

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION STUDY FOR ADULTS 2026

More Than a Gift

“Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21, CSB).

Study Overview

The focal Scripture verses are Ephesians 3:20-21. Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus, a pagan, Gentile city. Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians while in prison in Rome and sought to encourage and strengthen the young church.

The theme for the 2026 Week of Prayer for North American Missions is “More Than a Gift.” Through our gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, our missionaries are sharing the gospel in places and ways they never imagined. They’re seeing that powerful message transform lives, families, and communities, not only here and now, but for eternity.

In this study, adults will learn about Kevin and Janelle Nehrt as they retired and joined Jordan and Jessamy Adams in planting The Chapel in West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University.

Prepare for the Study

- For the promotion of the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, order the free printed resources, including a theme poster, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelopes, a promotion guide, and prayer guides from your state convention office. Ordering information can be found at AnnieArmstrong.com/stateconventions.
- Work with missions leaders and other church leaders to plan aspects of the study, such as scheduling, scope, and promotion. Encourage these leaders to enlist church members to take ownership by helping in the planning and implementation of the study. You may choose to do the study as a special event or incorporate it into an existing meeting.
- Publicize the study through church bulletins, social media, churchwide announcements, newsletters, and so forth.
- Ask small groups and church members to pray for the study outcome. Pray that individuals will be inspired as they learn about mission efforts in North America and will eagerly support those who are serving as missionaries with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).
- Consider enlisting an outside speaker, such as a North American missionary, to address the church before beginning the study or as part of it.
- Explore the website, AnnieArmstrong.com/resources, for resources that will enhance the learning experience for your church.

- Download the study materials and video segment for adults from the website, AnnieArmstrong.com/retire. The video segment for adults features Kevin and Janelle Nehrt in West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University. If you don't have a way to show the video, share the story provided with the lesson plan.
- Other segments found online can be used anytime for study purposes or during the Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphases.
- Order or download and print enough 2026 Week of Prayer bookmarks and prayer guides for each participant or family to have one of each. Bookmarks can be ordered at AnnieArmstrong.com/resources.

Note: Your church has permission to download videos and other resources from AnnieArmstrong.com. Downloads are free. To order DVDs free of charge, call 1-800-634-2462 or email AAEO@namb.net. You can also check out the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Facebook page at facebook.com/aaeo.sbc.

Lead the Study

Before the Lesson

Prepare by viewing the video and reading the story about the Nehrts: AnnieArmstrong.com/retire.

Read the discussion activity sections after the story. Check out the links provided and select some or all of the suggested topics.

Have paper and pencils provided for each learner to take notes.

Introduction

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In this study, we will learn about Kevin and Janelle Nehrt, who, in their retirement years, joined Jordan and Jessamy Adams in planting The Chapel in West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University.

Transition to the missions lesson/video titled, “Back to School.”

Missions Lesson and/or Video

Show the video for the adult mission study or use the story below. Download or stream the video from here: AnnieArmstrong.com/retire.

Note: You may want to do both as they each will have more information than the other.

Use the discussion points listed at the end of this section or create your own to suit your class.

A New Season

How do you envision your retirement years? Buy a condo in your favorite vacation spot? Travel? Invest in your favorite hobbies? Enjoy life? Well, sometimes God interrupts our best laid plans with a better plan—one that impacts lives for eternity.

Kevin and Janelle Nehrt are alumni of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. They met there, got married after graduating, and moved to Michigan. Their plan was to stay in Michigan after retirement and enjoy life there. Thirty years later, God placed a call on their lives to return to West Lafayette and be part of planting The Chapel with Jordan and Jessamy Adams to disciple college students and others in the Purdue community.

Kevin says, “Our plan was to stay in Michigan after retirement and enjoy life there. Later on in my career, I guess I thought that I might be called into full-time ministry. Our church was looking for a pastor at the time. At the same time, the company where I worked was doing some downsizing, and so I thought I was going to lose my job, and it looked like God was maybe calling me into full-time ministry. I took some seminary classes in preparation for that, and we prayed about it and decided, yeah, if God calls us to this pastorate position, we’ll take it. And suddenly the doors closed, and we were very confused. I think really God was preparing our hearts for putting our ‘yes’ on the table. We had this idea, ‘Hey, God, we’ll do whatever You want us to do,’ at this point.”

Their son, Matthew, would soon enter college at Michigan State. In their search for a church for him, they learned about The Commons Church, which is a church planted through the partnership of the North American Mission Board and Salt Network—a ministry that plants churches near colleges and universities. Their aim is to disciple students.

Kevin and Janelle researched online, got interested, and went there to visit.

Janelle says, “We were just really impressed. One thing was that they had gathered 50 people to move to Lansing, and we were just like, ‘wow, why would you do that?’ That piqued our interest.”

The next generation’s excitement about the gospel prompted Kevin and Janelle to see if there was a church plant near their alma mater, Purdue University. They contacted the campus minister at the The Commons Church to see if Salt Network was planting at Purdue University. They were indeed! They were told about The Chapel in West Lafayette, Indiana, whose planter is Jordan Adams and his wife, Jessamy. The Nehrt’s reached out to Jordan, moved to Indiana, and—as they say—the rest is history. Kevin and Janelle are now an integral part of The Chapel. Janelle leads the kids’ ministry. Kevin is becoming an elder. They meet college students, disciple them, and invest in them. Young people respect their wisdom, especially as they are away from their parents. Jordan says they can’t imagine their church without Kevin and Janelle.

Kevin says, “We want to surrender our lives to God and see what He does with it. We have absolutely zero regrets. No looking back, it’s just amazing. And I believe God is fulfilling His best plan for our lives.”

There’s a saying, “We weren’t saved to sit—we were saved to be sent.” God has a purpose for each season of our lives, and He has something for us to do. Spend each season of your life impacting souls for eternity.

Discussion

1. Ask the class members what about this story or video impacted them the most and why.
2. Ask what their plans are for their “retirement” years.
3. How can we prepare for our next season of life/ministry?
4. Consider how we can support or join missionaries after retirement.
5. Explore *Leverage Your Life* at namb.net/send-network/leverage-your-life and discuss how you can use where you are right now for God’s glory.
6. To learn more about church planting and ministry opportunities across North America and in your state or city, explore namb.net/send-network, or contact the North American Mission Board at info@namb.net.

Close

No matter our age or stage in life, we can support missionaries like Jordan and Jessamy through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This offering helps support missionaries throughout North America. The goal is to see lives miraculously changed as people discover a new life in Christ. That’s something worth investing in.

Encourage participants to use the bookmarks as reminders to pray for these and all missionaries in North America throughout the year as they make Jesus known. Note that every dollar given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes directly to resourcing the mission and ministry of these missionaries across North America and not to administrative costs. We emphasize the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during the Easter season, but donations are accepted year-round.

Encourage participants to make a family goal to set aside a designated sum of money year-round. Decorate a jar or box in which to put the funds and celebrate as God blesses and multiplies the amount.

We can also pray for these missionaries. Distribute the prayer guides and bookmarks you downloaded or ordered from Anniearmstrong.com/resources.

Using the prayer guide, verbally review the ministries and prayer requests of all the missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions

Ask for volunteers to pray aloud for the Nehrts and The Chapel.

- Pray God will raise up leaders in the church to disciple new believers. .
- Pray God will provide a larger meeting space to accommodate this growing church. Presently, they are meeting in a space connected to a hotel in West Lafayette.
- Pray the hundreds of thousands of students worldwide will say “yes” to Jesus.