

Missions Moments 2009-2010

These Missions Moments can be used as part of your daily VBS worship rally or in individual classrooms as part of Bible Study. If Missions is offered as a VBS rotation, craft projects are available at www.sweetsleep.org to engage children even further with the mission of providing “a bed for every head.” These Missions Moments are only a guide – feel free to edit and make these fit your ministry situation.

Day 1 – 10 minutes

Say: “Each day we’ll collect an offering as part of our worship time together. This year, our offering will go to help kids around the world get new beds through Sweet Sleep. You may be wondering why kids need beds – doesn’t every kid have a bed? Well, unfortunately no.

Sweet Sleep helps children who are orphaned or abandoned. What is an orphan?” (*Allow children to answer.*) “That’s right – an orphan is someone who doesn’t have a mom or a dad. In the US, children who are orphaned are often cared for by their grandparents or move to children’s homes. In many Third World countries, like Moldova in Eastern Europe, orphans are sent to orphanages where conditions are often very poor. Children sleep on 50-year-old metal cots with springs that have broken causing them to sag to the floor. The children curl up on mattresses that are filthy and full of germs and disease because new beds are just too expensive when you need to replace 1, 2, or 300 beds at a time!

In Africa, most orphans sleep on the floor with no bed – just some scraps of foam if they even have that. They need beds to protect them from crawling, biting insects and mosquito nets to protect them from deadly Malaria.

This week, we’re going to have a Build-A-Bed Project and see how many beds we can build for orphans! (*include any specifics of your offering/penny wars/contests, etc.*) Let’s watch a video and learn more about Sweet Sleep as we start our week together.”

Show “**We Must Go: The Sweet Sleep Story.**”

(If you’re taking offering on the 1st day, do so now. Play “**We Must Go**” by Tim Hughes as the offering is collected.)

Pray – mentioning the offering and that everyone involved – kids, leaders, volunteers would give so that children around the world can sleep sweetly.

Day 2 – 5 minutes

Say: “How many of you slept in a comfortable bed last night?” (*Allow children to raise hands. Be sensitive to situations in your area where children might not have slept in a comfortable bed.*) “I know I did – I love my bed – it’s so cozy and soft! When I think

about the beds kids around the world sleep in, I wish every one of them could have a healthy, comfortable place to sleep like I do. Look at these pictures of what kids sleep on in Moldova. **[Moldova Bed Picture]** This is what kids sleep on in Uganda. **[Uganda Floor Picture with Mattress Scraps]** When I think of these sweet kids snuggled up in beds like these at night, **[Bad Mattress Picture]** it makes me want to give all the money I have to help them have a place to pray, to dream and to sleep sweetly. If you brought money for our offering today, I'm going to pray for our offering and then you can bring it forward. Let's Pray."

Pray for the children and for the offering. Pray that God would protect children who are currently sleeping in unhealthy conditions and that people around the world would give generously so Sweet Sleep can bring them a cozy, new bed soon.

Day 3 – 5 minutes

Say: "Alright – who out there has a dollar? Hold it up high – first one to hold up a dollar bill - join me here on stage. Now, what can you buy with a dollar." (*Ask the child on stage, then get more answers from the audience.*) "Today, we're going to have another chance to give to our missions offering for Sweet Sleep to help orphans get new beds. I want each of us to think about how we can give sacrificially this week for these orphans. Who can tell me what it means to sacrifice?" (*To give something for the sake of someone else.*) "This dollar could buy a 16 oz. coke, 2 candy bars, (*some other things the kids mentioned*). What I want to challenge us to do this week is to sacrifice so kids can sleep sweetly. If you were going to get a couple candy bars or a coke – consider going without those things so that orphans can have a place to sleep tonight. Let's give our volunteer a round of applause. If you have your offering, you can bring it forward as soon as I pray. Let's pray together."

Pray that God would help each of us be sacrificial givers – giving up things we want so that others can have the things they need.

Day 4 – 5 minutes

Say: "You guys have been doing awesome collecting money for beds for orphans! Thank you for being so faithful to God by giving these offerings to Him. Today, I wanted to share with you what else your offerings will provide. When Sweet Sleep goes into a new orphanage, not only do kids get brand new beds **[new bed pictures]** with solid frames, thick foam mattresses, vinyl mattress and pillow covers to protect the new beds, comfy new sheets, a fluffy new pillow and a cozy new comforter, but they also receive a Bible **[kid with Bible picture]** in their language. Raise your hand and tell me your favorite verse." (*You may want to talk to a few kids before hand to have their verse picked out and ready to read.*) "Can you imagine if you had never heard these verses before? What if you didn't have a Bible to read and no one around you did either? Kids in these orphanages are so excited to get their new Bibles! Look at them reading so intently!" **[pictures of kids with Bibles]** "One of my favorite verses is James 1:27 – (*put verse on screen if possible*) Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. God calls us to look after orphans and widows. There are lots of ways we

can do that, and helping these orphans get beds is such an important one. Let's pray together and collect our offering."

Pray with the kids. Ask God to help us understand our calling to minister to orphans and widows. Thank God for allowing you to be a part of His plan and for blessing each of us so we can be a blessing to those who need our help. Pray for the children who will receive the beds and Bibles you'll raise the money for – pray that they will read them and understand what they read as they apply God's Word to their lives.

Day 5 (or Family Night) – 10 minutes

Say: "We have had a great week together! And it's been really exciting to learn about the needs of orphaned and abandoned children around the world and how we can help them get clean, comfortable new beds!" *(If parents are there and haven't been the rest of the week, fill them in on what Sweet Sleep does, mentioning that you're sure their sons and daughters have filled them in! Ask them to consider joining their children in giving sacrificially so orphans can sleep sweetly. Mention how much our own beds cost – then ask parents to consider giving that much for orphans to get new beds – think how many beds that would provide – since beds for Third World orphans are just \$250!)*

Say: "Today is the last day we'll be collecting our missions offering at VBS. Let's watch this video and see what the money we've given so far and the money we'll give today/tonight will do for orphans around the world."

Show the "**Hope for the Nations**" video.

Collect the offering. Play "**You Said**" by Rita Springer.

Pray -- asking God to help each of us continue looking for ways to live out our James 1:27 calling to minister to orphans and widows.