



Preschool TEACHING PLAN

2016
DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING

Theme: Living the Gospel

Theme verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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.

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, then have a 10–15-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.

HOMELIVING: COWBOY CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES

Have available bandanas, cowboy hats, vests, cowboy boots; anything you can gather to help the preschoolers dress up as cowboys/cowgirls. Be aware that some preschoolers do not know what cowboys and cowgirls do. You might have to explain that they work on farms or ranches and work with cows, horses and maybe sheep and other animals. They work to feed these animals and take care of them for the rancher or farmer. They often put up and mend fences. They wear special clothing:

hats to protect from sunburn, boots to protect their feet and bandanas to soak up sweat and, over their noses, to filter out dust. They wear jeans when riding and working.

BLOCKS: ANIMALS, A BARN, AND FENCES

Provide a barn with animals and encourage the preschoolers to use the wooden blocks to build fences. Have horses, cows and sheep. Cowboys feed and take care of animals on a ranch. They keep the fences mended and the barn clean. If you have someone in your church who rides, provide a saddle for preschoolers to try. Place it on the floor in order to prevent falls. Some churches and preschools have stick horses in the resource closet. Take these outside if you have a playground time and allow the children to take turns riding the horses.

BOOKS: MISSION BOOKS, FARM BOOKS, AND COWBOY 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 cowboys or farms can be used as well. Two are listed in the resources. Remember to use books with real pictures, if possible. You might also place a book about Arkansas in the book area. 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.

ART: MAKE A DIXIE JACKSON BANK

You can buy from WMU a missions bank preschoolers can decorate with markers and stickers. The banks cost \$9.99 for a package of 10. Preschool leaders are creative people and you can make them as well. Two popular options are the milk carton bank and the 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 jars need to be clean and the lids fastened tightly. (I don't recommend gluing.) Wrap the side of the jar in white paper and allow the preschoolers to decorate. You might have a nickel or dime for each child 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.

Have available plain white paper for preschoolers to use for drawing and coloring. Let them use their imagination to create farms, animals, cowboys or cowgirls. 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."

GAMES AND MANIPULATIVES: WORK A PUZZLE

Make available any animal puzzles you may have in your preschool resource closet, and 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 Wynne, Dardanelle, and the town you live in.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: COWBOY SONG

If you have enough hats for each child to have one, place the hats in a circle on the floor. To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," sing a song about cowboys.

The verses would be: The cowboy rides his horse, the cowboy milks the cows, the cowboy feeds the animals, the cowboy cleans the barn and the cowboy mends the fences. Sing a verse while marching around the hats. At the end of each verse, ask the preschoolers to stop by a hat and act out the verse. Then, go on to the next verse and march again. This is good for working out the wiggles before group time.

The cowboy rides his horse,
The cowboy rides his horse,
Hi Ho the derry-o,
The cowboy rides his horse.

During activity time, play cowboy music while the children play. You can download songs online or you may have CDs with songs. Check the words carefully before using with preschoolers.

SNACK

Serve snacks that are sometimes fed to farm animals, such as corn on the cob, carrots and apples

At the door, post the foods you will be serving so parents can alert you concerning allergies. If you have young preschoolers, serve corn cut off the cob. All these foods are grown on the farm. Not only do people eat these foods, but cows and horses and sheep eat them, as well. Talk to the preschoolers about eating good food and help them understand the God made all these foods for the farmer to grow and enjoy.

TELL THE STORY

Gather supplies: Gather the pictures of The Three Trees Cowboy Church. 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 the towns of Wynne and Dardanelle, and your town as well. 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 think of. 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, 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 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.

“We are going to meet someone from Wynne who started a Cowboy Church. Who do you think goes to a Cowboy Church?” (Let children answer.) “Yes, cowboys and cowgirls go to cowboy churches, but anyone can go a cowboy church. Our story is about a man named Tracy Wilson and he is the leader (or pastor) of the Three Trees Cowboy Church in Wynne. He likes to ride horses and teach boys and girls how to ride horses too. He wanted to start a church for cowboys who could come to church wearing cowboy hats and jeans and could even ride their horses to church if they wanted to. He started by having a cowboy camp in the summer and teaching boys and girls how to ride horses and take care of horses. Then he found an empty church building and invited everyone to come for church on Sunday. Before church, they cook a big breakfast for everyone to eat. They have

eggs, biscuits and bacon. Everyone can come and eat. After breakfast, they ring a big bell telling people it is time for church. A man plays the guitar, and everyone sings church songs with him. Then Pastor Tracy reads the Bible and tells all the people there about Jesus. He loves Jesus and wants everyone to know that Jesus loves them. He asks for helpers to build a big barn called an arena. When it is built, people can come there toride horses and learn more about Jesus while they are having fun. They can have races and learn to rope a cow and have lots of fun. After the arena is built and the people come, Brother Tracy invites them to come to the church on Sunday or Tuesday. Lots of people come to church to sing and learn about Jesus. Sometimes more than 400 people come.

The children who come to church are called Buckaroos. That’s a cowboy name for children. They have a special program just for kids. All the children learn about Jesus, too. When Brother Tracy started the church, he was able to use money from the Dixie Jackson offering to pay for the building and to buy supplies. He is glad we have the Dixie Jackson offering to help churches get started. The church wants to start other Cowboy Churches in Arkansas so they can help lots of cowboys know about Jesus and know that Jesus loves them.

We are going to pray for Brother Tracy and his wife Lois and the Cowboy Church. We are going to ask God to help people to come to the church. Also, we are going to pray that girls and boys will come to the camp in the summertime to learn about Jesus.” Pray, and let the preschoolers pray also if they show a willingness or interest in praying.

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.

Brother Tracy's email is brotracy@att.net. You might want to let him know that your children prayed for him as you learned about Cowboy Churches.

The Scripture verse is very long. I would make it into a Bible Thoughts and write it on a bookmark. Place it in your Bible when telling the story and 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. Brother Tracy does this when he meets people."

BIBLE THOUGHTS

"We love you so much we want to share about Jesus."
"Because we love you, we want to tell you about Jesus."

MATERIALS NEEDED

PICTURES

Dixie Jackson
The Cowboy Church Arena
Horse Trough for baptism
Arkansas
Allergy alert page

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
The Big Red Barn – Margaret Wise Brown
Tiger's New Cowboy Boots – Irene Morck
Arkansas Books

HOMELIVING

Bandanas
Cowboy boots
Vests
Cowboy hats

BLOCKS

Red Barn with animals (Fisher-Price or any other brand you might have in your preschool area already)
Cows, horses, sheep, and other ranch animals
Saddle (someone in your church might have this); place on the floor to avoid falls.
Wooden blocks to use in building fences

ART

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

GAMES AND MANIPULATIVES

Animal puzzles – horse, cow, other farm animals
Floor puzzle made from Arkansas highway map

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Cowboy Song
Cowboy hats

SNACK

Corn on the cob, carrots, apples

GROUP TIME

Pictures from resources
Arkansas Map
Bible

FAMILY HOME ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK OF PRAYER AND DIXIE JACKSON OFFERING

- ◆ Allow your child to tell you about Brother Tracy and the Cowboy Church. Pray for them this week. Pray they will have opportunities to share Jesus with the people who come to Three Trees Cowboy Church. Preschoolers like to pray too sometimes. Help them to form prayers for Brother Tracy and the Cowboy Church. Pray out loud yourself in short prayers and short words to model for your preschooler how to pray.
- ◆ Help your child think of ways he/she could earn money to put into their Dixie Jackson bank. Offer to let them help you with a chore they are not normally assigned to do.
- ◆ Write a note to Brother Tracy telling him you and your child are praying for him and his church. He works during the week part-time for UPS. Pray he

will have energy to lead his church. Pray for his wife Lois. He has two daughters who are married, and he has one grandson. Pray for time with his family. His address is 160 County Road 381, Wynne, AR 72396

- ◆ Brother Tracy meets and invites new people in his community to Three Trees Church. Look around your neighborhood. Is there a senior couple that might enjoy a visit or a plate of cookies? What about a single parent? Has someone just moved in? Welcome them to the neighborhood with a fruit basket or cookies. Invite someone to go to church with you who you know does not attend. Help your child pray for neighbors and friends who do not go to church.
- ◆ Talk with your child about being kind to new people, children who may be new and need a friend, older people who may miss their grandchildren and how we can help them by being friendly and kind. Take a prayer walk around the neighborhood and pray for needs you see and people you can minister to.

Simply put, look for ways to do missions in your own neighborhood. Seek to encourage people who are engaged in missions. Both are valuable lessons your children will never forget.