

God's world

How will they receive?

The salvation message is changeless and true, yet the way in which the message is delivered plays a huge role in how it is received by the hearer. God has chosen our family to be His messengers and we desire to be wise and share the salvation message well. To be trusted and accepted by those from another culture, we must become a family of love and humility, with a willingness to serve.



1 Thessalonians. 2:8 (NIV)

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become dear to us."

Study it

Read the account of Philip, God's messenger to the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26–40. Was Philip willing to share with someone different from him? How did Philip's questions create an opportunity to share? How did the Ethiopian receive the message? An exciting result was that the word of God spread to Ethiopia!

Experience it

- ▶ Wise messengers take time to learn about those to whom they are delivering God's message. One way to show interest in a person's culture is by asking questions. As a family, role play how you would interact with a person from another country or culture. What questions would you ask? Find an opportunity to invite an international person into your home.
- ▶ Another way to show interest in a person's culture is to enter into it. Eat a meal from another culture that would stretch your family's taste buds. Your goal is to eat it all with smiles and thankfulness, enjoying conversation, without complaining or being rude so you will be well received.

Discuss it

- 1 How would you feel if someone visited your home, complained about what you ate, and only spoke their own language?
- 2 What are some character qualities that help a messenger be well received? (1 Timothy 4:12)
- 3 How do the actions and attitudes of our family impact the way the gospel message is received?

Map it

Have each family member pick a country on the map. Brainstorm specific character qualities that would help a messenger's words be well received there. Pray for messengers in that country, asking God to give them the qualities you named.