

## Around the World With Billy Graham

*"I am convinced, through my travels and experiences, that  
people all over the world are hungry to hear the Word of God."*

—Billy Graham

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Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, are welcomed after arriving at the airport in Seoul, South Korea, in May 1973.

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**GRADE LEVEL**

3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>

*“I have walked down jungle trails in Africa where I met fellow Christians; and immediately we were brothers even though we were separated by language, race, and culture.”*  
—Billy Graham

**OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to:

- Identify five of the countries visited by Billy Graham.
- Describe at least two of the cities where he preached.
- Identify some of the obstacles created by working and preaching in a foreign country.

**NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY**

- **3.SI.1** Categorize sources of information for specific purposes.
- **3.IN.1** Apply strategies that are appropriate when reading for enjoyment and for information.
- **4.SI.1** Apply criteria to determine appropriate information resources for specific topics and purposes.
- **5.SI.1** Apply criteria to determine appropriate information resources for specific topics and purposes.

**Pre-Visit Activities**

- Read and review the attached information with students, and discuss the following questions about three of the cities listed, conducting additional research when necessary.
  - On what continent and in what country is the city located? Does it border an ocean or a river? If so, which one?
  - In what kind of environment is the city located?
  - What language do the people speak in this city? Would Billy Graham have needed a translator when preaching there?
  - What kind of challenges might he have faced in this city? If he were to preach in this city today, would he face the same challenges?

**Visit to the Library**

- Students will walk through *The Journey of Faith* tour with an assigned guide. Questions and themes to consider include:
  - Do you notice any items specifically related to Billy Graham’s travels? If so, what are they?
  - What items do you notice that are from a particular city or Crusade?
  - Do you notice any items that have text in a foreign language? What are those items?

**Post-Visit Activities**

- Ask students to research one of the cities shown on the next page in more detail and create a profile sheet of that city. Include its weather, language(s), major religion(s), etc. Ask students to consider how these factors might have affected Billy Graham and the Crusade. (For example: *The rain, sleet, and snow in London made the Crusade team worry that no one would come to the meetings.*)
- Ask students to imagine they have a pen pal in one of the six cities highlighted. Their pen pals attended the Billy Graham Crusade. What questions would they like to ask their pen pals about the Crusade?

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR HISTORY IN THE SCHOOLS

• **Historical Thinking**

**Standard 5:** Identify issues and problems in the past and analyze the interests, values, perspectives, and points of view of those involved in the situation.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

• **NSS-G.K-12.1 The World in Spatial Terms:**

◦ As a result of activities in grades K–12, all students should understand how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

◦ Understand how to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.

• **NSS-G.K-12.2 Places and Regions:**

◦ As a result of activities in grades K–12, all students should understand how culture and experience influence people’s perceptions of places and regions.

• **NSS-G.K-12.6 The Uses of Geography:**

◦ As a result of activities in grades K–12, all students should understand how to apply geography to interpret the past.

“Ask God to help you see the world the way He sees it.”

—Billy Graham

## Pre-Visit Reading: Overview

Billy Graham was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, but he didn’t stay there long. During more than 70 years of ministry, he traveled to over 185 countries and territories across the globe and to all 50 states in the U.S. Along the way, he preached the Good News of Jesus Christ to more than 215 million people face to face, more than anyone else in history.

Here’s a closer look at six of the cities and countries Billy Graham visited:



NOTES



Billy Graham greets congregants at the Church of the Resurrection in Durban, South Africa, on March 18, 1973.

- **London, England:** In 1952, two British Christian leaders asked Billy Graham if he would consider holding a Crusade in London. Two years later, Graham and his wife, Ruth, boarded the ocean liner *SS United States*, bound for England. Thousands of Christians all over the world prayed for that Crusade. It turned out to be the biggest evangelism event in England during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At least 1.75 million people attended the Crusade during its three-month period. BBC radio—Britain’s main news source—even broadcast some of the Crusade’s sermons nationwide.
- **Seoul, South Korea:** In 1973, Billy Graham traveled to Seoul, the capital of South Korea. During the closing service of the Crusade, Graham preached to more than 1 million people face to face—the largest live audience he ever addressed! Billy Kim, the interpreter who translated Graham’s sermons from English to Korean, later became one of the country’s most popular preachers.
- **Johannesburg, South Africa:** The same year that he held the South Korea Crusade, Billy Graham accepted an invitation to preach in South Africa. The country had strict apartheid laws, which made black people and white people sit apart from each other. But Graham insisted that he be allowed to preach to mixed audiences of all races—and the government let him! The services featured traditional African music, including performances from a Zulu quartet. At one meeting, 60,000 people came to hear the Gospel from Graham.

NOTES

- **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:** In 1974, Billy Graham traveled to Brazil for a five-day Crusade in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The closing meeting welcomed 225,000 people—the largest crowd ever to attend an evangelistic service in the Western Hemisphere. While preparing to preach, Graham could hear people beating on the locked doors as tens of thousands more tried to get in. On the orders of Brazil’s president, that last meeting was broadcast on all the TV networks across the country, and 50 million people reportedly watched. When Graham was ready to leave the stadium, the police escort was reluctant to open the gates for fear the crowd, in their enthusiasm, might riot.
- **Sydney, Australia:** Billy Graham visited Australia for the first time in 1959. He spent almost six months between it and its neighboring country New Zealand. By the end of his stay, nearly half of Australia’s population had heard Graham preach, either in person or by live broadcasts, which carried the Gospel message across the country. For decades after the Crusade, those who made new professions of faith in Christ during the meetings were called ‘59ers. “In Australia, Billy Graham was known as *the* evangelist. He was the guy,” explains Peter Furler, former lead singer of the popular Christian band Newsboys. “There are generations of Australians who follow Christ now because of Billy Graham. ... He had a massive impact in Australia.”
- **Madras (Chennai), India:** In January 1956, Billy Graham’s team embarked on a six-city tour of India. Madras, also called Chennai, was their second stop. The city was jammed with people who had traveled long distances to attend the Crusade. There were even 100 people from one faraway city who had ridden the train for days to get there. Many travelers couldn’t find a place to stay. Hundreds slept in the streets and then camped at the meeting site all day.

During the Crusade, Graham explained to his listeners that Christianity had been in India long before America was even discovered. He used two interpreters and two choirs to translate the messages into the two regional languages.