

# 2018 CHILDREN



## TEACHING PLAN

### THEME SCRIPTURE

"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:1-2

### BEFORE THE SESSION

- Pray for the children who will be attending.
- Gather materials needed for the activities.
- Obtain the 2018 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering DVD from your church.
- Set up a TV/DVD player with internet access.
- Write Philippians 2:1-2 on a dry erase board or poster board, or create a slide for a video presentation.
- Have Bibles available.

### EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

#### Materials:

"Crack the Code" activity sheet

Have students translate the code to discover how to say "God loves you" in French. Students can then practice saying the phrase to each other and greet children coming in to the class with the secret phrase.

### INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

#### Materials:

- Paper
- Crayons

Introduce the 2018 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering theme, "I Am Dixie Jackson."

*"Today, we are going to learn about how we can work together to share Jesus with others through giving and helping. One way we work with other churches to spread the Good News of Jesus is through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering; but who is Dixie Jackson and why does she have a missions offering named after her?"*

*"Dixie Jackson moved to Arkansas when she was 12 years old in 1872. She married James Jackson in 1878 and was the mother of eight children. Even though she had a very large family, she always found the time for God. She said 'You should have seen me using one foot to rock the cradle, while I churned butter with one hand and held my Bible for study with the other.'"*

*"Later, after her husband had died, Dixie was asked to become the leader of the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union. She served there for 15 years while encouraging people all over the state to study and pray for missions work within the state."*

*"Today, we honor Dixie by continuing missions across the state."*

Ask students to draw a picture of what they think Dixie Jackson looked like on mission. You may have kids say they don't know what Dixie Jackson looks like. That's okay. The point of this activity is to have many images at the beginning of the class showing as many different-looking pictures of Dixie on mission as possible.

*"There's a lot of different pictures out there. Even after hearing a lot about Dixie Jackson, no picture out here looks exactly like another. Today, we're not here to talk about Dixie Jackson, we're here to talk about how we can work with others to continue her love of missions. We all together are Dixie Jackson. Jesus didn't just ask Dixie Jackson to go on mission, He asked all of us. We are Dixie Jackson. You are Dixie Jackson. I am Dixie Jackson."*

### LEARN THE SCRIPTURE (15 MINUTES)

#### Materials:

- Two sets of Post-it Notes with the Scripture written on them, word by word. (Make sure there are two different colors of Post-it Notes, one for each team.)

Point out the theme Scripture reference displayed in the classroom. Have everyone get their Bibles out. Hand Bibles to those who need one. Have all the children find the Scripture passage in their Bible. If you have a class with younger kids as well as older kids, have the older kids assist the younger kids. Choose a student to read the Scripture. "If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my

joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” Philippians 2:1–2

Ask what the word “same” means. You will hear many different answers, but drive home the point that “same” in this verse means “to be in agreement.” The way we love each other must look the same, no matter who we are and no matter who we are talking about loving. We are all working toward one purpose. We need to make sure that my one purpose is the same as your one purpose.

### ACTIVITY: MEMORY VERSE RELAY

Divide the kids into two teams. Have the Post-it Notes pre-made and stuck to the wall. The goal is for the kids to piece the memory verse together on the floor by grabbing the next word in the verse from the wall. A child will run to the wall, grab the needed word, place it in the verse on the floor, and then tag the next child for their turn. The team that wins the race is the team that correctly pieces the verse together first. You can run this race two or three times. The more you race, the more the point is driven home.

*“Just as you had to work as a team to gather our Scripture verse and put it together, we have to work together for the mission God has laid out for us.”*

### BIBLE STORY (25 MINUTES)

#### Materials:

- ❑ LEGO bricks
- ❑ Two notecards telling students what to build with Legos

*“As we really begin looking at these verses, we need to understand what has been happening before. Philippians is named Philippians because it was written to the church at Philippi. This was one of the first churches that Paul helped to start in Macedonia when he was on one of his mission trips. Yes, even Paul went on mission trips.”*

*“Paul had been away from Philippi for a long time. One of the reasons it had been so long is because Paul had been arrested for telling people about Jesus. We’re very lucky that we are able to tell people about Jesus without worrying about guards coming after us to take us away. Even though he knew people wouldn’t like it and he might get into big trouble, Paul continued to tell people about Jesus, and because of that, he was sitting in prison when he wrote this letter.”*

*“Paul had a lot he wanted to tell the people of Philippi.”*

Have someone read Philippians 1:12–13.

*“Paul wanted the Philippians to know he hadn’t given up even though he had been arrested. Look at what he says! I want you to know that what has happened to me has actually advanced the Gospel.”*

*“Paul is telling everyone that even though he is in prison, God is still working. Even though he is chained up in a jail cell, Paul is still telling the guards about what Jesus has done for him. Notice that it is not just one guard or two guards, but Paul says the whole imperial guard knows that he is in jail because he believes in Christ and wants to tell others about Him.”*

*“In fact, pretty much everyone in the jail, prisoners and guards alike, have heard about Jesus and Paul. Paul even says later on that many others in the prison have begun telling others about Christ, as well. Some are doing it because they actually believe in Jesus, but some are doing it to see if they can cause more problems for Paul. That doesn’t stop him, though.”*

Have someone read Philippians 1:18.

*“Paul says it doesn’t matter why they are proclaiming Jesus. Whether they like it or not, only one thing is happening Christ is being proclaimed. That means His name is being talked about and He is being praised.”*

*“This is where we see a very famous verse. Paul talks about how he may even be executed for telling others about Christ. He really didn’t know what would happen to him. Can you imagine how scary it would be to know you could die if you did something and then you choose to do it anyway? That’s exactly what Paul was doing.”*

Have someone read Philippians 1:21.

*“Paul is saying that for as long as he lives, he will praise God and tell others about Jesus. He is no longer living his life in the way he wants. Instead, he is living his life the way Christ wants him to live. He even says that they shouldn’t cry for him if he does die. Why? Because he knows he will be in heaven when he dies. To live is Christ and to die is gain.”*

*“This leads us to today’s verses.”*

Have someone read Philippians 2:1.

*“What do you think the word ‘encouragement’ means?”*

Give the students time to answer.

*“It means to give someone a boost. To help them feel better about something they are doing, especially when that something is hard. Do you think telling people about Jesus even if it would get you into trouble is hard?”*

*“What about this word ‘consolation’? It means to comfort someone. So Paul is saying, ‘If you want to help me feel better about what I’m doing for Christ, if you want to comfort me through love, if you want to make sure we are working toward the same thing through the Holy Spirit, then all you have to do is this.’”*

Have someone read Philippians 2:2.

*“Paul says ‘You can bring me joy by working together on the same thing.’ Let’s think of it like this.”*

Bring two students up. Ask them to build with Legos. Hand them the cards telling them what to build, but don’t let them show the cards to each other. One should be building a helicopter while the other is building a house.

*“It’s really hard to build something using the same pieces as someone else who is trying to build something different than you, isn’t it? Let’s try this: Why don’t you work together to build a house?”*

Give students a minute to build.

*“Isn’t that easier? That’s what Paul is saying. We need to work to build the same thing, except we’re not building with Legos we’re building through missions work.”*

*“This is what he means when he says we need to have the same love, be united in spirit, be intent on one purpose. We need to work toward the same goal so that we can see God glorified. Paul is saying that he was Dixie Jackson, the people hearing this letter were Dixie Jackson, and the church at Philippi was Dixie Jackson. Not that they were all named Dixie Jackson, but that they needed to work together as if they were one person.”*

*“This is why it’s so important to cooperate with each other when it comes to God’s work. I am Dixie Jackson. You are Dixie Jackson. We are Dixie Jackson.”*

## **MISSIONS EMPHASIS (30 MINUTES)**

### **Acts 1:8**

Show the Acts 1:8 video.

*“Acts 1:8 is about working with other churches from around the state to reach people here in Arkansas and share the Gospel with them.”*

Have a student read Acts 1:8.

*“We have a Jerusalem, a Judea and a Samaria, too. Jerusalem is the city we live in. Judea is Arkansas, the state we live in. Samaria is the United States, and the ends of the earth is everywhere else. We are being told that missions work is not just about going overseas, it’s about talking to people in our town, in our state, and in our country to help them come to know God.”*

Hand each student a map of the United States. Have them identify where their Jerusalem is, where their Judea is, and where their Samaria is.

## **BCM**

Show the BCM video.

*“The Baptist Collegiate Ministry is a very important part of what we do through our Dixie Jackson offering. The BCM is how we make sure God is represented on our college campuses. Through the work of these ministries, many college students have the chance to know that God loves them even when they may think that no one loves them.”*

Have a student read John 4:35.

*“Jesus is telling His disciples that people are ready to hear the word of God, they just need to share it with them. The same is true for us today!”*

*“Think about Sierra, the college student in the video we just watched. She said she was done with church and done with ministries. All it took to bring her back and show her that God loves her was a sign that said ‘If you’re stressed, come see us.’”*

*“We don’t have to preach to be a missionary. What are some other things we can say or ask that would help bring someone to God?”*

Examples: Can I pray for you? Do you need help? Would you like to eat with me? Are you okay?

## **Disaster Relief**

**Materials:**

- ❑ 2 to 3 collapsed Jenga Towers

Show the Disaster Relief video.

*“Whenever a disaster strikes—a major tornado, a flood, an earthquake—through Dixie Jackson offerings, we have teams of people ready to go and share the Gospel with people by helping them rebuild their homes and their lives.”*

Bring out the Jenga towers. Have the students work together to rebuild the tower from the crumbled pieces.

*“That is how Disaster Relief helps to spread the Gospel. We help rebuild what has been knocked down, and we tell people about Jesus while we do it. Think about the parable of the wise man and the foolish man. The wise man built his house on the rock. The foolish man built his house on the sand. What happened when the rain came? The wise man’s house was still there and the foolish man’s house was gone.”*

*“Through Disaster Relief, we have the chance to help people rebuild from physical storms, while making sure they know about the rock, Jesus, they can build on to face spiritual storms.”*

## Medical Dental Clinic

### Materials:

- ❑ “Search The Bible” CSB sheet

Show the Medical Dental Clinic video.

*“It’s really cool that the Dixie Jackson offering is helping people around the state who need medical and dental help. Remember, the video said that in 2017, 93 people were saved because of the clinics. This isn’t just about helping people feel better, it’s about showing them the love of God.”*

*“No matter what we like to do, there is a way we can use it for missions work.”*

Ask the students about what they like to do in their free time. Then ask them how they can use that for missions work.

Hand students the “Search the Bible” missions page. Ask them to read each passage and then circle the passage that does NOT have the word listed on the sheet.

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