



Children TEACHING PLAN



Theme: Living the Gospel

Theme verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

BEFORE THE SESSION

- ◆ Pray for the children who will be attending.
- ◆ Visit <http://www.absc.org/ministries/childrens-missions-discipleship> and print the “2016 Dixie Jackson Children’s Fun Pages.” Make copies as needed.
- ◆ Gather materials needed for your choice of small group activities.
- ◆ Obtain the 2016 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering DVD from your church and any other teaching helps from our website at www.absc.org/dixiejackson. Preview the DVD.
- ◆ Set up a TV/DVD or laptop with internet access.
- ◆ Write 1 Thessalonians 2:8 on a dry erase or chalk board or on a piece of poster board.
- ◆ Have Bibles available.

EARLY-ARRIVER ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

Materials

- ◆ (For older students OR in mixed-aged settings, have older students assist younger students) Copies of “How to Do His Work” Word Search, pencils
- ◆ (For younger students) Building blocks to have children build a house

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Materials: State and world maps

Introduce the 2016 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering Theme: “Living the Gospel.” Talk about the

definition of the theme. Explain that Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions is more than just an offering. It is an experience of giving, praying and participating in life-changing work around the state.

“As Arkansas Baptists, we desire to *live the Gospel* and make disciples who make disciples. That’s our theme: *live the Gospel*. Let’s say it together: ‘*live the Gospel!*’ We will learn about Dixie Jackson and the reason the Arkansas Missions Offering is named for her. Later in our missions lesson, we will learn how Arkansas Baptists are making an impact in many different ways all across the state, and how we can help. As we *live the Gospel*, we can reach the unreached in our communities, our state (use map of Arkansas) and our world (use map of world).”

Pray (or ask a child to pray) for open hearts to what God would have us to hear and understand today.

LEARN THE SCRIPTURE (5 MINUTES)

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-aged classes, have the older students assist the younger students. Choose a student to read aloud the Theme Scripture reference. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 – “We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” Explain that when we walk with Christ, His love for others grows within us. Because of this love, we care for others and desire to share the good news of Jesus with them. Not only do we desire to tell the good news, we want to live our lives helping

people to grow and become more like Christ. Ask all the children to say the verse together. Say a brief prayer asking God to help us to *live the Gospel!*

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Materials: Printed Bible story signs, small flashlight
Choose 8 children to hold up signs at the appropriate time during the reading and explanation of the story. Explain that the Bible story comes from the book of Matthew where Jesus began teaching the disciples how to do His work.

Read Matthew 5: 1-16. In your own words, explain and discuss the Bible story with the children:

Hold up Sign 1. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Perhaps He thought about the proud scribes and Pharisees. The proud will never believe His words and learn how to enter the kingdom of God. Humble, repentant people who feel they need God’s help to live the right way are those Jesus called the “poor in spirit.” They are blessed because they shall be given the kingdom of God.

Hold up Sign 2. Jesus also said, “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” These words sounded strange. Who ever thought that blessings belong to the troubled and sad? The people did not understand how God loves to comfort His children.

Hold up Sign 3. “Blessed are the meek,” Jesus said next, “for they shall inherit the earth.” He meant that gentle people who control their temper, who try to do what is right, will enjoy God’s blessings.

Hold up Sign 4. Then Jesus said, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Perhaps He thought again of the proud Pharisees who believed they were so good that they did not need to repent of their sins and seek God’s help. Those who want God’s Spirit as much as they want food and drink will be blessed.

Hold up Sign 5. “Blessed are they that show mercy to others,” said Jesus, “for mercy shall be shown to them.”

Hold up Sign 6. “And blessed are they who have pure hearts, for they shall see God.”

Hold up Sign 7. “And blessed are those who make peace among men, for they shall be called the children of God.” Showing mercy, having pure hearts and living peacefully are words the disciples understood; for they knew God will surely bless people who show understanding love, who do not allow sin to enter their hearts and who make peace where trouble is.

Hold up Sign 8. Then Jesus said, “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” People who are persecuted are greatly wronged for trying to follow Jesus and do the right things.

In this wonderful sermon, Jesus taught how Christians should live. When we live rightly among the lost people around us, we become like salt on bland food. When we hear Christ’s words and obey, we make a difference in the world the way shining a flashlight in a dark place makes a difference. Turn off lights in the room and notice the darkness. Then turn on a small flashlight. We would never want to turn on a flashlight and then cover the light. We want to let the light shine freely and brightly so that it fulfills its purpose. In the same way, when we live the way Jesus has instructed, we live the gospel, and we are salt and light for people who need to know Jesus.

Review questions to ask:

“What does it mean to be poor in spirit?” (to be humble and repentant; in need of God’s help to live the right way)

“What does it mean to mourn?” (to be sad)

“What does it mean to be meek?” (to be gentle; control temper; try to do the right things)

“What does it mean to hunger and thirst after righteousness?” (to seek God as much as food and drink)

“What does it mean to show mercy?” (to demonstrate understanding love)

“What does it mean to have a pure heart?” (to not allow sin in your heart)

“What does it mean to be a peacemaker?” (to make peace where there is trouble)

“What is persecution?” (being wronged for trying to follow Jesus and do the right things)

“What was Jesus teaching Christians in this sermon?”
(how to do His work)

Let us all listen to the instruction of Jesus and obey so that we can do His work and receive the blessings He has promised. This is what it means to live the gospel. What’s our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

MISSIONS EMPHASIS (20 MINUTES)

Materials: Printed photo of Dixie Jackson, Disaster Relief Photo, Acts 1:8 Information Page, Church Planter Information Pages, online videos

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? She demonstrated what it means to *live the Gospel*.

Dixie Jackson was born in 1860 in northern Louisiana. Because of the Civil War, she moved to Arkansas when she was 12 years old. She was married at age 19 and became a busy mom to 8 children. She studied the Bible on her own and knew the Scriptures well. She was deeply passionate about meaningful church membership. She became the executive director of the Women’s Missionary Union (WMU) in Arkansas in 1914, which gave her the platform to travel the state ringing the battle cry for Arkansas Baptists to unify in their missions giving to collectively support and wholeheartedly do missions together. 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 strongly emphasized family ministry as a critical focus for strong churches. She hated being in an office, preferring hands-on field work and especially impacting students by pouring into the hearts of the next generation. Her beautiful example of living the gospel is why our Arkansas Missions Offering is named after Dixie Jackson. Because of the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, numerous ministries are taking place all over the state. We will highlight some of these and hear about how God is moving through them.

- ◆ Multi-housing missions: 57% of the U.S. live in apartments, and of those 97% are lost.
- ◆ See the multi-housing video on the missions tab of the ABSC.org website, or go to http://b108d9ce62aaad36325f-4f54d360274e4ae-f985046a574bc2c69.r45.cf2.rackcdn.com/countrygardenmultihousingvideo_2.mp4
- ◆ Medical/dental clinics: Patients are treated for free and hear the Gospel.
- ◆ Pregnancy care centers: This is one of many testimonies of how lives were changed.”A single mother came for a pregnancy test and was very upset when her test was positive. She is already the sole support for herself and another child. A second child would be an additional emotional and financial burden. Her intention was to have an abortion. As a result of the information, practical support, and encouragement we provided for her, she called a week after her appointment and said she had changed her mind and decided to keep her baby. PRAISE GOD!”
- ◆ Disaster Training and Relief: When natural disasters such as tornadoes or flooding strike, teams move in to help feed people and clean up the areas. Show photo of Disaster Relief.
- ◆ Hunger Ministries: This is a testimony of how lives were changed.”A young family recently moved into our neighborhood, and the mom started bringing her children to the after-school food program. I started talking to her and found out they had no food at home. I gave her a box of assorted food items, milk and diapers. I also gave clothes for her and her children. She couldn’t believe we would do all of this for her and her family, and started crying. God is awesome and I’m just a servant. Praise the Lord!”
- ◆ Baptist Builders: These teams do all kinds of construction and repair projects.
- ◆ Christian Women’s Job Corp: Job training and support helps women earn income.
- ◆ Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip: A day for many people to join together to do all sorts of mission activities to reach a targeted area. See the Acts 1:8 information

page for details, as well as this video which highlights a 12-year-old girl who accepted Christ. <https://vimeo.com/143139250>

- ◆ Church Planters: We have church plants where people worship in 10 different languages as well as many who represent cultural diversity in our state. See the Church Planter Information Pages for some descriptions and prayer requests.

What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

WAYS TO PRAY, GIVE & GO (10 MINUTES)

- ◆ Pray and thank God for our Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering that is used to fund all kinds of ministry work in our state.
- ◆ Set aside a day to pray for our Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, asking God what He wants you to give.
- ◆ Talk about ways children can give – creative ways to raise money, or by collecting needed items such as school supplies to be given to church planters to use as they work to build relationships.
- ◆ Talk about who needs to know Jesus. Make a list of names of people for whom to pray and ask God for opportunities to share the Gospel with them. Prayer walk by walking around specific locations such as churches, schools and neighborhoods, praying for the people in those areas to know Christ.
- ◆ Family Project Plan – Adopt a Church Plant! Go to <http://www.absc.org/promotional-campaigns/church-plants> to see some church plants to choose from and possible ways to help, including:
 - ◆ Pray monthly for a church planter
 - ◆ Meet with church planter via Skype, or invite as a guest to your meeting to ask questions and encourage one another
 - ◆ Help with a ministry project to reach the community and help gain entrance into schools
 - ◆ Go visit the church planter to help with a service project or prayer walk the area
 - ◆ Email Charity Taylor at the Arkansas

Baptist State Convention for more ideas or information ctaylor@absc.org

What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

SMALL GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

You may choose any of these activities for the time you have remaining or to be used for extra time:

1. Sand vs. Rock Demonstration

Materials: wooden craft sticks, hot glue gun, 2 shallow dishpans or containers, sand, clay, river rocks, pitcher of water

Preparation: In one container, place a solid foundation of clay on top of rock; upon that, construct a little lean-to house using craft sticks and glue gun, pressing the bottom of the sticks into the clay so they are secure. In the other container, put in a mound of sand. Construct a little lean-to house using craft sticks. Have someone ready to pour water into each container when you read the Scriptures. Do a test run to make sure your house stands on the rock but falls on the sand when water is introduced.

Remind the students of Matthew 7: 24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and put them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house and it fell with a great crash." When we listen and obey, we live the Gospel! What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

2. Living the Gospel Across the State

Materials: Copies of the state of Arkansas divided by counties for each child, markers in 5 different colors per child

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 our state 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 missions work in your area. What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

3. Bible Storying

Materials: Matthew 5: 1-16 for older children or Matthew 7: 24-27 for younger children

Explain that everyone loves to hear a good story. One way we can share Christ with others is to always be ready to share a story in our own words from the Bible. Tell the story to the children. Tell them to listen closely so they can tell it on their own when it is their turn. Tell the story again to the children. Then have a student tell the same story again in their own words. Divide up into groups, giving all students a chance to re-tell the story. What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

4. Light in the Bottle

Materials: Tiny clear plastic bottles with lids from a craft store for each student, glow-in-the-dark craft paint
Instructions: Give each student a bottle and have them remove the lid. Older children may assist the younger students with this. Squeeze out a quarter size amount of glow-in-the-dark paint into the bottle of each student. Have the children replace the lids and shake their bottles until the paint evenly coats the entire inside. Add more paint if needed. Once everyone is finished, switch off the

lights. Remind the students that we are to shine our light for Christ as we live the gospel. Instruct the students to take their bottle home and place it in their room as a reminder to shine the light of Christ. What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

5. Play "Jesus Says..."

Instead of "Simon says," say "Jesus says jump up and down, turn around, clap your hands, " etc. Occasionally give the activity command and leave off, "Jesus says." When the students do the actions anyway, say, "Oh, but Jesus didn't say to do that!" A game like this helps get the wiggles out while also reinforcing the truth from the Bible story to do what Jesus says by living the way He instructs us to live. Remind students that when we obey our parents and teachers, we are doing what Jesus says! What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)

6. "Salty or Not" Snack

Materials: Prepared plain popcorn, salted popcorn, plain French fries, salted French fries, mini cups of each for each child

Have the children do a taste test to determine which recipe of each they prefer. Remind the students that when we live rightly amongst the lost people around us, we become like salt on bland food. Who doesn't like salted popcorn and French fries better than plain?! What's our theme? (*live the Gospel!*)