

DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING

STUDENT LESSON PLAN

PRAYER

- Ask God to give you insight as you read His Word and prepare your lesson.
- Pray for a clear understanding of how the Holy Spirit leads you to respond personally to the 2019 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.
- Pray for each student in your group to be attentive and responsive during your meeting, and obedient in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them to be a witness and to engage with the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.
- Pray for the students to be aware of and excited about the power of one person to change the world for Christ.

PREP

- Explore the 2019 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer resources available at absc.org/dixiejackson. Read the theme introduction, review the planning guide, learn about the ministries spotlighted and watch the ministry videos.
- Decide how you're going to share the BCM video segment during your meeting, and plan accordingly.
- Read John 1:35-42, along with the lesson plan.
- Prepare supplies:
 - Use the template on the checklist to trace number 1s onto craft foam (light colors such as yellow, orange or bright green will work best) and cut them out. You'll need one cut-out and one Sharpie pen for each student.
 - Gather enough Bibles for each student to have one.
 - Choose praise music to play as the students are arriving and settling in.

- Reach out to your students the week before your meeting to let them know you look forward to seeing them there. Send a group text if you have phone numbers; if your student ministry has a Facebook page or Instagram account, you could write a brief post.
- On the day/evening of your meeting, arrive early enough to:
 - Be sure the room is set up the way you want it.
 - Have praise music playing as the students.
 - Arrive greet each student by name.

PLAN

If you have a relationship with Jesus, sharing your faith should come naturally. But it doesn't always feel that way. Let's remind students that talking about their faith doesn't require big, churchy words or a seminary degree. God just wants us to be available and obedient, to share what we know and trust Him with the rest.

Your goals for group time are to (1) use the story of Andrew and his brother Simon Peter to help students think about how they can share Jesus and (2) educate them about how they can have a hand in state missions through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

Use this lesson plan word-for-word or simply as a guide—however it offers you the best support as you lead. Feel free to adapt it to your format and time frame, as well as the interest and attention span of your group. The suggested questions are meant to prompt conversation; if you're watching the clock, you could choose just a few to focus on.

A large, stylized logo for Dixie Jackson, featuring the word "Dixie" in a script font and "Jackson" in a bold, blocky font, with a large, light blue letter "I" to the left.

(By the way, don't be afraid of silence. Give the students time to sit with the questions and to think before they respond.)

Instructions for two group activities are attached. "Vortex" is the game you'll use to kick off your Bible study. If there's rec time built into your meeting format, and space available for a rowdier game, "Blob" starts with one person and ends when everyone has been tagged. It's a fun way to reinforce the idea that one person can have a big impact.

When everyone's arrived, begin with a round of "Vortex."

After the game, ask the students to help you set up their chairs for your group time.

Introduce the text, John 1:35–42.

You could say: Some things are super easy to talk about. It's easy to talk about stuff that's fun, stuff we're interested in, things we have in common with others.

- But what about faith? Do you find it easy to talk with other people about Jesus?
- Have you ever gotten the idea that you need special words or training or knowledge to talk about Jesus with your friends? Do you think that's true?

If you have a relationship with Jesus, you have a story to tell. You already know everything you need to know in order to help others meet Him. The very first missionary recorded in the Bible did it with just four words after he'd known Jesus less than a day.

Our Scripture comes from the Gospel of John, which skips Jesus' early life and jumps in as He's beginning to travel and teach.

Each of the four Gospel writers wants us to know something different about who Jesus is; John wants us to see that Jesus is completely God. John's Gospel is an eyewitness account of his experience as one of Jesus's disciples, so his whole book is just his story of what he knows to be true about Jesus because of everything he's seen and heard for himself.

John begins his first chapter by telling us some important things about Jesus's identity. Then he introduces another John—Jesus's cousin, John the Baptist. The Jews believe God will send them a Messiah, and they'd been watching for him for years and years. JTB spends all his time telling everyone to repent and get ready, because the wait is over and the Messiah is on His way! Also, it's his job to make sure they recognize

the Messiah when He finally appears.

We hear a lot in the New Testament about Jesus' disciples, but John the Baptist has disciples, too. "Disciple" is just another word for student; there are guys who've been traveling around with JTB as his students, learning from him about the coming Messiah. One of them, a guy named Andrew, must have been paying close attention. Because when Andrew finally comes face-to-face with Jesus, he's ready to drop everything and follow Him.

Invite the students to look up John 1:35–42; when everyone's found it, read it to the group:

"The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, 'Here he is, God's Passover Lamb.'

The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, 'What are you after?'

They said, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?'

He replied, 'Come along and see for yourself.'

They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, 'We've found the Messiah' (that is, 'Christ'). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, 'You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas' (or Peter, which means 'Rock'). — The Message

If students are reading along from different translations, give them a chance to share anything about their version of the text that's different.

Talk about the text.

You could say: Andrew definitely knows how to seize a moment.

- What's the very first thing he does after he spends time with Jesus?
- What do you notice about the conversation he has with Simon?

Andrew has something exciting to share because he's been hanging out with the Messiah! Spending time with people and really getting to know them is

important to Jesus. Later in John's Gospel (15:15), Jesus calls His disciples "friends," and He considers us His friends, too.

- Is it weird to think of yourself as Jesus's friend? Why or why not?
- If you grow your friendship with Jesus by talking to Him and getting to know Him, does that make a difference in the way you talk about Him to other people?

Jesus gives Simon a new name: Peter, which means "rock." That's pretty funny at the time, because Simon isn't always much of a rock. Actually, he messes up a lot. But Jesus loves and accepts Simon just the way he is, and He gives Simon a new name based on the awesome ways Simon's going to change when he has God's love in his heart.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that in Christ, we're made totally new. Based on what we read about Simon Peter, what do you think that means?
- If you have a relationship with Jesus, what are some ways you're different because of it?

Andrew gives us a great example of how just one person can have a huge impact on the story of another.

- Is there one person in your life who introduced you to Jesus?
- How did that person help you get to know Jesus?

Introduce the 2019 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering BCM ministry video.

You could say: Jesus wants to be your friend. He wants to be as close to you as the people you hang out with every day. And when you talk about Him, He'd love it if you use normal words and just share what you know, like Andrew did.

That's what a missionary is—someone who knows Jesus, and tells what they know. When you talk about your faith with someone, it's not on you to make something happen. God will handle that. He asks you to be available and willing to share when He gives you an opportunity. Because what you have to share can make all the difference in the world for someone who doesn't know Him.

Share the BCM video.

Explain how Arkansas Baptists partner with one another through the Dixie Jackson

Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer to support ministries like BCM all over our state.

You could say: The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering is named for one lady who loved Jesus and loved telling other people about Him. More than a hundred years ago, she started traveling around the state teaching about Jesus. Wherever she went, she helped others get excited about missions in Arkansas.

This one lady had an idea: She believed that Arkansas Baptists are stronger when we work together to pray and give and volunteer, so with help from the Women's Missionary Union, she organized the first Week of Prayer for Arkansas missions. Within a couple years, a special offering was added to the Week of Prayer.

And since that first year, the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering has raised millions of dollars to help people in our state get to know Jesus through ministries like BCM. These ministries offer us tons of ways to share God's love serving along with other Arkansas Baptists: church planting, Acts 1:8 one-day mission trips and CONNECT weekends, block parties, prison ministry, hunger relief, literacy programs, disaster relief, medical and dental clinics, to name a few.

One person who loves Jesus and shares what they know about Him can actually change the world!

So what does that mean for us?

You could say: God gives us opportunities all the time to be a missionary, to share Jesus with other people.

- Think about your routine, the stuff you do every day or every week: Do you recognize any built-in chances to share something about Jesus with someone you see regularly?
- What are some ways we could get involved in the ministries that are supported by the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering? Could we plan a block party? Sign up for an Acts 1:8 one-day mission trip or a CONNECT weekend?
- Our church has set a goal to give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Could our student ministry organize a fund-raiser to help meet the goal?

Wrap up your group time with some closing thoughts and a prayer. Give each student a Sharpie and a foam cut-out of the number 1.

You could say: The Bible tells us that when we know

Jesus, we have His power inside us, and that makes us world-changers. Every one of us can help change someone's life by helping them get to know Jesus, too.

Let's close our eyes for a minute. Let's say "thank you" to Jesus for loving us, forgiving us when we make wrong choices and changing us to be more like Him.

Remember: In Christ, you are a world-changer! Ask Him to help you think of one thing you can do this week to

share Him with someone who doesn't know Him, and commit to do it. Write down on your number 1 what you're going to do. I won't ask you to share out loud what you wrote; take it with you as an encouragement to follow through and as a reminder that one person — you! — can have a huge impact on the story of another.

After a few minutes, I'll say a prayer, then we'll be dismissed.

OPENING GROUP GAME: VORTEX

- Divide the students into two groups of equal number; if you have an uneven number of students, join the game!
- Ask the students to help you set up chairs in two circles, one inside the other. Make sure the chairs are facing each other.
- Invite the students to have a seat; everyone should be facing the person in the chair across from them.
- To start the game: Call out a question; the students will have 30 seconds to exchange and explain their answers with the person across from them.
 - You could use these questions, or make up your own:
 - What's your favorite movie?
 - If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it?
 - What's the scariest thing you've ever done for fun?
 - Who do you look up to the most?
 - Which superpower would you choose?
 - Would you rather have the hiccups for a year or the need to sneeze for a year?
 - If you could have lunch with anyone, living or dead, who would you choose?
 - If you moved to Sesame Street, who would you want as your neighbor?
 - What's your favorite way to spend a Saturday?
 - If you could time-travel, would you visit the past or the future?
- After 30 seconds, ask the students in the outer circle to rotate one seat to the right and then call out a new question. You might use a kazoo or party horn to signal when it's time to move.
- Repeat until the students in the outer circle make it all the way around to the chair they started in.
- **For smaller groups, set the chairs up in two rows, facing each other. Ask the students in one of the rows to move down one seat for each new question.**

OPTIONAL REC-TIME GAME: BLOB

If time, weather and/or space allow, play a round before or after Bible study.

- Choose one student to be "it."
- Begin the game by yelling, "Go!"
- The students scatter on your signal, and the student who's "it" begins trying to tag someone.
- As soon as they do, they lock elbows with the person they've tagged. Together, they try to tag others.
 - Every person who's tagged locks elbows with the person who tagged them. Elbows have to stay locked throughout the game; only the people on the ends can tag someone.
 - The last person captured by the "blob" is the winner.

MASTER SUPPLY CHECKLIST

As the students arrive:

- Praise music available
- Device prepared (bluetooth speaker, laptop, phone, etc.)

For Bible study:

- Enough Bibles for each student to have one

To show the BCM video:

- Video available (by download or on the web at absc.org/dixiejackson)
- Device prepared (laptop, screen, etc.)

For closing prayer:

- Sheets of craft foam in a bright color, such as yellow, orange or bright green
- Scissors
- Pen for tracing
- Cut-outs of the number 1* (enough for each student to have one)
- Black Sharpie pens (enough for each student to have one)

Use the pattern below to trace onto craft foam:

