Introduction

Overview
Children will discover early churches were started in the countries we call Central Asia. Now, very few people living there know Jesus. They will also learn a little about the countries in Central Asia and Project 3000 explorers.

Bible Verse
"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Did you know you can access EXTRA free digital content? Go to tinyurl.com/6dt4wt8j and check it out!

OPENING

Welcome children with a game or activity of your own choosing. Or, complete this activity with your group as they arrive.

Learn, Observe, Pray
■ **SUPPLIES**
☐ Poster 23 from the *MJK Leader* Kit
☐ internet access

If you do not have internet access at your church, before the session, visit imb.org/central-asia/ and click on "Watch Video." Select the link titled "Central Asian Peoples Intro" at the top left of the video. Select the "Download" icon to download the video to your electronic device. Do the same for the "Fast Facts" and "Pray" documents (you may save "Pray" as a PDF to your device or print out).

1. As children arrive, direct them to the "February Focus Area Map" (Poster 23). Ask them to try to pronounce the names on the map. Say: *This month we are learning about people working in Central Asia. They are discovering the people groups living there.*
2. Go to imb.org/central-asia/. Show the video. Then click on "Fast Facts" and the photos (*optional*). Allow children to make observations about what they see.
3. If you have time, click on "Pray." Read the prayer requests and lead children to pray.
4. After everyone has arrived, take attendance. Recognize any children with birthdays this week. Recite the pledge, scripture verse, and motto for your group.

STORY

As you prepare to lead the Story activity, please take a moment to review the "younger" and "older" suggestions to use with this section. Remember that the story is also printed on p. 32 in MJK Adventure for children to read along. Use these instructions to create an engaging story time that fits the needs of your group!

Red Dots Where Paul Walked
The Apostle Paul lived in New Testament times. He was a follower of Jesus and he was a missionary. Paul started churches in Central Asia in a place that was called Asia Minor then. Paul started churches mostly in the country now called Turkey. Others were started in nearby countries. The people believed in Jesus, the son of God who rose from the grave.

Paul started those churches more than 2,000 years ago. Now most people who live in Central Asia follow the religion Islam. They are Muslims.

Project 3000 Explorers make friends with people in Central Asia. They find out how people live. They discover what people believe about God. Some people groups have moved to a new country. They often follow ways of their new country.

Central Asia has more than 365 million people. Only 1 out of every 10,000 of them believe in Jesus.

Or, you can think of it this way: Imagine a college football stadium full of people — about 50,000 of them. Now imagine that football stadium full of people is one red dot on a map. But your map has 7,300 red dots all over it. That is so many people! It is also the number of people in Central Asia who do not know Jesus.

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Project 3000 explorers are helping plan to reach these people with the good news about Jesus. You can help the explorers by praying for them and the people in Central Asia. God loves the people of Central Asia so much!

Term to Know
Islam – the religious faith of Muslims, including belief in Allah as God and in Muhammad as his prophet.

Choose one of the following younger/older activities for the story:

YOUNGER (GRADES 1–3)

Red Dot Jump
■ **SUPPLIES**
☐ *MJK Adventure*   ☐ black marker
☐ red construction paper   ☐ scissors
  or card stock   ☐ painter's tape

Before the session, cut out 11 circles (approximately 6 inches or larger) and write the following words, each on its own red circle: *Paul, New Testament, churches, Central Asia, Asia Minor, Muslims, Project 3000, explorers, research, red dot, 50,000.* (*Note:* If your group is larger than 11 children, duplicate the dots. If your group is smaller, give some children more than one dot.)

1. Read "Red Dots Where Paul Walked" (p. 32 in *MJK Adventure*) aloud to children.
2. Give each child a red "dot." Say: *Look at the word on your dot. Listen for that word as I retell the story. When you hear your word, jump up and sit back down. If you have more than one word, show the correct word when you stand.*
3. Reread the story.
4. Ask each child to read their word and share how it fits into the story. Tape each word to the wall as it is explained.

Option: If you have a small group, consider taping each dot to the floor, about an arm's-length apart. Before you reread the story, instruct children to stand a jump's length away from one of the dots. When he hears the word in front of him, the child will hop onto the word and then off again. If needed, one child may cover up to three words.

OLDER (GRADES 4–6)

Red Dot Multiplication
■ **SUPPLIES**
☐ Poster 23 from the   ☐ scratch paper
  MJK Leader Kit   ☐ pencils
☐ *MJK Adventure*   ☐ timer

Before the session, copy the "February Focus Area Map" (Poster 23) and cut into squares.

1. Ask for volunteers to help read "Red Dots Where Paul Walked" (p. 32 in *MJK Adventure*) aloud.

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2. Pair children. Give each pair a map square, a pencil, and paper.
3. Tell children they will count the dots on their square. Set a timer for one minute.
4. When the timer goes off, instruct children to multiply their count by 50,000. They can also multiply by 50 then add three zeros to their answer.
5. Ask: *Were you able to count every red dot in your square? Why not? What does the story say about each red dot?* Allow each pair to announce how many people are represented in their square.
6. Discuss why it is so important for missionaries to go to share the good news about Jesus. Remind children that God loves people in Central Asia just as much as He loves people in the US. Spend time praying for the people in Central Asia to have an opportunity to hear about Jesus.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Connect what children have learned so far with the Scripture focus of the month. Use the following activity to introduce the Scripture and make those connections!

Red Dot Scripture
■ **SUPPLIES**
☐ Poster 22a from the   ☐ white paper *(optional)*
  MJK Leader Kit   ☐ red markers *(optional)*
☐ red construction paper   ☐ red dot stickers
☐ markers

1. Display the "February Memory Verse" (Poster 22a) and invite children to read the verse aloud with you.
2. Say: *We are learning about this Scripture verse this month because the Project 3000 explorers are obeying Jesus. They are going to people in Central Asia. They are building relationships and telling people about Jesus in Central Asia.*
3. Lead the group to say the verse out loud together again.
4. Give each child a paper and marker. Instruct them to copy the verse on the paper. If you have new writers, lead them to write *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:19a.*
5. Give children stickers to decorate the verse with red dots. Remind them each red dot represents 50,000 people in Central Asia who do not know Jesus.

ADVENTURE ACTIVITY

Complete one or both of these activities as a group using the instructions found in Missions Journey: Kids Adventure.

Fast Facts Climb
■ **SUPPLIES**
☐ *MJK Adventure*   ☐ number cubes
☐ buttons (one per   (one per pair)
  child) or miniatures   ☐ painter's tape *(optional)*
  (Ex. computers, pith   ☐ construction paper
  helmets, backpacks,   *(optional)*
  etc.; one per child)   ☐ markers *(optional)*

1. Put children in pairs. Give each child a button or miniature to use as a game token.
2. Turn to "Fast Facts Climb" (p. 33 in *MJK Adventure*). Tell children to follow the instructions.
3. As each pair finishes the game, review what they learned about Central Asia and Project 3000.

Optional: Create a life-size gameboard by printing the spaces on construction paper. Tape the construction paper on the floor. Use stairs to create a mountainous effect!

Be an Explorer
■ SUPPLIES

□ *MJK Adventure*
□ Poster 17 from the *MJK Leader* Kit
□ oval paper plate (1 per child)
□ 11x15 tagboard (1 per child)
□ brown shipping tape (*optional*)
□ black and brown permanent markers
□ scissors

□ stapler
□ large button (1 per child)
□ glue
□ packing tape
□ utility knife (*optional*; adult use only)
□ hot glue and gun (*optional*)
□ decoration (*optional*)
□ internet access (*optional*)

Before the session copy "Pith Helmet Template" (Poster 17), one per child. To save time, consider pre-tracing crown pieces and cutting the center out of the paper plates. Cut pieces apart for younger children.

1. Read "Explorers Discover Unreached People" (p. 34 in *MJK Adventure*). (*Optional:* Watch Project 3000 (Day in the Life) to help children learn what an explorer's day is like: vimeo.com/850839395).
2. Say: *Let's make a pith helmet. A pith helmet is the kind of helmet explorers in movies often wear. In the 1800s, it was a common helmet of people exploring new places and people on safari. This helmet will help us remember to pray for the Project 3000 explorers.*
3. Prepare helmet pieces by cutting them out as indicated.
4. If you are using the brown packing tape, cover the brim, the wide strip left after cutting the oval out of the paper plate.
5. Fold the crown pieces on the inside lines toward the printed side. Match notches and staple pieces together. To staple the final piece, you will have to reach inside the helmet. Consider taping the final pieces together before stapling.
6. Slide brim over the top of the crown. Attach to the crown with packing tape. Put a bead of glue on the inside of the hat where brim and crown meet.
7. Use markers to draw in the leather straps and the band that goes around the hat.
8. Trace around the button on a piece of tagboard. Cut out the shape. Glue the button to the tagboard and the tagboard to the top of the helmet, closing the opening. If the opening is too large, staple

the side pieces together on the underside of the helmet.
9. Each child should write their names on the underside of the brim.
10. Lead children in praying a sentence prayer for Project 3000 explorers.

PRAYERTIME

Guide your group to participate in this activity together.

Praying for the Red Dots
■ SUPPLIES

□ *MJK Adventure*
□ red construction paper
□ tape

□ copies of "Family Missions Focus" (p. 59, one for each child)

Before the session, cut out circles (approximately 6 inches, one per child) and write *Turkey* on each one.

1. Read about the Week 1 "February Missionaries of the Week" (p. 44 in *MJK Adventure*).
2. Lead children in reading prayer requests and praying for these requests using the missionary's names.
3. Display a red dot labeled "Turkey." Ask a child to remind the group what the red dot means. Give each child a red dot. Pray together for the people in Turkey to know Jesus and for Christians in Turkey to share Jesus with family and friends.
4. If you made pith helmets, collect them to use the rest of the month. (*Tip:* Consider making extra helmets or purchasing plastic ones for children who may join in later weeks.)
5. Send home with each child a copy of "Family Missions Focus" (p. 59). If your group will be participating in the Week 4 Outreach ("Encouragement Bags," p. 53), include information for parents.

Helping the Helpers
Create a "banner of love" using butcher paper and markers. Allow children to decorate the paper and write messages of appreciation to church leaders and helpers. Create one banner for all helpers or individual banners for each leader. Hang where leaders and helpers will see.