



CHILDREN TEACHING PLAN

2017
DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS



ABOVE+BEYOND

SHORT LESSONS ALTERNATIVE

Five 20-minute lessons that can be inserted into VBS, AWANA, etc.



Theme: Above and Beyond

Theme Scripture: “So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

BEFORE THE SESSION

- Pray for the children who will be attending.
- Find the resource list for “Children Teaching Plan Supplementary Resources” at absc.org/promotional-campaigns/dixie-jackson-arkansas-missions. Print and make copies as needed of the various activity pages.
- Gather materials needed for your choice of activities. *Note: Activities are scattered throughout the curriculum. Read through each section thoroughly to see how these materials will be used.*
- Obtain the 2017 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering DVD from your church, and any other teaching helps from our website at absc.org/promotional-campaigns/dixie-jackson-arkansas-missions. Preview the DVD or website videos.
- Set up a TV/DVD or laptop with internet access.
- Write 1 Corinthians 15:58 on a dry erase board or poster board, or create a slide for a video presentation.
- Have Bibles available.

LESSON 1

Materials: Theme activity page and markers or crayons, pretend or real money (bills and coins), basket, Bibles, tape to mark off a square on the floor for a student to stand inside, a treat of some kind such as a package of candy, blindfold, hidden object in the room, a Styrofoam cup or small pot filled with dirt and some seeds planted, a small potted plant

Introduce the 2017 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering theme, “Above and Beyond.”

“We will learn what the Bible teaches about our role as God’s servants and how we can follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we give and help others. We will learn how Arkansas Baptists are making an impact in many different ways all across the state, and how we can join in that work.”

Talk about the definition of the theme. “As Arkansas Baptists, we desire to go **above and beyond** to pray, give and go in order to be disciples who make disciples. That’s our theme: **above and beyond**. Let’s say it together: above and beyond!

Activity: Give each student paper and markers. Ask them to draw what they think of when they hear: **above and beyond**. (Perhaps this reminds them of the sky and outer space.) Have the students share their drawings.

“**Above and Beyond**” is our theme, so what does that mean for us and Arkansas Missions? Perhaps we could **DO MORE, DO MORE THAN BEFORE!** Of course, nothing will happen if we do nothing. So what can we do? Could we give a dime, or a quarter? Could we give up a candy bar or a soda, and give that money instead?” Ask for other ideas. Read Luke 21:1–4 to the students.

Activity: Briefly role-play the rich person and the widow. Choose two students to represent the rich person and the widow. Give the rich person several pieces of money, and the widow only a few small coins. Instruct the rich person to put in a small portion of money into a basket. Instruct the widow to put in all of her money. Explain that even though the rich person put in more money than the widow, Jesus said the widow actually put in more than all the others because she **gave all that she had**.

Pray: Ask God to speak to each one about what He would have each to do, so that we can go **above and beyond!** Point out the theme Scripture reference written on the board. Have everyone get their Bibles out. Hand out Bibles to those who need one. Have all the children find the Scripture passage in their Bible. For mixed-age classes, have the older students assist the younger students. Choose a student to read aloud the theme Scripture reference, 1 Corinthians 15:58. “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” Ask what these words mean: “steadfast, immovable, always abounding.”

Activity: Make a square on the floor out of tape. Have one student stand inside the square. Instruct that student to stay inside the square no matter what else happens. Have a second student try to gently push the student to try to get him to move outside of the square. Next, have a third student invite the student to leave the square by offering something enticing, like a treat. Lastly, have a fourth student pretending to be playing a fun video game that might make the student desire to leave the square. Explain that there may be a lot of other fun and interesting things going on that may draw our attention and time away from our task, symbolized by staying in the square, but to stay in the square means remaining “steadfast, immovable, and always abounding.” Ask what these words mean: “the work of the Lord.” We can only know what work God has for us to do by asking Him and seeking Him through the Scriptures and listening to His instructions. Do this activity to help show the value of seeking the Lord for instruction.

Activity: Blindfold a student. Tell the student to find a particular object hidden somewhere in the room. After the student is obviously unable to do so, have a second student give step-by-step instructions on how to get to the hidden object. Explain that trying to do work without listening to God’s instructions is similar to trying to find a hidden object, while wearing a blindfold, without any help. Ask what these words mean: “in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” Instruct the students to watch the pot with seeds for the seeds to sprout and grow into a plant, and to watch the pot with the plant for more growth or for it to grow flowers. Explain that growth is happening even when we cannot see it. Believing and trusting growth is happening even when you cannot see it is what it means to know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Ask all the children to say the verse together.

Pray: Ask God to help us to go **above and beyond!**

LESSON 2

Materials: Printed Bible story signs, tiny pots for each student (disposable cups or peat cups could be used); containers of potting soil; seeds; containers of water to use to water the pots once planted; straw;

craft sticks; Legos or small wooden blocks; card stock page for each student; a place to build a small fire (outside); very small, easily- and quickly-burnable wood and straw; non-flammable metallic items and beautiful stones that can be placed in a fire

Read or have students take turns reading aloud 1 Corinthians 3:5–15 to learn about the roles of God’s servants. In your own words, explain and discuss the Bible story with the children. Choose three students to hold up the signs “Paul,” “Apollos” and “God.” Read again verses 5 and 6. Explain we all have God-given roles and we are given what we need to do the work God would have us to do. Paul’s role was different from that of Apollos, and some of the work belongs to God alone.

Activity: Divide the students into pairs. Give each pair two pots. Have one student in each pair place soil and then seeds into the pots, and have the other student lightly water the pots. Explain the planters are like Paul, the waterers are like Apollos, and ask now who will cause the seeds to grow? Read verse 7 again. Remind the students that only God gives the growth. Read verse 8 again. Explain that everyone doing the work God has given us in the different roles is all for one purpose for God’s kingdom. Allow the children to bring home the pots, place them in a window to get sunshine, lightly water as needed, wait and watch for growth. Pray and ask God to show each student the ways He has gifted them for service. Read again verses 10–15. Explain that we must be careful how we build so that we are doing our work God’s way so that it will last. If we do not build God’s way, it will not last.

Activity: Divide the students into small groups, giving some groups straw, some craft sticks, some Legos or wooden blocks. Give each group a piece of card stock. Instruct them to construct a “house” on their card stock using only the materials given. Explain that the card stock represents the proper foundation which is Jesus Christ, because only through Jesus may we be saved. But we could choose to build upon that foundation with different types of materials. Only strong materials like the Legos or blocks can truly withstand a serious storm. Remind students of the three little pigs who each built their houses, but the big, bad wolf huffs and puffs and blows every house down except the house made of bricks. We must build God’s way so that it will last, the way the bricks lasted in the story of the three pigs.

Activity: Find a safe place outside to build a small fire. Show the students two piles of items. One pile contains metal items and beautiful stones. One pile contains wood and straw. Ask the students what will happen when all of these items are placed in the fire. Place all the items into the fire. Watch to see which items remain after the fire burns for a few minutes. The items that are not completely burned up represent quality work done God’s way.

PRAY: Ask God to help us to seek Him and His ways as we do our work for Him so that what we do will last and not be burned up as we go **above and beyond!**

Review questions to ask:

- “Who was the planter in the story?” (Paul)
- “Who was the waterer in the story?” (Apollos)
- “Who causes growth?” (God)
- “Do people have different roles as they serve God?” (Yes)
- “Is any role more important?” (No)
- “What happens if we do not build God’s way?” (The house will fall like the straw or sticks ,or be burned up in the fire.)
- “What happens if we do build God’s way?” (The house will stand like bricks, will not be burned up, will last.)
- “What is our theme for this year’s Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering?” (**Above and Beyond**)

LESSON 3

Materials: Activity page photo of Dixie Jackson, copies of the state of Arkansas divided by counties for each child, markers in five different colors per child, world map, U.S. map, city map, “Acts 1:8” Information Page, “Salvation Bracelet” activity page, jute cord, pony beads (black, red, white, green, yellow), scissors, ruler, online videos or Dixie Jackson DVD

Lesson: “What is the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering? It is money given by Arkansas Southern Baptists to support the work of missions in our state. Why is it named after Dixie Jackson?” Show the photo page of Dixie Jackson. “She successfully rallied churches around the common cause of reaching Arkansas with the Gospel, proclaiming we could do more together than we could do alone. She demonstrated what it means to go **above and beyond!** There are many different ways to be involved in missions in Arkansas, so that anyone can serve and make an impact. As we learn about the ways Arkansas Baptists are faithful to do their part and work together, perhaps God will show you where you can get involved.”

Activity: Distribute the map of Arkansas divided into five focus areas. Instruct children to color the Central section of the map along with the corresponding key. Do the same with each other section of the map and key. Explain that the state of Arkansas is divided up into these geographical sections for the work of Dixie Jackson. Help the students find your county and section names.

Pray for the mission work in your area. “What’s our theme? (**Above and Beyond**) We will see some of the highlighted ministries from each of these areas of Arkansas. We will see examples of Arkansas Baptists going **above and beyond**, and how God caused growth and fruit beyond what they ever expected.”

Northwest: Find this area on the map of Arkansas from the previous activity.

Read Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

“Perhaps once way we can look at this command is to witness where you are (Jerusalem), where you are going (Judea), where you do not want to go (Samaria),and where you have never been (end of the earth). Christ said we will be witnesses in our city, our state, our nation and our world.

Activity: Display a world map, a U.S. map, an Arkansas map and a city map. Read Acts 1:8 again and point to the maps to help give meaning to the command. “The Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip is a day for many people to join together to do all sorts of mission activities to reach a targeted area. People of any age as a family, group of friends, Sunday School class or church group can come together as volunteers for numerous community mission projects all in one day to blitz a city with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As many as 176 have been saved on this one-day event.” See the Acts 1:8 information page for details for this year’s event. Watch the video for the ministry emphasis from the Northwest area of Arkansas that highlights the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip.

Pray: Ask God how you might go **above and beyond** to obey God’s command to be His witness here, there and everywhere.

Activity: Complete the salvation bracelet making instructions.

LESSON 4

Materials: Copies of the Arkansas state map divided by counties for each child, “Feeding 5000” activity page, snack-size ziplocks for each child, Swedish Fish (2 per child), oyster crackers (5 per child), scissors, tape, small household items and food for a demonstration, online videos or Dixie Jackson DVD

We will see some of the highlighted ministries from each of these areas of Arkansas. We will see examples of Arkansas Baptists going **above and beyond**, and how God caused growth and fruit beyond what they ever expected.

Northeast: Find this area on the map of Arkansas. Read or summarize Matthew 14:13-21, the feeding of the 5000.

Activity: See the “Feeding 5000” activity page with instructions.

“Jesus saw the needs of the people and felt compassion for them, and met them in their need.

One way Arkansas Baptists can be ready to meet people in their need is to be trained to serve in Disaster Relief. When natural disasters, such as

tornadoes or flooding strike, trained teams move in to help feed people and clean up the areas, but most importantly show the love of Christ. Volunteers can plant many seeds of the Gospel and may never see the fruit of their work, but their acts of love could open the door for someone to find hope in Christ. As Arkansas Baptists are cleaning up or giving meals, they are ready to ask ‘Do you know the Lord?’”

Watch the video for the ministry emphasis from the North East area of Arkansas that highlights Disaster Relief.

Pray for the Arkansas Baptists who have gone **above and beyond** and have been trained in Disaster Relief. Pray that more will be trained. Pray that many will come to follow Jesus as a result of these who are willing to go **above and beyond** to share the love of Christ by helping others in their need.

Central: Find this area on the map of Arkansas. Read or summarize Acts 2:41-47. This passage describes a generous and growing church.

Activity: Choose five students. Give all of the household items and food to two students. Point out the other three students who have nothing. Show how the two with much can give some of their abundance to the others, just as they did in the early church in Acts 2. “Otter Creek Community Church is an example of a generous and growing church plant. Funding from the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering helped start this church, and now this church is thriving and reaching the world for Christ. Members will testify that they have not been dependent upon their own ability, but rather the power of Christ as they seek His way and not their own. Otter Creek Community Church is an example of Arkansas Baptists going **above and beyond** to reach their community with the Gospel that reaches all the way to the ends of the earth.” Watch the video for the ministry emphasis from the Central area of Arkansas that highlights Church Planting.

Pray for Arkansas Baptists who are going **above and beyond** to plant new churches in Arkansas, that they will be empowered and directed by God, and that many lost people will be saved and become disciple-makers who start even more churches.

LESSON 5

Materials: Copies of the Arkansas state map divided by counties for each child, basin of warm water, wash cloth, large and small towel, Gospel Multiplication page, Four Ones Challenge page for each student, online videos or Dixie Jackson DVD

“We will see some of the highlighted ministries from each of these areas of Arkansas. We will see examples of Arkansas Baptists going **above and beyond**, and how God caused growth and fruit beyond what they ever expected.”

Southwest: Find this area on the map of Arkansas. Read or summarize John 13: 4-15, the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.

Activity: Have the students remove their shoes/socks. Wash their feet, one at a time. Use a towel to wipe dry. Remind the students of the words of Jesus: “For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you.”

“Jesus saw a need, their dirty feet, and was willing to do what was needed to help. There are requests for Arkansas mission projects from all over the state where volunteers can go and bring a construction team, a backyard Bible club team, a Vacation Bible School team, surveyor team, etc. Individuals, families, small groups, Sunday School classes or church members can come together to meet a request. The best way to get started is to have a concentrated season of prayer to seek the direction of the Lord for your particular ministry group. And then look around to see what needs your group could best meet with your given gifts and abilities. Watch the video for the ministry emphasis from the Southwest area of Arkansas that highlights Arkansas Mission Projects.

Pray for Arkansas Baptists who are seeing the needs and going **above and beyond** to do work projects to help grow the kingdom of Christ in Arkansas.

Southeast: Find this area on the map of Arkansas. Read John 20:19-21, Jesus commissioning the disciples. Read Matthew 28: 19-20, the Great Commission. We are commanded to go and make disciples, remembering that the Holy Spirit is with us and helping us.

Activity: See the Gospel Multiplication activity page. Using Cheerios, demonstrate how the Gospel is spread exponentially. Start with one, Jesus; then twelve; then if each of those twelve shared with twelve more, and so on. One of the ways Arkansas Baptists are making disciples who make disciples is through E4 CALL, a cross-team ministry of College + Young Leaders and missions teams in cooperation with the local church and association, North American Mission Board and International Mission Board. E4 CALL seeks to provide resources and support for our churches and associations as they equip students who are called to ministry. “Tee, a campus minister at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, lives a life that is a beautiful example of what can happen when Arkansas Baptists go **above and beyond** to help equip a student for a powerful ministry among college students, as well as among a community. Tee’s grandfather chose to follow Jesus because of the love shown him by a church in his neighborhood. He said, “If Jesus is the reason you love me like this, I want that Jesus.” As a result, his grandson Tee’s life was changed and now he is dedicated to seeking life change for others, through Christ. Tee was asked to recruit two students to go to Gould First Church to be summer

missionaries. They opened the doors to play basketball with the kids of the community. They shared the Gospel. Many came to Christ! Tee explains, "It's not about the program, it's about relationships."

The kids were challenged to pray for one person, for one minute, at 1:00 p.m. for one month (the Four Ones Challenge). They stopped playing basketball and went to chairs and prayed. Ten came to Christ. After their summer in Gould, the UAPB students brought this challenge back to the BCM where 22 students came to Christ last semester. What a tremendous example of Arkansas Baptists going **above and beyond** to be disciples who

make disciples!" Watch the video for the ministry emphasis from the South East area of Arkansas that highlights E4 CALL.

Pray for these students who are called to ministry and those who are mentoring them to go **above and beyond** to be disciples who make disciples, and for many to follow Jesus as a result. Take personally the Four Ones Challenge! Pass out the Four Ones Challenge page to each student as a reminder to make a commitment to pray. Ask students to give a report in the following weeks as to how God is moving in answer to that commitment of prayer.