had already answered God's call to go to China. In a few weeks five more young men who had also studied at the university had joined them. The newspapers printed the story of these seven brilliant young men who were giving up everything to go to China as missionaries. They called them the "Cambridge Seven". (Cambridge and Oxford are the two top universities in Britain.)

Other students in the universities and young people throughout the country were touched that such fine young men should give their lives to bring the Gospel to China. Other Christian young people in England realised they had to face the question, "Am I willing to give my life to tell those who have never heard about the Lord Jesus?"

PowerPoint 2-3

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-4

Would you be ready to say “yes” to the Lord, if He showed you that He wanted you to go as a missionary to some far-off land or to some difficult group of people?

The news spread about the seven students. Even Queen Victoria was pleased to receive a copy of the booklet telling of how the “Cambridge Seven” had been saved and had received the call of God to go to China.

Flashcard 2-5

Charles Studd was an unusual man and many special things happened in his life. You musn’t think that such things have to happen in your life too. God can use you, even though you may not study at university. God has a work for you to do. It will be different from that of Charles.

Some Christian professors in the University of Edinburgh wrote to Charles Studd and Stanley Smith to ask them to speak in a meeting for university students. The two men arrived early for the meeting and spent the early part of the afternoon in prayer. They knew it was very important to spend time praying when they wanted to be used by the Lord.

The hall was packed full of students. They had come to hear these two well-known sportsmen, who were giving up everything to go out to serve the Lord in China. The students were deeply impressed by their love for Christ.

Their idea of missionaries had been people with long faces singing hymns and not young, wealthy men giving up fame, family and friends to preach the Gospel to others.

Another meeting was arranged in Edinburgh and 3,000 students came. Charles told them how the Lord Jesus Christ had changed his life and had shown him His will. He told how he had received a burning love for his Saviour, and for others who did not know Him. Stanley Smith told them the Good News of Christ and how He had died for them on the cross and risen again. He is a living Saviour, able to change lives today. At the end of the meeting, many students broke down and cried because they were not saved. Charles, Stanley and other Christians had the joy of speaking to student after student to explain how they could turn from their sin and depend on the Lord Jesus Christ alone to save them.

Flashcard 2-6

Meetings were arranged in other universities in Britain. It was a wonderful opportunity for Charles and Stanley to tell the Gospel. Young men especially came in large numbers to see and hear them. Many came to Christ.

PowerPoint 2-5

PowerPoint 2-6

In Liverpool, for example, at the end of the meeting, sixty students asked the Lord to save them from their sin. They wanted the Lord to change their lives. God used Charles and Stanley to speak to Christians as well. One of them was a Pastor called F.B. Meyer. He saw something in the life of Charles Studd which was different. At the end of the meeting he asked Charles what was the secret of his life.

Charles answered, "The secret is, God has got all of C.T. Studd that there is to have."

That was a great challenge to Meyer. He spent that night in prayer asking God to take over every part of his life. But there was one part of his life he wanted to keep for himself. Finally he had to give in and let the Lord have that part too. That was an important night for him. From then on God began to use him in a special way to help others to trust in the Saviour and live for Him.

Are you willing to go as a missionary if the Lord calls you? Would you say "yes" to the Lord, even if it meant leaving home, friends and family to be able to tell others about the Saviour? Do you know the secret? Can you say, "God has got all of me that there is to have?" Let the Lord have His way in every part of your life and He will use you to help others just as He used Charles Studd and F.B. Meyer.

Flashcard 2-4 (again)**PowerPoint 2-4 (again)**

The last meetings before the "Cambridge Seven" left for China were held in Cambridge, Oxford and London. What was going to happen to Charles and the other missionaries when they got to China? If you want to know, come back next time and we'll have another part of this wonderful story of God's working in the life of Charles Studd.

Review questions

- 1 What did the Lord call Charles to do? (To go as a missionary to China.)
- 2 How did the Lord show Charles that he should go to China? (Through a meeting where a missionary told about the great need for more workers there.)
- 3 Who were against his going to China? (His family.)
- 4 What made Charles sure that he should go? (The Word of God - Matthew 10:37, Psalm 2:8.)
- 5 Who were the "Cambridge Seven"? (Seven former students from Cambridge University who answered God's call to go to China.)
- 6 Give the missing words from this Bible verse which was special to Charles: "What will it profit a man if he ___ and loses his own soul?" ("... gains the whole world ..." - Mark 8:36.)
- 7 What did Charles Studd tell F.B. Meyer was the secret of his life? (He said, "God has got all of C.T. Studd that there is to have.")

- 8 Name some of the things which happened after Charles said “yes” to God about going as a missionary. (Students were saved, Christians were challenged to give everything to Christ. Even Queen Victoria was pleased.)

Lesson 3

Missionaries in China

Flashcard 3-1

The “Cambridge Seven” set sail for China over 100 years ago (February 1885). God used them to lead others on the ship to Christ.

One man was on his way to India where he was captain of a steamer. He was well-known for lying, cursing and drunkenness. At first, when Charles spoke to the captain, he made fun of the Bible. Charles kept on and told him of the joy and peace the Lord had given him. That night, in his cabin, the captain told the Lord that he was truly sorry for his sin. He asked Christ to take over his life, and he was wonderfully changed.

When you trust the Lord Jesus to take away your sin, He will give you new life too. Now the captain loved to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ, and spent as much time as possible on the rest of the journey reading and studying his Bible.

Charles learned that in missionary work you have to begin telling others about the Lord Jesus right where you are. If you are a Christian, are you telling your friends about the Lord Jesus in your street and your school?

Some people have the idea that missionaries are perfect - “They can’t do anything wrong.” That is not true! Charles Studd had his faults, like other Christians. He was often impatient. He would decide sometimes not to do what the mission leaders asked. It wasn’t always easy for others to work with him, because he had his own way of doing things and he didn’t like asking others for advice.

Charles often talked about “the God of the impossible”. The reason for the good things that happened was not any greatness in Charles Studd - it was because of the Great Lord and Saviour whom he served.

Flashcard 3-2

When the missionaries arrived in China, Hudson Taylor was there to meet them.

Soon they began learning the language and all they could about the Chinese people. They were told that the best way to reach them was to become like them. So they started to wear the same kind of clothes as the Chinese. For the men this meant giving up shirts and trousers and wearing Chinese-style shirts and long-sleeved gowns. They even grew their hair long to have pigtailed like the Chinese. What a change from the days at university in Cambridge!

PowerPoint 3-1

PowerPoint 3-2

In order to learn the language each one was sent out to a different area of China to live with the people. The Chinese were not used to seeing white people, so whatever Charles did the Chinese people watched with real curiosity.

It took a lot of time and hard work to learn the language. It was difficult for Charles not being able to talk to the people to whom God had called him. During this time of being so much on his own, Charles spent many hours studying the Bible. He got up very early to read the Bible and pray, so that he could start the day with God. He learnt to live day by day by what the Bible teaches. This is a lesson which all of us, who are trusting in Jesus Christ, need to learn. We should take time each day to pray and to read some verses in the Bible. We should try with the Lord's help, to put what the Bible teaches into practice in our everyday lives.

Life was far from easy in China. The weather was hot. Charles, like the others, had to sleep on the floor, without a mattress. Practically the only thing to eat was rice. Most of the travel had to be done on foot. The simple Chinese sandals did not prevent his feet from being cut and blistered on the rough tracks. To make matters worse there were riots, and foreigners especially were attacked. The people called them "foreign devils". Being a missionary can be very difficult.

Flashcard 3-3

One of the greatest blessings God gave Charles was a wonderful wife. Her name was Priscilla Stewart. She came from Northern Ireland (from Lisburn). She too was a missionary - in Shanghai. They met when Charles went there to see his brother George. Priscilla had given every part of her life to God, as Charles had. The Lord used her to do a great work among the people in the city.

The wedding was a simple one. They did not have any special wedding clothes. Priscilla wore a long white sash and on it these words "United to fight for Jesus". At the end of the service they both knelt and promised to God, "We will never hinder one another from serving You."

If you are a Christian, you should pray that the Lord will guide you whether you should marry and who you should marry. It is a wonderful blessing and help to be married to the right person. It would be better to remain unmarried, than to be married to the wrong person.

Flashcard 3-4

Slowly Charles learned to speak in Chinese. What a joy it was to be able to share the Good News of the Saviour. Whenever a Chinese person became a Christian, he faced many hardships and difficulties from his family and friends.

PowerPoint 3-3

One of those who came to Christ was a man called Mr Fan. Before he was saved, he had been one of the most evil men in the province. He had even killed a man. When he became a Christian, he said, "I must go to the town where I have done all this evil and tell the Good News."

Crowds of people in his town came to listen to him. The town leader, the mandarin, ordered him to be beaten with a bamboo rod. He was given 2,000 strokes and was left for dead. Mr Fan was not given this punishment for the wrong he had done, he was beaten because he was telling the others about the Lord Jesus. He was brought back to where the missionaries were and, after much care, became better.

He then said, "I must go back to my own city and preach the Gospel."

This time he was sent to prison, but he preached from the window of his cell. So many gathered to listen to him that the mandarin gave up trying to keep him in prison and set him free.

While Charles was in China, he learned that he had inherited a large sum of money from his father. The Lord led him in a special way "to do what the rich young ruler did not do." What did the rich young ruler not do?

Allow the children to answer.

Charles gave the money to help a number of Christian missions and works. He wanted to depend on God and not on any bank account in England. The Lord blessed him and continued to supply his need. The money he gave was a great help to the Lord's work, even to help start Moody Bible Institute in USA. This Bible school was to train many Christian workers and missionaries. It was begun in memory of D.L. Moody, the preacher who had meant so much to Charles and especially his father.

Flashcard 3-5

Right after their wedding Charles and Priscilla went to a town in the interior of China to begin a work for God there. Missionaries had not lived there before. Their home was a very simple Chinese one. It was just bare white-washed walls and brick floors with a fire-place in the centre and a brick bed. They built a simple church - Chinese-style.

It took a long time to win the confidence of the people. At first they cursed Charles and Priscilla every time they saw them outside the home. They blamed them for the year of drought, when there was no rain. They tried to break into their house and even to destroy the church. But God blessed as they told others about the Saviour. A good number of people were saved and began living for Christ and telling others about Him.

PowerPoint 3-4

PowerPoint 3-5

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

If you are a Christian, do you remember to pray for missionaries? Some of them are facing difficult or dangerous situations today, just as Charles and Priscilla did many years ago in China. The Bible tells us the kind of things we should pray for:

- ◆ opportunities to tell people about the Saviour (Colossians 4:2-3);
- ◆ people to be saved (Romans 10:1);
- ◆ more workers to help in bringing others to Christ (Matthew 9:38);
- ◆ enough money for the missionaries to live and work for the Lord (Philippians 4:14-19).

Flashcard 3-6

PowerPoint 3-6

Charles and Priscilla opened a place where people who were addicted to opium could come and be helped to stop taking this drug. In seven years over 800 men and women passed through their “Opium Refuge”. Many were saved as well as cured. Smoking (or chewing) opium was a big problem among the Chinese at that time. When they took some of it, at first it did not seem to be harmful. Later they couldn’t stop and they needed to take more and more. It made them weak and lazy. Many people made their living by selling the drug. When someone tried to stop using opium, he had strong nightmares and became violent. He was also very sick. It was a difficult, long and tiring job for Charles and Priscilla, as they helped people to stop taking this drug.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

During this time the Lord also blessed them with four daughters and a little boy who died at birth. The Lord had not promised a life without sorrow and sickness or trouble. There were times when both Charles and Priscilla were very, very ill and it even seemed they might die. The Lord protected them. He also used people to send the money and food they needed to live. They experienced God’s promise: “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Becoming a missionary may seem to some people like an exciting adventure. In reality it means sacrifice, hard work, often loneliness and discomforts. Yet we know that there is no safer and better place in the world than being in the centre of God’s will for us. If you are a Christian, have you asked God if He wants you to be a missionary or to work full-time for Him one day? “Whatever He says to you, do it” (John 2:5).

Review questions

- 1 How did Charles show that he was a “real missionary” on the way out to China on the boat? (By telling others, including the captain, about the Lord Jesus.)

- 2 If you are hoping to be a foreign missionary some time, where should you begin your missionary work? (Here.)
- 3 When should you begin your missionary work? (Now.)
- 4 How should you begin your missionary work? (By telling my friends and family about the Lord Jesus.)
- 5 What did Charles do every morning? (Read the Bible and prayed.)
- 6 Why is it important for each of us who want to serve the Lord to read His Word and pray? (To know what God wants us to do and to have His strength and blessing to do it.)
- 7 What did Mr Fan suffer for the Lord Jesus? (2,000 strokes of a bamboo rod and he was sent to prison.)
- 8 Give some examples of ways that we may have to suffer as we follow the Lord and obey Him. (Others make fun of us; they may not like us and may even want to hurt us.)
- 9 Why did Charles give away his wealth? (So as to depend completely on the Lord.)
- 10 Do you think that Priscilla was the right person for Charles to marry? If so, why? (Yes. She had given every part of her life to the Lord and it was God's will for them to marry.)

Lesson 4

New steps of faith

Flashcard 4-1

After being missionaries in China for ten years it was time for them to return home to see their families and friends. Even when the babies were being born, Priscilla and Charles did not go down to the coast for the births, because it would mean leaving the work for too long. Now after ten years God was guiding them to return home. It was a sad day when they had to leave. A big group of people who had become Christians through hearing them teach the Gospel, came with them to the next village on their way to the coast. It was hard to say goodbye to these people they had grown to love so much.

The journey to Shanghai with four young children was not easy. Part of the journey was made by sedan chairs carried by mules. Another part was by cargo boat on the river, trying to sleep on top of boxes, which were not all on the same level. China was at war with Japan at that time, and the Chinese thought they were Japanese or at least friends of the Japanese. So whenever the boat stopped at one of the landing places, crowds gathered to see the ones they called “foreign devils”. The Lord kept them safe from harm on the dangerous journey.

Then came the long trip back to England by ship. The crew had a small band which played for the passengers. The Studd girls loved to listen to the music.

About the third day they came to their parents to say, “We do not understand these missionaries at all, for they only play music, and they never sing hymns or pray.”

In their life in the interior of China they had never seen any white man or woman who was not a missionary!

Flashcard 4-2

When they got home they stayed at the home of Grandma Studd. Both Charles and Priscilla were worn out by the times of sickness in China, the long hours of hard work, and the lack of good food. Their four girls liked very much staying with their grandmother. They enjoyed the good food. They went to school and made new friends. They went for walks in the beautiful English countryside. Everything was so different from China, especially the food. Out there the family lived most of the time on rice.

If you meet a missionary family home for a rest in your country, are you kind to the children? Do you try to be friendly and talk to them?

PowerPoint 4-1

PowerPoint 4-2

It meant a lot to the Studd girls to be made welcome when they came to England.

Charles slowly got well again and was soon speaking in many meetings and visiting the churches and friends who had prayed for them. Priscilla on the other hand remained very weak. There did not seem much hope of a return to China. The Lord had something else for them at this time. It is wonderful to know that God promises to be with us when we do His will and depend on Him.

The news had crossed the Atlantic about the “Cambridge Seven”. Charles’ oldest brother, Kynaston, had gone to USA for meetings and had shared the news. A work began in the universities and two students decided to start the “Student Volunteer Movement” to encourage more Christian students to go out as missionaries. Charles was invited to come. It meant leaving his family at home and making the long journey by ship to USA. It meant travelling from place to place for meetings. It meant spending a lot of time in personal talks with individual students. Charles accepted it, because it was what the Lord wanted him to do. The Lord was with him and helped him during the 18 months he spent in USA speaking at meetings. Hundreds of students came to Christ and many gave their lives to go to the mission field, if that was His will.

Because God guided Charles Studd to do that, it does not mean that we today should do exactly the same. It would not be right for a missionary to stay away from his family for such a long time today. We must remember that it was difficult to travel back then, because there were no planes. It was not an easy time for his wife, Priscilla, at home. She was often very ill and lonely. She had to bring up the girls without the help of Charles. She would have preferred speaking in meetings like Charles, but she had to learn to be patient.

Flashcard 4-3

Then the Lord gave Charles another work to do. From 1900 to 1906 the family went to live in South India, where Charles was pastor of a church. There were two things that led him to take on this work. First of all, it was the last wish of his father before he died, and secondly it was also the great desire of his brother George. Both his father and his brother had had farms in India at different times. However, during their time there they had not been witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ to the Indian people. They felt that one of the Studd family should put that right and go there as a missionary. Charles was the one to go and, of course, his wife and daughters went with him. The church was for the English-speaking people from the area. There were many army officers and British soldiers stationed there.

It was a special six years when the family could be together. They could invite people to come to their home. Dad could play with the girls. There were many interesting places to visit and things to do.

Their great desire was to see others come to Christ. God answered their prayers.

Flashcard 4-4

One man who became a Christian was the chief clerk in the local military offices. He had not opened his Bible for 23 years. His little son persuaded him to go to church.

He said, "You must come and hear Mr Studd. He talks about bread and butter in the pulpit."

Charles had used a story about this to show how the Lord meets everyday needs. The father went, and kept going back.

He wrote to Charles Studd, "Each Sunday at church I get hit harder and harder. This last week I felt I had to make my decision. There was a big fight between God and me and the devil. Thank God. He won."

There was such a change in his life that the Indian boy who worked for him said, "What happened to the master? He was always talking plenty swear words, now he is only doing plenty church work."

This Indian boy noticed the difference and came with the others to the family prayer and Bible-reading time which the man started in his home. Do others see that you are a Christian, that your life is different?

All this time Charles was struggling with asthma - a disease that makes it difficult for a person to breathe. He hardly ever could sleep between 2:00 and 4:00 in the morning because of coughing.

However, there were other joys, because all four of the daughters trusted Christ while they were in India. Later, when the Studd family went back to England, God provided through a friend for them to attend good boarding schools in England and Switzerland.

Charles Studd wrote to a friend about them, "It is a great joy to see all my girls right out on the Lord's side. For that alone I feel I owe the Blessed Saviour every drop of blood and affection in body and heart."

God promises to be with us and to help us when we do His will and depend on Him.

Flashcard 4-5

God was preparing Charles Studd for his greatest work of all. The family had returned to England from India. Charles was having meetings in different parts of the country.

One day after speaking in meetings in Liverpool, his attention was caught by a notice. It touched his sense of humour because it said, "Cannibals want missionaries". It wasn't, of course, that the cannibals wanted the missionaries to go there so that they could eat them,

PowerPoint 4-4

PowerPoint 4-5

rather that missionaries were needed to preach the Gospel. Charles Studd decided to find out more about this strange notice.

The notice was to advertise a missionary meeting. Charles went there and heard a Christian man sharing the need in the centre of Africa. He said explorers had been there and big game hunters, traders and officials, but no Christian had gone to these tribes to tell them about Jesus Christ.

As Charles thought to himself, "Why have no Christians gone?" it was as if God said to him, "Why don't you go?"

Charles replied, "The doctors won't allow it."

The answer came, "I am the God who heals you. Don't you trust Me? I will go with you and keep you."

There were no excuses left. He knew he had to go. The only question was "How?" He had no money. At 50 years of age and after 15 years of ill health, how could he ever face the heat and climate, the diseases and the difficulties in the heart of Africa?

Flashcard 4-6

Charles knew God wanted him to go. He shared it with a group of men who decided to form a committee to help him. They had one condition - that he be examined by a doctor to see if he was fit to go. The doctor's answer was "no". So the committee said "no" to Charles.

His answer to the committee was this, "Gentlemen, God has called me to go, and I will go. I will blaze the trail, though my grave may only become a stepping stone that younger men may follow."

He was ready to go and preach the Gospel in the centre of Africa, even if it meant he would die there. Other missionaries would go to take up the work.

Maybe you are making excuses to God that you are not able to serve Him. Perhaps you are saying, "I am not strong enough, or clever enough, to be a missionary one day," or "I am too busy to do all those things for God," or "I am not good enough to work for God." The Lord is able to give you the strength and to help you to do what He wants you to do. He promises, "Lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). The Bible says, "Whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35).

Next time we'll learn how God worked things out for Charles. Are you counting on God Who can do what seems impossible to men? He is still able to do it today, if we are willing to do His will.

Review questions

- 1 How many years did Charles work as a missionary in China? (Ten.)

PowerPoint 4-6

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

- 2 What can we as Christians do to help missionaries? (Pray, give, write, be friendly to them when they come home.)
- 3 What did Charles do when he came home? (He got back his strength, spoke in meetings in Britain and USA.)
- 4 Where did God give Charles and Priscilla a new work to do for six years? (In South India.)
- 5 What happened when a little boy persuaded his father to go to church to hear Charles Studd? (He trusted Christ, his life was changed and he started family prayer and Bible reading in his home.)
- 6 What was written on the notice which made Charles go to the meeting about Africa? (Cannibals need missionaries.)
- 7 Why did the committee say no to Charles going to the heart of Africa? (The doctor said he was not fit to go.)
- 8 What are some of the excuses Christians make today for not serving the Lord? (“I am not strong enough or clever enough”; “I am not good enough”.)

Lesson 5

Taking the Gospel to Africa and the world

Charles Studd knew God wanted him to go as a missionary to the heart of Africa.

The committee said, “The doctor thinks you are too ill.”

What was Charles going to do? He had no money. He was over 50 years of age. His years of missionary work in China and India had left him in poor health. The only thing he could do was to trust God.

Flashcard 5-1

There was a ship leaving for Africa in three weeks’ time. Charles did not have the money to pay the fare. After meeting with the committee someone gave him £10. He used that to book his ticket. The Lord guided others to make gifts and all the money needed came in.

Charles left by boat on 15 December 1910. He travelled alone. It became clear to him that his going out was the beginning of something much greater - a big new step to bring the Gospel to many people around the world who had never heard of Christ. He wrote back to his dear wife Priscilla to share the idea of this new venture with her and to encourage her to trust God for better health, so that she could be a full part of it.

After staying for a short time in Khartoum, Charles set out with two others to go on a 1400 kilometre (900 mile) trip to see the needs of the people for himself. He learned of the great masses of people further to the south-west in the Republic of Congo who had never heard of Christ. God showed him that this was where he was to work for Him. He went back to England to launch the new mission.

Flashcard 5-2

The evening before Charles left again for Africa, the Lord guided him to say something which became the motto of the new mission.

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”

A young man of 21, named Alfred Buxton, went with Charles. Their journey to the Congo was not easy. They had to face the terrible fevers of malaria. They did not know the languages of the people. Many of the tribes were cannibals who had killed other white men before. Once the two men took a wrong track and became separated from their African helpers, who were carrying their belongings. God gave them the idea of using the extra buttons on their trousers to

PowerPoint 5-1

PowerPoint 5-2

“pay” for food and the cannibals left them alone. They must have thought the two white men were “too thin” to be any good.

Finally, after nine months’ travel through thick forests and swamps, they reached their destination in the very heart of Africa. God had led them to a place on the edge of the great tropical forest with the biggest population of all of the Congo. Through a Belgian official they were able to get a plot of land to start a mission station. God had gone before and prepared the way. His protecting hand was over them.

One morning when Charles had just finished breakfast, two of the African helpers came to him and said, “There is a snake in your bed!”

Charles went and found under his blanket a thin green snake. One bite of that snake would have meant certain death. Yet it had been lying there beside him the whole night long. Charles remembered those words of Psalm 91, “He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (verse 11). Charles thanked God for protecting him.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 5-3

PowerPoint 5-3

God had also prepared the hearts of the people for the Gospel. Wherever they went, people who before had been cannibals, thieves and murderers, welcomed them with open arms. Other missionaries came to help in the work, and soon the first Christians were baptised. Some of them began going out for three months at a time to take the Gospel to those who had not yet heard.

Later some went as missionaries to other tribes. The New Testament and parts of the Old Testament were translated into Bangala. This language was known by about 100 tribes in that whole area, although at that time they did not know this.

Soon churches were started throughout that vast area (1000 km long x 500 km wide). Thousands, who a short time before had worshipped idols and done many wicked things, were changed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was not easy. Two of Charles’ daughters and their husbands went out as missionaries to join him in Africa. One couple buried their first child in Africa, after he had died from disease there.

During the last 13 years of his life Charles was only going to see his wife Priscilla during two weeks, before he went to be with the Lord. Priscilla herself was not well either. Yet from her home and invalid couch she formed prayer centres, prepared prayer letters and leaflets about the work and wrote often 20 to 30 letters a day. She also looked after the publishing of the mission magazine. Her daughters helped her in the work. Later God gave her strength to travel and speak in many meetings about the missionary work.

Even though you may never go out as a missionary, if you are a Christian, you can help in missionary work - by praying, by giving and perhaps even writing to missionaries.

Flashcard 5-4

The most difficult years were during the First World War, when there was a great shortage of workers. Alfred Buxton, who had worked for six years for Charles, had to return to England for a time.

The greatest heartbreak was when some of the leading Christians started to do some of the wicked things they had done before they came to Christ. God helped the little group of missionaries to continue and their prayers were answered in 1920 when new workers arrived and the next year Alfred Buxton returned to help in leading the work.

This allowed Charles to go south to Ibambi, to begin the work in that new area. The Africans called him “Bwana Mukubwa”, which means “The great white chief.” The people came in large numbers to hear the Gospel and many came to Christ and were baptised. He began to go into the forest around and many more came to know the Saviour. He wrote about one visit.

“I found some 1,500 black people all packed as tight as sardines, squatting on the ground in the sweltering midday sun. Some had walked up to ten hours to hear the Word of God. They were greedy to hear the Gospel. A two hour meeting does not trouble them. Under our guidance they built themselves a huge grass-covered shed - the house of God - to seat 1,250 people, so that they could worship in spite of storms and sun.”

Many tried to persuade Charles to return to England for a rest. He refused to go, knowing that so many wanted to hear the Gospel. By 1923 there were 40 missionaries working with Charles in that vast area in the heart of Africa. It had been well worthwhile for him to obey God’s call, ten years before, to go there with the Gospel. This was only the beginning, because the Lord had placed on the heart of Charles every land where the Gospel was not yet known.

Flashcard 5-5

Charles was always thinking of these people who had never heard of Jesus. He wrote booklets to challenge Christians to go to them.

“The doors of the world have been opened for us by God ... The heart of Asia, the heart of Africa and well-nigh the whole continent of South America, are untouched with the Gospel of Christ ... Can it be that the ears of Christ’s soldiers are deaf to the call of God and the cries of the dying souls of men?”

The work of the mission started in other parts of the world - in the Amazon forests of South America, in Central Asia (Tibet), in Arabia and West Africa. Today (in 2005) WEC International (Worldwide

PowerPoint 5-4

PowerPoint 5-5

Evangelisation for Christ) has more than 1,700 full-time workers around the world in 76 countries.

The last years of Charles' life were spent "out-and-out" for God in bringing people to Christ and building up the believers that they might live lives that were pure and completely given over to the Lord. Few others could have taken the tough daily life which he followed. He lived in a simple bamboo hut like one of the Africans. His day began early with at least two hours of personal prayer and study of the Bible. Often in the morning he would preach to the people. The meetings seldom lasted less than three hours. He also made sure that the building work was done in the best way possible. He had many letters to write and answer - from the home office of the mission and from other missionaries. Each evening there was a two-hour prayer meeting with the other missionaries. Above all Charles loved to go out and preach the Gospel. On Sundays he would usually speak in three meetings and often would stay for meetings on the Monday and Tuesday as well. On top of all that he undertook the translation of the New Testament into Kingwana. He was able to finish this along with the Psalms and parts of the book of Proverbs.

During these years Charles was in much pain as a result of his many illnesses. He was given strong medicine called morphine to deaden the pain. This became a real problem. He found he couldn't do without it. There are strong medicines like that today, about which people need to be careful.

Now Charles was over 70. His dear wife Priscilla had gone to be with the Lord two years before. Charles had suffered many diseases over the years and his body was thin and worn. On 12 July 1931 he spoke for the last time in Ibambi - a five-hour meeting. During the following four days he became much weaker, suffering from gallstones and a weakened heart.

On the Thursday evening he went to be with the Lord. The last word he said was "hallelujah" (praise the Lord). He was buried in the heart of Africa. At his funeral missionaries and African Christians gave themselves again fully to the Lord and to His work. It was because Charles had given his whole life to the Lord Jesus - his time, his money, his mind, his heart, his body - that God could use him to reach others with the Gospel.

If you are a Christian, are you ready to say with C.T. Studd, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." Are you willing to say, "Lord, anywhere you want me to go, any time You want me to work for You, anything You want me to do, I will do it. Yes Lord, anywhere, any time and anything."

Review questions

- 1 Why do you think Charles went to the Congo the first time? (To see the needs of the people for himself.)

- 2 What was it that Charles said before leaving again for Africa? It became the motto of the new mission: "If Jesus Christ be God and died for Me, then ____." ("... no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.)
- 3 Who went with Charles to begin the work? (A young man of 21, named Alfred Buxton.)
- 4 Tell some of the ways God helped them. (He protected them - from cannibals and the snake; they were able to get a plot of land to start a mission station; God prepared the hearts of the people for the Gospel; other missionaries came to help.)
- 5 What were some of the difficulties? (One couple, Charles' daughter and her husband, buried their first child in Africa after he had died from disease there; Charles and Priscilla were not able to be together for many years; there was a great shortage of workers.)
- 6 What was the greatest heart-break? (When some of the leading African Christians started to do some of the wicked things they had done before.)
- 7 How has God used the work of WEC to take the Gospel to people who had not heard? (Over 1,700 full-time workers in 76 countries.)
- 8 What was the last word of Charles before he died and went to Heaven? (Hallelujah.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).