

DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING

PRESCHOOL 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 child in your group to be attentive and responsive during your meeting.
- Pray for the children to be aware of and excited about how they can tell others about Jesus.

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; find printables and templates to copy for class time.
- Read John 1:35–42, along with the lesson plan.
- Prepare supplies for class time. You'll need:
 - Praise music to play as children arrive
 - Copies of "Pray for The Bridge Church" coloring pages
 - Crayons
 - Picture of Dixie Jackson for story time
 - Supplies for the learning-center activities you choose:
 - **"Jesus Memory Cards"**
 - Make copies of each page of the "Jesus Memory Game" template onto white paper, and cut them apart to make individual cards.
 - Use a glue stick to glue each card to a piece of construction paper.

- Laminate the cards if you'd like to make them a little sturdier.

■ "Listening Jars"

- Fill 8 to 10 small, empty, clean containers (small Play-Doh jars, plastic Easter eggs, yogurt cups, film canisters, candy or mint tins) about half full, each with something different inside (pennies, rice, small pom-poms, sand, popping corn, M&Ms, pebbles, buttons).
- If you're concerned about choking hazards or spills, seal the lids with a little bit of hot glue. If you use containers that don't have lids, be sure that you can seal them with masking tape.

■ "Build a House or Church"

- Gather preschooler-friendly cardboard or wood blocks, Mega Bloks, and/or LEGO Duplo blocks; you'll need enough for there to be plenty to share during a group project.

■ "See Who Jesus Loves" Craft

- Copy the "See Who Jesus Loves" template onto colored construction paper or card stock.
- Make enough copies for each child to have a mirror, and cut the mirrors out along the lines.
- Cut squares of tin foil to fit inside the mirror "frame."
- Gather enough glue sticks for each child to have one, or for the children to share.

I am Dixie Jackson

- Gather enough craft sticks to make a “handle” for each mirror, and a glue gun to attach them to the mirror.
- On the day/evening of your meeting, arrive early enough to:
 - Lay out coloring sheets and crayons for kids who arrive early.
 - Have praise music playing as the children arrive.
 - Set up learning centers.

PLAN

Helping children get excited about sharing Jesus begins with teaching them the basics of discipleship and missions: knowing that God loves the whole world, including each of us; learning to listen when God is speaking; doing what God asks us to do; and sharing about God with others.

Your goals for group time are to (1) practice some simple discipleship skills with your preschoolers and (2) introduce them to some of the ways people are learning about God’s love through the ministries supported by the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.

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. For instance, you could set up the activities in learning centers if you have enough grown-ups to help, or you could do them one at a time. Also, if you’re watching the clock, you might choose one or two instead of trying to do them all. **Plan according to whatever works best for your group.**

As you greet the children, invite them to work on a coloring sheet until everyone has arrived.

When you’re ready to begin, start with a game of “Follow the Leader.”

You could say: We’re going to hear a story about a man named Andrew who followed Jesus. We can be followers, too! Let’s practice being good followers!

Turn on the praise music again, and lead the children around the room a couple times doing simple things they can easily copy. Be creative—walking sideways, jazz hands, elephant walk, giving a “WOOT! WOOT!”—and have fun!

Wrap it up by leading them to sit in a circle and put on their listening ears for story time.

Open your Bible to John 1:35, and keep it open on your lap during story time.

As you tell the story, engage the children by doing motions and inviting them to copy what you do. Be prepared to prompt them if they’re not doing the motions along with you. Use these suggestions, or make up some motions yourself.

You could say: The Bible is full of stories that help us learn about Jesus. It tells us all about God’s great big love. How big do you think God’s love is?

Invite them to show you by stretching out their arms.

God’s love is bigger than anything we can imagine. It’s the biggest thing there is! God loves you, and me, and everyone in the whole world! God wants us to know how much He loves us, so he made a plan to send us Jesus, His Son.

Our Bible story is from the book of John (**show the children where your Bible is open to John 1**). It says that before Jesus came, people were watching for Him (**hold your hand to your forehead, as if you’re shading your eyes**) but no one knew what He would look like (**shrug your shoulders**).

So when it was time for Jesus to come, God asked John the Baptist to travel around (**swing your arms gently back and forth, as if you’re power-walking**) telling everyone about Jesus and helping them get ready to meet Him.

One day, John the Baptist saw Jesus walking by. He said, “Look! (**make an excited face**) There He is! There is God’s Son! (**extend your arm and point**)”

John’s friend Andrew had listened very closely (**cup your hand to your ear**) to everything John said about Jesus. Andrew wanted to meet Jesus and talk to Him. So Andrew followed Jesus (**make walking fingers with both hands — point downward with your pointer finger and middle finger, then move them back and forth — with one hand following the other**) and spent the day getting to know Him.

Andrew was so happy to meet God’s Son! (**make an excited face**) After Andrew spent the day with Jesus, the very first thing he did (**hold up your pointer finger**) was to find his brother Simon and tell him about God’s Son! Andrew invited Simon to come meet Jesus, too! (**motion with your hand as if you’re asking someone to follow you**)

Andrew was the very first missionary (**hold up your pointer finger**), ever! A missionary is someone who helps other people know Jesus. All of us can be missionaries! It makes God’s heart so happy when we tell other people about Jesus.

There are Baptist churches like ours all over our state—remind me, what’s the name of our state? **(give the children a second to answer; they might need a prompt)**—that work together to share about Jesus. Every year, we collect money together, and pray together, and help people together so that everyone in Arkansas can know how much

Jesus loves them.

We collect money in a special offering that’s named for a woman who lived in Arkansas a long time ago. Her name was Dixie Jackson, and she loved Jesus with her whole heart! **(show the children Mrs. Jackson’s picture)**

Money we give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering helps buy food for people who don’t have enough to eat. It helps build houses for people who need a safe place to live. It helps people go to the doctor or the dentist when they need medical care, or repair their homes after big storms have torn them up. It helps people start brand-new churches to share God’s love in their town.

Our church gives to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and prays for all the people it helps, because that’s a way we can say “thank you” to God for sending us Jesus. It’s also a way we can help everyone in Arkansas know how much Jesus loves us.

Let’s say “thank you” to God right now for sending us Jesus! And let’s ask God to help us tell other people about Jesus.

Invite the children to close their eyes, and say a brief prayer out loud.

Give the children instructions for activity time, based on your format. Adjust the time spent on each activity based on the interest level and attention span of your group.

Jesus Memory Game—Remind the children that John the Baptist recognized Jesus when he saw Jesus walking by. **Invite them** to practice their “recognizing” skills with this classic memory/matching game. Take turns turning over the cards two at a time. If they match, leave them face-up; if not, turn them back face-down. Make sure everyone has a turn. **While you play, talk about the story:** Ask the children, for instance, how they think John the Baptist might have recognized Jesus, what he said to help other people recognize Jesus, what Jesus might have looked like.

Listening Jars—Remind the children that Andrew listened closely to what John the Baptist shared about Jesus. **Invite them** to practice their listening skills by

taking turns shaking the containers and guessing what might be inside, sorting the sounds from softest to loudest, observing which ones sound alike. **While you play, talk about the story:** Why did Andrew want to know Jesus? What made Andrew a good listener? What are some ways we can be good listeners to the people who tell us about Jesus?

Build a Church or a House—Remind the children that Arkansas Baptists work together to support the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions offering. The offering pays for lots of different kinds of things, like building and repairing houses for people who need a safe place to live, as well as brand-new churches that we call “church plants.” **Invite them** to work together to build a house or a church with blocks. **While you play, talk about the story:** How does building houses help people to know about Jesus? What would it be like to start a brand-new church? Why is it a good idea to work together with other Arkansas Baptists to share about Jesus?

“See Who Jesus Loves!” Craft—Remind the children that God’s love is the biggest thing there is; that God loves everyone in the whole world. Every time someone looks in a mirror, they see someone Jesus loves! **Invite them** to make and decorate a mirror to help them remember how much Jesus loves them. They can also share their mirror with others as a way to tell them about Jesus! **To make the mirror:** Give each child a paper mirror, a glue stick and a piece of foil. Show them where/how to glue the foil onto their mirror frame. Offer them crayons to decorate the frame. When they’ve finished, use a glue gun to put two or three glue dots on one end of the craft stick, and attach the mirror to it. **Keep the glue gun out of the children’s reach.** **While you work, talk about the story:** Why did Andrew want his brother Simon to meet Jesus? What would it be like if we didn’t know anything about Jesus? What are some easy ways we can help others get to know Jesus?

Before you dismiss, wrap up your group time with a prayer.

You could say: The Bible tells us that Jesus loves all of us—everyone in the whole world! It makes His heart so happy for us to know that, and to tell other people that He loves them, too.

Let’s close our eyes for a minute. I’m going to say “thank you” to Jesus for loving us and being our very best friend, and I’m going to ask Him to show us some ways that we can help others know Him. While I pray out loud, you can pray along silently.

MASTER SUPPLY CHECKLIST

As the children arrive:

- ☐ Praise music
- ☐ "Pray for The Bridge Church" coloring pages (printable available at absc.org/dixiejackson)
- ☐ Crayons

For the story:

- ☐ Picture of Dixie Jackson (printable available at absc.org/dixiejackson)

For learning-center activities:

Jesus Memory Game

- ☐ Cards copies of the "Jesus Memory Game" template (template available at absc.org/dixiejackson)
- ☐ White copier paper
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Laminate (optional)

Listening Jars

- ☐ 8 to 10 small, empty, clean containers with lids (for example: small Play-Doh jars, plastic Easter eggs, yogurt cups, film canisters, candy or mint tins)
- ☐ Something different to put in each of the containers (pennies, rice, small pompoms, sand, popping corn, M&Ms, pebbles, buttons)
- ☐ Masking tape to seal containers that don't have lids

Build a House or Church

- ☐ Preschooler-friendly blocks: cardboard, wood, Mega Bloks, LEGO Duplo (enough for there to be plenty for the children to share during a group project)

"See Who Jesus Loves" Craft

- ☐ Copies of the "See Who Jesus Loves" template (template available at absc.org/dixiejackson)
- ☐ Colored construction paper or card stock
- ☐ Foil
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Glue sticks (enough for the children to share)
- ☐ Glue gun