

## MIO 2019 Mission Study for Adults

### Distribute:

- Prayer Guide/bulletin inserts or MIO Newspaper Pullouts. (These were included in the MIO Kit that was mailed to IBSA churches. You may contact us for more at [MIO@IBSA.org](mailto:MIO@IBSA.org), or download and print your own from [MissionIllinois.org](http://MissionIllinois.org))
- Make copies of the “Listening Sheet” at the end of this lesson. Provide one for each person in attendance, along with pens.

**Note:** In the study there are opportunities for participants to contribute to the teaching with a personal testimony about a missions trip they took, and a “windshield tour” of gospel-need in your area. You may wish to assign these activities a week or two before the mission study.

Blessed  
to bless  
others

**Opening prayer and hymn:** “Send the Light”-- noting “the Macedonian call” (5 minutes)

(Optional): You might also consider showing the YouTube video “The Macedonian Call” which features photographs from Macedonia, Philippi, and Athens, set to the song “You Make All Things New.”

**Segment 1:** *Everyone Hears* (10 minutes)

**Segment 2:** Bible study on “The Macedonian Call” (15 minutes)

**Segment 3** (optional): *Illinois Focus* (10 minutes)

**Segment 4:** Prayer for state missions (20 minutes)

### ► Watch:

MIO 2019 Video “Everyone Hears” and take notes on the ministry of IBSA and Immanuel Baptist Church of Benton. Or read the story in the “MIO Newspaper.” Or download the print version from [MissionIllinois.org](http://MissionIllinois.org).

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## ► Discuss:

- How is it possible that people in Illinois have not heard the gospel in a way they can understand?
- Do you think most Christians understand the gospel well enough to explain it?
- If you learned a gospel presentation such as Romans Road or 3 Circles, can you make a brief presentation?
- How do you recognize divine appointments when God has arranged for a gospel conversation?

## ► Read: Acts 16:6-15

Paul, Timothy, and Silas have made several attempts to move into Asia, only to meet roadblocks. It is not until Paul has a nighttime vision that he understands the mind of God concerning his next ministry location. God wants Paul to go specifically to Macedonia.

There are many valid reasons that Paul could have been motivated to minister in any of those places: Paul has shared the gospel in variety of locations. He is called to minister salvation to the Gentiles. His heart's concern is that people will come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ just as he himself did.

But the call to Macedonia has another element: It comes with the directive from God. God's heart is for Paul to evangelize in Philippi. God has made all the arrangements for Paul and his traveling band to meet up with people who are ready to receive the gospel.

Why is the concept of “the Macedonian call”—a specific call to a specific place—significant to the spread of the gospel?

Paul's vision in Acts 16 seems a lot like Peter's vision in Acts 10 (especially verses 19-20). Why might both men have objected to the assignments given them in their visions? (It's a lot like telling Jews to help Samaritans.)

**Name at least four specific ways** the Holy Spirit was involved in sending Paul, Silas, and Timothy to Philippi.

Lydia might be described as a “person of peace” in Philippi. Using Luke 10:6 as a foundation verse, modern-day church planters often look for someone who is open to the gospel to welcome them in a new setting. How does Lydia meet the description, as outlined in Luke 10:6? How does Shawn Ruffino from Immanuel Baptist Church in Benton serve that purpose in neighboring Sesser, the town where his church is holding outreach events?

Has your church ever had a “Macedonian call” from people in another area to help them start a ministry, Bible study group, or new church? How did your church respond?

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Is there an area or people group that might issue such a call for assistance today?

Consider looking at a map. Or you may wish to assign someone to take a “windshield tour” prior to the mission study and report their findings. Like the Sesame Street song says, “Who are the people in your neighborhood?”

If your church undertook an “Everyone Hears” project as Immanuel Baptist Church in Benton did, how would you go about identifying the people or place? How would you build support for the project?

**(If time allows) WATCH:** MIO 2019 video “Illinois Focus” with Nate and Beth Adams. Take notes on the listening sheet.

## ► Discuss:

From this video, name four things Illinois Baptist churches are able to do together that none of them would be able to do individually.

Which of these has your church participated in?

Why is the word “cooperation” important in the vocabulary of Southern Baptist churches?

Why is it important for your church to aid others in their ministry, and vice versa?

Think about the numbers involved in Illinois: 13-million residents, and at least 8-million of them are lost. What does this tell you about the importance of state missions?

If anyone has participated in a mission trip in another part of the state, ask them to share about their experience. How was the gospel shared? How receptive were the people? How did the trip change the opinions or prayer life of mission trip participants?

**PRAY:** Distribute the Prayer Guide/bulletin inserts or MIO Newspaper Pullouts. Depending on the size of your group, divide the 8 days of prayer requests among the participants. Pray for them in pairs, or all together, as you see fit.

- Pray for giving through the Mission Illinois Offering to increase for 2019 to meet the growing ministry needs in Illinois.
- Pray for all IBSA missionaries and ministry staff.
- Pray for your church’s participation in ministries that advance the gospel and help bring lost people to salvation.
- Pray for God to show your church leaders or missions team a nearby place or people group in need of a gospel witness and possibly a new church.

If you use this mission study with your church or missions group, please send me your summary of your group’s response to it. We want to improve the materials for future use. I’d like to hear from you. Thanks! [EricReed@IBSA.org](mailto:EricReed@IBSA.org)

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## MIO 2019: *Everyone Hears* Listening Sheet

**Directions:** Watch the MIO video and fill in the blanks below. Learn how your family and church could apply the Everyone Hears initiative to your community.

1. At least, \_\_\_\_\_ lost in Franklin County.
2. The purpose of Everyone Hears is so that every \_\_\_\_\_, woman, boy, and girl in a certain region can experience, see, and hear the gospel multiple times in a \_\_\_\_\_ they can understand.
3. Everyone Hears helps existing churches identify places in Illinois with few or \_\_\_\_\_ churches and where many people need to hear the gospel.
4. Road maps: How are we going to own \_\_\_\_\_?
5. Intentional ways to reflect God's love to the community:
  - a. Bible on every \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Block Party
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ on every door
6. Out of the harvest of those who come to know Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ them together to form new churches.
7. Take Easter to the community: nearly \_\_\_\_\_ attended and at least 60 of them were unchurched.
8. What is the new testament church supposed to focus on? Everyone Hears is about praying, caring, and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Through MIO, Illinois Baptist churches are being \_\_\_\_\_ to share Christ, baptize new believers, and make disciples.
10. This story is about IBSA's heart for each Illinois community. How can you implement Everyone Hears in your community? Would you need some support from IBSA? How are you blessed to bless others? Please list at least two ideas or a plan of action here.

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# MIO 2019 Mission Study for Adults

## MIO 2019: Illinois Hears Listening Sheet

**Directions:** Watch the MIO video and fill in the blanks below. Consider how you are blessed to bless others – and how you can contribute to state missions in Illinois.

**State Missions:** God at \_\_\_\_\_ in Illinois

### What does state missions look like?

1. Leadership \_\_\_\_\_: helping churches become effective in their context, understand their community, know effective evangelism practices, and have good resources
2. Problem-solving: tax issues, legal issues, and difficult \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. At any one given time, \_\_\_\_\_% of IBSA churches are without a pastor.
3. Church Planting:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ new churches per year in Illinois
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ locations need new churches
4. Mobilization: mobilize members for mission opportunities
  - a. 140 \_\_\_\_\_ projects
  - b. 2,500 Illinois Southern Baptists participated in IBSA projects
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ volunteers serve yearly in their church and community missions
5. Evangelism: equipping churches to share Christ
  - a. There are at least \_\_\_\_\_ million people in Illinois do not know Christ.
6. I get to see what happens when churches partner with \_\_\_\_\_ other Illinois Baptist churches across the state to share the gospel.
7. Join us as we pray for what God will do with state missions. Is your church involved in state missions? Consider how God may be calling you and your church family to join IBSA in an effort to share Christ in Illinois. Write down an opportunity your church could take part in today:

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