



Characteristics of a Missional Lifestyle

Children learn to become disciples of Jesus Christ who live on mission in a variety of ways. Here are the four missional characteristics that lead to a missional lifestyle:

- **Learn about Missions**—Children hear the stories of missionaries living near and far and find out the many ways these people share the love of Christ with the people around them. This exposes children to the redemptive gospel of Jesus Christ and couples that with a concern for the people of the world. Believing in Jesus goes hand in hand with sharing Him with others.
- **Pray for Missions**—As children learn about missions and people engaging in mission action all over the world, they are encouraged to be a part of this effort through prayer. Voicing prayers of supplication for missionaries gets children outside of themselves and opens up new doors of the missional lifestyle.
- **Support Missions**—Children have the opportunity to support missions in a variety of ways. Supporting missions in this way creates a feeling of ownership within the hearts of children. The missions efforts they learn about and pray for are now directly impacted by the faithful giving of children.
- **Do Missions and Tell about Jesus**—As each characteristic builds upon the other, children are challenged more and more to take mission action into their own hands. Children who have already made a profession of faith in Christ themselves can engage in witnessing and sharing their testimonies. But children who have yet to become Christians themselves can also find ways to be involved. Sometimes it's just as simple as saying, "God loves me and He loves you too!"



How to Set Up Your CA Group

Children in Action helps boys and girls grow in their spiritual development as they learn the biblical basis of missions and discover their roles in God's plan.

CA groups can be structured in a variety of ways:

- all elementary-aged children in the same group
- lower elementary (grades 1–3) and upper elementary (grades 4–6) form two separate groups
- each grade level has its own CA group

Each church may determine the optimal number of children in each group, but should provide at least two leaders per group. More may be needed depending on the number of children expected.

Setting Up a Meeting Space for Your CA Group

Keep these things in mind as you prepare your meeting space:

1. **Curriculum**—Where will you keep your *Children in Action Leader* magazine, poster sheets, and copies of activity pages?
2. **Displays**—Is there a place to display the CA Pledge, Motto, and Scripture Verse?
3. **Craft supplies**—How and where can you store basic supplies in your meeting space?
4. **Children**—Where will children be during each part of your meeting?
5. **Child safety policies**—What are your church's policies concerning child safety?



Children in Action Leader Responsibilities

CASM leaders are responsible for planning, carrying out, and evaluating missions discipleship for children. Each group needs at least two adults per classroom for safety and security reasons. Additional leaders are advised when a specific situation would benefit from a smaller leader/child ratio. A church may have safety/security guidelines with a lower ratio of child per adult, and should follow those guidelines.

Leaders are specifically responsible for:

- setting goals and making overall plans for the year
- planning the sessions in CA
- leading missions learning experiences in sessions
- reflecting on the experiences of the group and adjusting as needed
- following the church's safety/security practices for receiving children at the beginning of sessions and releasing children at the close of sessions; suggesting additional safety/security practices if none exist or are laid-back
- communicating with parents or caregivers about their child's missions learning experiences and making suggestions of activities to reinforce missions discipleship in the home
- maintaining contact with parents or caregivers of participants, prospects, and absentees
- providing resources and gathering supplies for sessions
- working within the church budget designated for children's missions discipleship
- maintaining records (such as attendance) and reporting accomplishments
- involving members in preparing for and carrying out missions experiences as appropriate to their levels of development
- incorporating the plan of salvation into learning experiences as appropriate

Leaders for each Children in Action missions group determine how they will share leadership responsibilities. A church may have an experienced leader who serves as the lead teacher while another leader assists. In other churches, the leaders may divide responsibilities for planning and leading activities.

A church with more than one children's missions discipleship group may select a coordinator. This leader has the responsibility to:

- bring leaders together for coordinated planning
- coordinate activities or events for groups to do together, such as enlistment events
- coordinate training efforts for leaders, such as attendance at a state WMU training event
- enlist leaders
- order resources and supplies, or report needs to the person who orders for the church
- maintain records and report accomplishments to the church
- promote children's missions discipleship within the church
- Evaluate missions discipleship for children.