

2018 PRESCHOOL



TEACHING PLAN

LESSON OBJECTIVE

When preschoolers learn about missions, they learn that God loves them and other people. In this lesson, they will learn about the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and some of the mission activities and people it provides for in Arkansas.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Preschoolers learn best by participating in learning activities set up in interest centers. This lesson plan is for an hour. The children will begin choosing activities as they arrive. After 30-40 minutes, spend 5 minutes in clean-up and then have a 10- to 15-minute group time with prayer at the end. If you want to add a snack, cut the activity time to 30 minutes. It is important for mission leaders to have activities ready to go when the first child arrives. Do not feel like you have to provide all the activities. Choose three to five activities, depending on the children you will have and the size of your classroom. During activity time, play praise music or a CD of hymns that might be used in your church.

Special note: The story this year is about a student from the University of Arkansas. It tells of how she came to know Jesus through people and activities at the University of Arkansas BCM. BCM stands for Baptist Collegiate Ministry. There are many BCMs across the state at various colleges and universities. Plans are written for the University of Arkansas but can easily be changed to the college or university nearest your city. Adapt the plans to suit where you are and the school nearest to your city. The story should remain the same, as it is a true story, but items in the learning centers and activities can be changed to the college or university in your area.

HOME LIVING: UNIVERSITY ITEMS

Have items from the University of Arkansas (or your local university) available for the children to look at and try on, such as T-shirts, hats, caps and headbands. Add plastic cups and dishes or paper plates with the University logo. If possible, have a backpack with the school's logo and items inside such as paper, pencils, text books, and perhaps an empty water bottle from the school. Pompoms and Hog hats and noses would be

fun, as well. See if someone in your church has a yearbook from the University of Arkansas (or whatever school you are supporting) for the preschoolers to look through. Anything that the preschoolers might associate with the University of Arkansas will be good to have in this area. Preschoolers may pretend they are going to a ballgame or are off to school, or just enjoy trying on any University clothing you have available. (In order for preschoolers to get clothes on and off easily, a children's size 8 or 10 will be big enough to use as dress up.)

BLOCKS: BUILD UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

Have wooden blocks, cars, and people figures available in the block area. If you have a campus near you, drive by and take a picture of the BCM and other buildings on campus. Let the children build buildings and set up roadways for the cars and people. Help them to place crosswalks on the roads. (Masking tape is good to make roads.) Explain crosswalks and why we have them close to schools and universities. (Students who use crosswalks can cross safely when they walk to school.) Many university students park and ride buses or walk to classes.

BOOKS: MISSIONS BOOKS, UNIVERSITY BROCHURES, YEARBOOK, ARKANSAS BOOKS

Always place a children's Bible in the book area. We recommend *The Read to Me Bible for Kids*, available from LifeWay. There are others you may already have. If you have missions books from WMU for Mission Friends, use them. Books that will be good to have are *I Can Pray*, *I Can Give*, and *I Can Do It*, all by Angie Quantrell. Another is *My Community* by Jennifer Law. Other books about Arkansas can be used, as well. Remember to use books with real pictures, if possible. You might also have other books about Arkansas you could place in the book area. The photographer Tim Ernst has several picture books about Arkansas. Check with your local library to see what preschool books about Arkansas they have. Preschoolers don't know how to read, but they understand what you mean when you say "read a book." They might ask you to read it. You do that by reading the pictures!

ART: MAKE A DIXIE JACKSON BANK

You can buy from WMU a missions bank preschoolers can decorate with markers and stickers; the cost is \$9.99 for a package of 10 banks. You could also make them. Two popular methods are the milk carton bank and the empty baby food jar bank. To make the milk carton bank, use individual wax boxes and flatten the top. Cut a slot for money and wrap in white paper like a present. Let the preschoolers decorate with crayons, markers and stickers. The baby food jar needs to be clean and the lid should be fastened tightly. (I don't recommend gluing.) Wrap the side of the jar in white paper and allow the preschoolers to decorate. Another thing to do is to have a nickel or dime for each child to put in their bank when completed, to begin saving money. Sometimes this helps them want to add money when they get home. Some leaders make labels on the computer to put around the bank.

As the preschoolers work, tell them the story of Dixie Jackson. The story is included in the story activity. A longer version is available from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions team at absc.org. Remember that attention spans are short; we want to give basic information and not overwhelm the preschoolers. Explain about the offering and that you are making banks to collect money. Talk about ways the preschoolers can make money to go in their bank (ask grandparents, do a job for mom or dad, use money they receive for gifts).

Have available plain white paper for preschoolers to use for drawing and coloring. Let them use their imagination to create their own drawing. Write on the bottom of the page what the child tells you about the picture. Instead of asking, "What is it?" say, "Tell me about your picture." Allowing the child to create on plain paper encourages their imagination and thought process.

GAMES AND MANIPULATIVES: WORK A PUZZLE

Make a giant floor puzzle using an Arkansas highway map. Laminate the map and then cut in 8-10 pieces to make a puzzle. Before laminating, circle Fayetteville, Dardanelle, and the town you live in. Add other puzzles that you have in your resources at your church. Some that might be good are Biblical puzzles, family puzzles, and nature puzzles. Add a muffin tin and have a bowl of small keychains or items from the university. Let preschoolers sort the items, placing like items in one tin and different items in another.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: UNIVERSITY FIGHT SONG

Have available a recording of the University of Arkansas fight song. Provide pompoms and let the preschoolers march and shake the pompoms as the music plays. When you stop the

music, the children must freeze where they are. Then start the music again. This may be an activity you want to save for the end of the hour when waiting for parents.

SNACKS: SERVE SNACKS WE HAVE AT BALLGAMES

At the door, post the food you will be serving so parents can alert you concerning allergies. If you have young preschoolers, be safe with what you offer (applesauce and snack crackers). For older preschoolers, offer popcorn in sacks and small cups of water. If the snack needs to be more substantial based on the time of day or evening, offer mini hot dogs wrapped in foil as you would have at a ballgame.

TELL THE STORY

Gather supplies: If possible, and you have a bulletin board, secure a map of Arkansas. AAA has maps, and Arkansas tourist centers have them. Use a highway map or take one from the Internet. Mark Fayetteville and Dardanelle with push pins. Use push pins to mark your city or town, too. Circle the chairs around where the leader will sit in front of the map.

If possible, have a picture of Dixie Jackson for the children to see. You can find one on the ABSC website, absc.org; click on the "Missions" tab, and scroll down to find the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions link.

Introduction: Call the boys and girls to join you in group time. Other teachers should sit behind the group and be able to move to a talking or wiggling child. Start off by singing or chanting the song "Open, Shut Them":

Open, shut them, give a little clap (*clap hands once*)

Open, shut them, put them on your knees.

If your children know this song, they will be expecting you to sing "put them on your lap." Sing one or two verses and put them on toes, shoulders, eyes or whatever you think of. For the last verse, sing "lap."

STORY

Call attention to the map. Point out where you live and then say, "This is where we live. Many years ago there was a lady who lived in Dardanelle, Arkansas, and her name was Dixie Jackson (show picture of Dixie Jackson and show where Dardanelle is on the Arkansas map). Mrs. Jackson was married and had 8 children. She loved Jesus very much, and she wanted the people in Arkansas to tell other people about Jesus. She taught many people how to tell others about Jesus.

Every year, churches in Arkansas have a special offering called the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. This offering is named after Mrs. Jackson, and the money we give is used to

help missionaries in our state tell people about Jesus.” If your church uses special offering envelopes for Dixie Jackson, show an envelope to the children.

“We are going to talk about someone who goes to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Her name is Sierra Chavez. She grew up in Rogers and decided she wanted to go to the University of Arkansas for college. She moved into the dormitory (a place where lots of people live together in one building) and started to go to school. After a few weeks she was very worried because she had lots of hard homework and not many friends, and it was very hard. She walked by a building one day and there was a sign that said, ‘Are you stressed? Come in here.’

She went inside. It was called the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, and it was a place for college students to learn about Jesus. The students called it the BCM. That stands for Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Everyone was very friendly. The leader’s name is Cole Penick. They made Sierra feel welcome. They told her about Jesus and how much he loves her. She didn’t understand at first, but she went back another time and they showed her in the Bible where it says Jesus loves everyone. They helped her understand about the Bible and know more about Jesus.

Sierra learned to tell stories from the Bible, and she made new friends who really love her. They invited her to go to church with them, and she started singing in the choir. She learned to love Jesus and wanted to tell others about him, especially the students she was in class with. She was taking classes in acting and how to do plays on a stage, and a lot of students in her class did not know Jesus. Sierra decided she wanted to love Jesus and be in church for the rest of her life.

One summer, she went on a missions trip to New York City to tell people about Jesus. They have lots of theaters and stages there. She loved it and decided that when she was finished with school she would move to New York City and work there and tell people about Jesus.

Sierra is glad the sign was at the BCM that day and that Mr. Penick was there and the other students who told her about Jesus. Mr. Penick uses money from the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions offering to help pay helpers and buy supplies to tell people about Jesus. He is glad Sierra came in that day. She is telling people about Jesus.

We are going to pray for Sierra and the BCM. We are going to pray for Cole Penick, the leader, and his helpers. We are going to pray that Mr. Penick and all the students will tell many people about Jesus. We are going to ask God to help students to come to the BCM. We are going to ask God to help Sierra as she moves to New York City to tell people about Jesus.”

Pray a simple prayer, and let the preschoolers pray if they show a willingness or interest in praying. (Sometimes if one

child prays, they all want to pray. Try to make the time so each child can pray. You may have to help with words at first, but as you do this with your preschoolers, they will become more comfortable praying aloud.)

TEACHER’S NOTES

If you have a majority of younger preschoolers, feel free to cut the story down.

It is always best to tell the story and not read it. Preschoolers will pay attention if you can make eye contact while telling the story.

The scripture verses are long and hard for a preschooler to understand. Make the verses into Bible Thoughts and write them on a bookmark. Place it in your Bible; when telling the story, stop and say, “The Bible says,....” Read the Bible thought from the Bible and then say, “This is what the Bible tells us to do.”

Bible Thoughts: “Do everything with love.”

“Love others and tell them about Jesus.”

MATERIALS NEEDED

PICTURES

- Dixie Jackson
- University of Arkansas ballgames
- Places in Arkansas
- “Allergy Alert” page

BOOKS

- Read to Me Bible for Kids*
- I Can Pray* — Angie Quantrell (available at WMU store)
- I Can Give* — Angie Quantrell (available at WMU store)
- I Can Do It* — Angie Quantrell (available at WMU store)
- My Community* — Jennifer Law (available at WMU store)
- Books about Arkansas
- University brochures and yearbook

HOMELIVING

- University items
- University clothing
- Cups, plates, and napkins with university logo

BLOCKS

- Wooden blocks
- People figures
- Cars and city vehicles

ART

- Crayons, markers, stickers
- Material to make banks
- Ready-made banks (w138103 — \$9.99 for 10)
- Plain white paper

GAMES AND MANIPULATIVES

- Floor puzzle made from Arkansas highway map
- Puzzles from church resources
- Muffin tin with university items

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

- Arkansas fight song recording
- Pom-poms

SNACK

- Popcorn and hot dogs
- University plates and napkins

GROUP TIME

- Picture of Dixie Jackson
- Arkansas map
- Bible

ABSC.ORG/DIXIEJACKSON