

Children's Sermons

Praying For Illinois Missionaries

(Show the children a picture of people praying and ask what they are doing)

Ask: What is prayer? (Prayer is just talking to God. Telling him how you feel. And, thanking God for what He gives you and what He has done for you.)

Ask: Who do you pray for? (Family. Friends. Neighbors. Our pastor. Sunday School teacher and others at church)

Ask: Have you ever prayed for a missionary? What is a missionary? (Someone who tells others about Jesus. All of us tell our friends and family about Jesus, but God asks some people to spend their whole lives telling other people about Him, even if they have to move to a new town or a different country. They are called missionaries.)

Say: Some of those missionaries live right here in Illinois, and they need us to pray for them, especially now during the Week of Prayer for Illinois Missions. Some of our Illinois missionaries are starting new churches; some missionaries are telling college students about Jesus; and, some of our Illinois missionaries help children in the big cities.

This week, when you pray, will you remember to pray for our Illinois Missionaries? Ask God to give them wisdom and to keep them and their families safe as they tell others about Jesus. Let's do that now.

(Lead in short prayer for the nearly 100 missionaries serving in Illinois.)

Praying for People in Illinois Who Don't Know Jesus

(Show the children a map of Illinois)

Ask: Do you know what state this is? Do you know where we live in Illinois? *(Point to your area on the map).*

(Point to other areas of the state such as Chicago, Springfield, East St. Louis, and Southern Illinois and tell the children something about those cities and regions such as:

- Chicago is a very, very big city with lots and lots of people.
- Northern Illinois has a lot of beautiful towns where a lot of people live.
- Springfield is our state capitol where they make our laws and where the governor's house is

- (*Pointing to Metro East St. Louis*) This area is across the Mississippi River from St. Louis and a lot of people live here too.
- Southern Illinois doesn't have big cities but there are a lot of people who live in all these wonderful cities and towns

Say: In the Bible (*Acts 1:8*) Jesus told his disciples to tell people in Jerusalem and Judea about Him, about Jesus. Jerusalem was a big city like Chicago or St. Louis where a lot of people lived who didn't know Jesus. And Judea was a big area like Illinois where lots of people lived who didn't know about Jesus.

There are many, many people in Illinois who do not know about Jesus. And, Jesus wants us to help tell them about Him.

Our church tells people in our town about Him, but we can't tell every person in Illinois about Jesus so we help missionaries in Chicago and Springfield and Southern Illinois and all over the state tell people about Jesus. We help the missionaries by praying for them and by giving a special offering to help them. That Offering is called the Illinois Missions Offering.

Let's pray now for our missionaries and for the Offering that will help them.

(Lead in a short prayer about Illinois missionaries and the Illinois Mission Offering.)