



## A Mission Story: Helping Children Have 10/40 Vision

By Karin L. Semler

Do you have 20/20 vision? Glasses, contact lenses, and laser surgery aid those of us whose unaided vision is less than perfect. Clear vision helps us to understand the world around us. You can aid your students to have “10/40” vision—a clear mission vision of the need to bring the Gospel to all people.

### What is the 10/40 Window?

The area between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north of the equator has been named the 10/40 Window. It stretches from West Africa to Japan. The 10/40 Window is home to the largest population (86 percent) of unreached people groups—people who have never heard the name of Jesus, people who do not have the Bible in their own language, people who have few or no Christians living among them. Most of the world’s Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus live within the 10/40 Window. Many countries within the 10/40 Window are closed to, or impose severe restrictions on, Christian mission work. Yet here is the greatest need for Jesus’ love and salvation to be proclaimed!

### Promoting Clear Mission Vision

You can increase your students’ mission vision for the 10/40 Window. Use some of these teaching techniques to assist them.

- Post a map in your room. Using a colored pen and yardstick, draw a box around the area of the 10/40 Window.
- Read and make a list of the countries found in the 10/40 Window. Ask the children which countries they have heard of.

- Pray each week for the people in a country located in the 10/40 Window. Pray that God would raise up missionaries to go to these countries. Pray for the Christians who live there—that their faith would be strengthened and that they would be able to witness to people around them.
- Learn about the unreached people groups in these countries. (Information about these groups can be obtained by searching for “unreached people groups” in most Web browsers.) You may want to select one unreached people group to learn more about and regularly pray for in your classroom.
- Find out about LCMS missionaries working in the 10/40 Window. Call 1-800-433-3954, for more information.
- Help your students understand the main beliefs of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. These religions are growing in all parts of North America. There is a good chance that your students will encounter people of these religions. With some basic knowledge of these religions your students will be better able to pray for and witness to people of other religions.
- Create a wall mural or collage with images of people from the 10/40 Window. Look for pictures in magazines such as *National Geographic*. This type of art can serve as a visual prayer prompt.
- Point out to your students that most of the Bible’s events took place in towns or cities that are within the 10/40 Window. Pray that the true God will soon be worshiped again in this part of the world!

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