



# PRESCHOOL TEACHING PLAN

2017  
DIXIE JACKSON  
ARKANSAS  
MISSIONS  
OFFERING

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS



ABOVE+BEYOND

**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

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 missions 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 five minutes cleaning 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.

## HOMELIVING/DRAMATIC PLAY: SHARING FOOD WITH FRIENDS

Have play dough available at the table in the center. You could use commercial Play-Doh, but try making your own. It is so soft and lasts longer. A recipe included on page 3 is easy and will last for quite a while. Provide rollers and other tools for creating. Encourage the children to create food to take to a friend. Explain that friends often take food to friends when they are sick or have had a new baby. They do this to help their friends and to say that they care about them. Explain that we don't really eat the play dough, we just pretend. Really young preschoolers (2 and under) should not be given play dough. Another idea would be to let the preschoolers help you make cookies and take them to your pastor to say thank you for being a friend. Let the children make cards to include with the cookies. Slice and bake cookies work well for this activity and are not complicated to make.

## BLOCKS: BUILD A CHURCH BUILDING

Well before the session, drive around your town or city and take pictures of churches. Try to have a variety of pictures. Include churches located in store fronts or unusual locations. Also include your own church. Print the pictures and place them in a photo album or scrapbook and make a name for the book: "Churches in Our Town (or City)." Include churches the children will recognize but cannot necessarily name. Place this book in the block area and have blocks available to build churches. You might have an assortment of blocks, cardboard and wooden, available to use in building. Explain that churches can meet in different places and may not look like your church. Some churches start in homes, and some use schools or other buildings to meet in. The important thing to remember about churches is that they teach others about Jesus.

## BOOKS: MISSION BOOKS, ARKANSAS BOOKS, AND CHURCH 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 mission 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. Other books about Arkansas can be used, as well. Two children's books about our state are listed in the resources. 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 they have. If your church still uses hymnals, place one in the book area. If you have Bibles in the pew racks, place one of those in the book area as well. Preschoolers don't know how to read, but they understand what you mean when you ask them to read a book. They might ask you to read it.

## ART: MAKE A DIXIE JACKSON BANK

You can buy from WMU a missions bank preschoolers can decorate with markers and stickers. They cost \$9.99 for a package of 10 banks. Preschool leadership are creative people, and you can make them as well. 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 tops. 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 on tightly. (We don't recommend gluing.) Wrap the side of the jar in white paper and allow the preschoolers to decorate. Another suggestion is to have a nickel or dime for each child to put in their bank once it is finished. Sometimes this helps them want to add money when they get home. Some leaders make labels on the computer to put around the bank. Others print the Bible Thoughts on labels and place them on 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. 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.) Give them a dime or quarter to start their offering.

Have available plain white paper for preschoolers to use for drawing and coloring. Let them use their imagination to create free-hand drawings. Write on the bottom of the page what the child tells you about the picture. Instead of saying, "What is it?" ask the preschooler to "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 AND PLAY A GAME

Have available any church puzzles you may have in your preschool resource closet. Also use Biblical puzzles you may have of Jesus going to church with his family, or make a giant floor puzzle using an Arkansas Highway Map. Laminate the map and then cut in eight to ten pieces to make a puzzle. Before laminating, circle Little Rock, Dardanelle and the town you live in.

Make a memory game using pictures from around your church. Take pictures of familiar places in your church. (Ideas include the pulpit, the block area or dramatic play area of your preschool room, the playground, the sanctuary, the front of your church building from the outside, etc.)

Print two copies of each picture and laminate for protection. (If you have an office supply store, they often laminate for a small fee. School supply stores and libraries often have laminating machines.) Show the matching pictures to your preschoolers and let them see two pictures that are the same. Turn all the pictures over and let the children take turns with another child or with you to randomly turn over two pictures. If it is a match, the child takes the pictures and has another turn. If the pictures do not match, the next person turns over two pictures. Play until all pictures have been matched. If this is too hard for the preschoolers you have, play the first time with the pictures face up and play with just a few pictures (three pictures for a total of six). As the children play, they will understand more and more how to play and will want to play again and again. These pictures can then be used in a group activity in music.

## MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: SINGING ABOUT CHURCH

To the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*, sing a song about going to church. The verses would be: I like to go to church, I like to sing and pray, I like to hear a story, and I like to give my money. Sing a verse while marching around the room. At the end of each verse, ask the preschoolers to stop and look at a picture of a place in your church. Ask them to tell you what and where it is. Then, go to the next verse and march again.

I like to go to church,  
I like to go to church,  
I like the happy things we do,  
I like to go to church.

## SNACK

Post the food you will be serving on an allergy chart at the door so parents can alert you concerning allergies. Serve a snack of a small sandwich and milk or water. (Peanut butter and jelly is good, but double check for allergies!) Try cutting the crust off and cut the sandwiches in triangles. Tell the preschoolers that the Otter Creek Community Church serves snacks and lunch for the apartments across the street from the church. There are children there who don't have food to eat in the summertime when they are not in school. The members of Otter Creek Community Church visit in the summertime and take food for the children who are hungry.

## TELL THE STORY

**Gather supplies:** Gather the pictures of Otter Creek Community Church, and Pastor Bell and his family. 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. Use push pins to mark Little Rock, Dardanelle and your city or town. Circle the chairs around where the leader will sit in front of the map.

**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 want. For the last verse, sing “lap.”

## Story

Call attention to the map. Point out where you live and then say, “Many years ago there was a lady who lived in Dardanelle, Arkansas, and her name was Dixie Jackson (show picture of Dixie Jackson, or show where Dardanelle is on the Arkansas map). Mrs. Jackson was married and had eight 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.”

**Insert story about Pastor Bell here.**

“We are going to pray for Pastor Steven and the Otter Creek Community Church. We are going to ask God to help people to come to the church. We are going to ask God to help the church members as they tell others in the apartments about Jesus and share food.” Pray 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 with 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.

Pastor Bell’s email is [pastorsteve@theochurch.com](mailto:pastorsteve@theochurch.com). You might want to let him know that your children prayed for him as you learned about his work in Otter Creek.

The Scripture verse is very long. Preschoolers will understand the verse better if you condense it into Bible Thoughts. A way to remember the Bible

Thoughts is to write them on a bookmark and place it in your Bible at 1 Corinthians 15 when telling the story. Stop and say, “the Bible says...” then read the Bible thought from the Bible and say, “This is what the Bible tells us to do.”

## Bible Thoughts

“Dear Friends, keep telling everyone about Jesus.”

“Whatever you do for God is very good.”

Talk about how we can tell others about Jesus. Also talk about doing the things that God wants us to do—pray, give our money, tell about Jesus, and help others.

# MATERIALS NEEDED

## Pictures

Dixie Jackson

Steven Bell and family

Otter Creek Community Church

Outline of Arkansas (Google “outline of the state of Arkansas”)

Allergy alert page (use the outline of Arkansas and post at the door saying, “We are tasting \_\_\_\_\_. Please let us know if your child has any allergies.”)

## Books

*Read to Me Bible*

*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

*N Is for Natural State* – Michael Shoulders and Rick Anderson

*I’m Reading About Arkansas* – Carole Marsh

Hymnal

Bible used in worship service

## Other

Pictures of churches in your town

Pictures of familiar places in your church

Materials for banks

## Recipe for Play Dough

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

2 cups water

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

4 teaspoons cream of tarter (do not omit)

Food coloring

Mix dry ingredients. Add food coloring to the water. In a heavy saucepan,

slowly add water to the dry ingredients, stirring constantly, over medium heat. Dough will begin to pull away from the sides of the pan and form a ball. Knead on waxed paper. Place in an airtight container.

NOTE: This will keep in a Ziploc bag or airtight container for weeks. Try the new neon food coloring in the baking section. It will make brightly-colored play dough.