**United Mission is the Vehicle
Children’s Sermon: The Airplane Sermon**

(*The leader can start this by putting out arms & pretending to fly like an airplane for a few seconds. Then asking the kids:)*

Do you know what I’m supposed to be? What do you think I’m pretending I am? (*Kids answer.*)

That’s right – an airplane. (*optional based on your surroundings: Why don’t you all try it out for a minute? Just spread your wings, and we’ll have a flight) Or, ask –* Have you ever pretended you’re an airplane? Isn’t it fun to fly? Feeling the wind beneath our wings, zooming by the clouds, looking down at (Mom & Dad’s house, the school, etc.) as we go overhead?

Flying is a lot of fun. In the Bible, in the Book of Isaiah (40:31) it even says that God’s people will mount up with wings like eagles. Doesn’t that sound great? Doing God’s work is a lot of fun too. We can make a real difference by helping people. Sometimes these people are really far away from us, in other states or even other countries, so we use a plane to fly to where they are. When we get there, we might help them set up a church of their own, or build safe houses to live in, or come alongside them by offering help in ways they feel will be most helpful. These trips can also help us better understand who God is and how people in other parts of the world experience Jesus and his love. (*If anyone in your congregation has participated in a Mission trip this would be a good place to talk about it*)

Another reason American Baptists get on a plane is to fly somewhere where they can learn things. We go to conferences, camps and the Biennial Mission Summit to be with other American Baptists so we can grow in our faith, learn skills to do God's work, and get better at telling people all about Jesus and showing how he loves us. (*If your church has participated in the Biennial Mission Summit, this would be a good place to talk about it and how it impacted the church*.) The plane we use is called United Mission: it’s made to get us where we need to go so we can do the work that needs to be done.

One day you may even get to ride on the plane to go to God’s work in another part of the world to be the hands and feet of Christ. When it’s time, United Mission can help you make it happen. But for right now, right here, we have our fun pretend planes. (*Spread out arms in plane formation*) Are you ready to fly back to your parents?

**Scripture Reference:**

Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV)

31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

 they shall run and not be weary,

 they shall walk and not faint.