

Level: Elementary School

Bible Verse: "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

Objectives:

- **Identify** what it means to be sent by God
- **Explore** how one person has answered God's call to be sent to evangelize
- **Challenge** students to participate with OCMC to send missionaries
- **Act** by collecting funds in the Mission Coin Boxes throughout Great Lent to support this work

Overview:

- Opening Prayer
- Icebreaker - Volunteer for the Unknown
- Activity #1 - Read and discuss the Bible Verse, Isaiah 6:8
- Activity #2 - Read and discuss the story of Sending Savas
- Activity #3 - Timor Maze
- Activity #4 - Assemble OCMC coin boxes

Materials: Items for icebreaker (see Icebreaker activity section), copies of the maze(s) for each student, pens/pencils

Pray: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we pray for all people from all nations that they may come to know You. Help us to care for the spiritual and physical needs of others around us and around the world. Teach how to show Your love and peace to others. Grant us the courage to answer Your call. Amen.*

Icebreaker: Volunteer for the Unknown

Ahead of time, gather a few items, one of which would be a "treat" for the kids to receive (ex. candy) and one which would be less desirable (ex. packet of mustard).

Ask for a child to volunteer, but don't tell them what they are volunteering to get. Select one volunteer, thank them for volunteering, and give them the undesirable item. Then ask for a second volunteer. The children will likely need some coaxing this time around. This time, thank the new volunteer and give them the treat item.

Explain that when we volunteer to serve the Church through missions, we don't know what we will get. Sometimes it can be hard. Sometimes it is really exciting! No matter what, though, we are needed.

Activity #1: Bible Verse

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

Read the verse together several times.

Explain that Isaiah was a famous prophet in the Old Testament. God needed someone to be sent to serve, and so Isaiah volunteered. Isaiah didn't know what would happen to him. He just knew that God called him, and he had to answer that call.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why would Isaiah answer God's call without knowing what he was volunteering for?
2. Why do you think God calls us?

Activity #2: Sending Savas

God calls all of us to live out our Christian faith in different ways. When we answer His call, amazing things can happen! This is exactly what is happening today with a young man named Savas, from the country of East Timor.

Savas grew up in East Timor as a shepherd and took care of buffalo and goats there. He also loved playing soccer, even though he usually lost. As a child, Savas wasn't involved in church, and he didn't care about praying or reading from the Bible. This all changed, however, when his friend taught him how to pray.

With his friend's help, Savas started to pray every day. Once he began praying, he noticed that his life was changing. He began winning every soccer competition he entered. After that, he decided to dedicate his life to prayer and serving God.

Savas wanted to help the Orthodox Church grow in Timor, and so he started helping with the Orthodox Church Mission in East and West Timor. For Savas, this was how God called him. And just like Isaiah the Prophet, Savas answered God's call.

He realized that he needed to learn more about Orthodoxy, however, and so in 2014 he traveled to the city of Medan, Indonesia. There, he studied the Orthodox Christian faith at the theological school. Finally, in 2018, he graduated from that school, was ordained a deacon and then a priest, and came back to his home country of East Timor, where he is building up the Church.

Back when he first started to pray, Savas had no idea that he would someday become a priest and help share his faith with the people on his island. Amazing things happen when we follow God's call and go where He is sending us!

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God call Savas? How did Savas answer God's call to be sent?
2. Why is it important for people like Savas to be sent into the world?
3. How can we help the people who are being sent by God?

Activity #3: Timor Maze

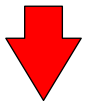
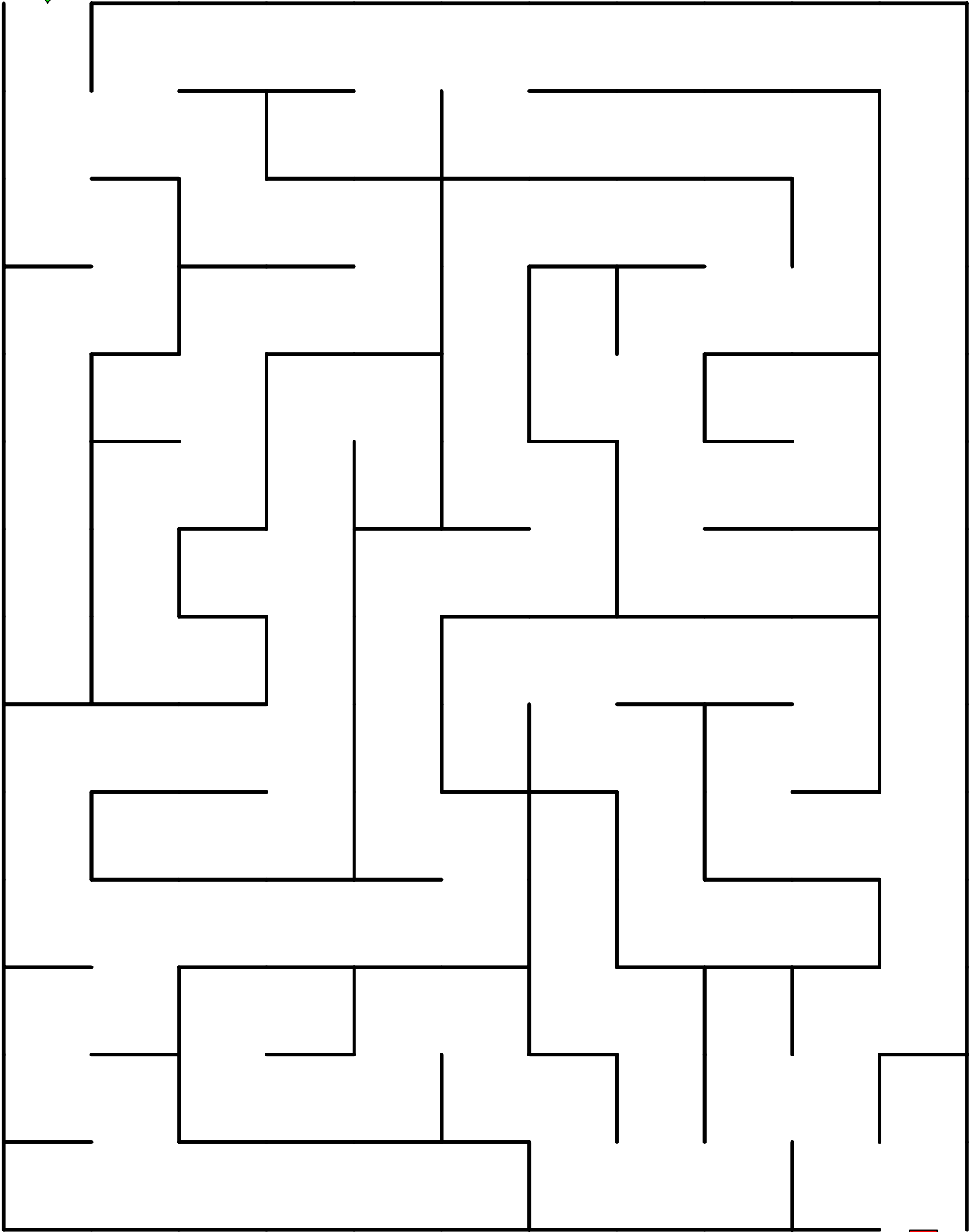
Timor is an island in Southeast Asia. The west part of the island is part of Indonesia. The east part is its own country, East Timor. The island is about the same size as the US state of Maryland. Over 3 million people live on Timor.

(Two mazes are included, distribute based on the children's skill levels.)

Activity #4: Assemble the OCMC Coin Boxes

Discuss how these funds will be used to support the ministries of the Mission Center to send people who have answered God's call. Send the boxes home with the students and ask them to fill them and return the boxes at a time you decide upon. Encourage the class to pray for OCMC missionaries and mission priests regularly.

MISSIONS MAZE (K-2nd)



MISSIONS MAZE (3rd-6th)

