



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

How are you
called?

Laura Schlabach

Opening question

What are some ways that people serve God and tell others about Jesus?

Story

Laura grew up in a church in Ohio, probably a lot like the church you're in right now. When she was in college, she studied math and decided to become an accountant. (Clarify here what this means.) While she was at a Christian concert one night, Laura heard a message from the singer that made her think, "I am called to serve God in another country."

But she was studying math and accounting! She didn't know if people in other countries needed accountants.

(Ask the children if they know what kinds of jobs mission workers have. Most people think of missionaries as being teachers, preachers, doctors or nurses.)

Laura decided to serve God in Pennsylvania by doing her accounting there. But she still thought she was supposed to go somewhere far away.

In 1993, she talked to someone at Mennonite Board of Missions (a predecessor agency of Mission Network) and was told, "We need an accountant in Mongolia."

(Show the children where Mongolia is on a map, or talk about how it's on the other side of the globe.)

"This was the clearest call I had ever received," Laura said. She went to Mongolia to be an accountant and a manager for an organization that helps people in Mongolia learn about God while also helping them get food and other things they need.

Laura says, "After serving in Mongolia for 18 years, I can see that administrators—accountants, directors, managers—are needed on the mission field, too."

Closing

End your time with the children by asking them what they like to do and what they are good at. Laura Schlabach liked math. Then ask them to think about ways that their talents and gifts can be used to show the love of Jesus to people around them.



Photos from Mongolia—a city nestled in the mountains, a ger (traditional Mongolian house), and camels in the wide open landscape.