DJ

DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
2022

CHILDREN (K5–GRADE 5) LESSON PLAN

We must do the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. (John 9:4)

Whether you are teaching this lesson to your child or to a Sunday school class, ask God to help you communicate clearly. Your goal is to get the truth of this lesson deep into young hearts: Jesus changes lives, and time is short!

In preparation, you may want to read: Practical Tips for Teaching Children (absc.org/articles/practical-tips-for-teaching-children)

SHARE

Every September, Arkansas Baptists join together to help ministries in our own state. We do that through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer. This week we will be learning about several of these ministries. Each one focuses on different needs in our state. Some help Arkansas neighborhoods, while others minister to college campuses, disaster sites, women in difficult situations, and much more.

No matter your age, you can be a part of helping people in Arkansas. For example, you may want to talk with your mom or dad about giving some of your own money to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. No amount is too small.

But the most important thing you can do is pray.

Ask God to help Arkansas Baptists spread the love of Christ. One way they do this is through the annual One Day Acts 1:8 Mission Experience. On a single day, churches from across our state meet in one Arkansas city to do community missions.

Hundreds of people show the love of Christ to that city through block parties, fishing derbies, and other fun activities for children and families. There are also teams who walk together and pray for an area, and others who help with needed yard cleanup, or chat about Jesus with people out in their yards.

All of these things can happen because of support from the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Mission Offering.

This offering is also used to help start churches in our state and to help reach people who have never heard of Jesus. Did you know that the outreach of Dixie Jackson can spread to places that even Christian missionaries are not allowed to go? That's because people from all over the world are making their home in Arkansas.

Ask the children to raise their hands: "Who has classmates or neighbors who come from another country?"

Some may never have heard the good news of Jesus Christ—His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. That Jesus offers forgiveness of sins to all who trust Him for the forgiveness of their sins.

Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and

believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." No matter your age, you just might be the one God uses to change a life for eternity.

But time is short. We are told in John 9:4, "We must do the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work."

What do you think "night is coming" means? (Listen to the children's answers.)

Now let's read a true story from John 9:1–7 about a blind man who met Jesus. (Open your Bible to this passage.)

Read John 9:1–7 (CSB) and then answer these questions:

> As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him. We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So, he left, washed, and came back seeing.

Ask:

1. What was the man's problem? (He was blind from birth.)
2. Did sin cause this to happen? (Neither this man nor his parents sinned.)
3. How did Jesus help the man? (He restored the man's sight by making mud with his saliva and putting this on the blind man's eyes. Jesus told the blind man to wash in the pool of Siloam. He obeyed, washed, and came back seeing.)
4. What did Jesus mean when He said in verse 5, "I am the light of the world"? (Jesus is the spiritual light in a world of darkness. He opens spiritually blind eyes.)
5. Jesus told the disciples in verse 4 that, "Night is coming when no one can work." (There is limited time to tell others about Jesus Christ. The ministry opportunities we have today may not be there tomorrow.)
6. What are some things that you enjoy doing outside in the summer? When the sun is going down, and it is getting dark, how does that affect what you can do?
7. So what do you think it means to "do the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work." (Time is limited. We do not know how long we have to show the love of Christ and tell others about Jesus.)

POSSIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Reenact the Bible Story

Ask for some volunteers to act out this Bible story. Doing this will help the children remember what they are learning.

As you read the Bible story, the children can pretend to be different people in it.

For John 9:1–7, you may want to choose children to act out these parts:

> As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him. We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the

saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

- Blind man (sitting)
- Jesus (walks near the blind man)
- Jesus' disciples (walking with Jesus)

One of the disciples asks: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus says: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We do the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Jesus stops walking and looks at the blind man. He spits on the ground, makes mud, and puts "mud" on the blind man's eyes.

Jesus says: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent").

The blind man stumbles out.

The "blind man" returns and says, "I can see!"

(If there happens to be a dimmer on the light switch, dim the lights as the story is being told. If you do not have a dimmer, you may want to turn the lights off for a few seconds at the end of the "skit" to remind the children that night is coming.)

Guess the Object

Ask each child to close their eyes and describe an object that is in the room. While their eyes are closed, ask the children to guess what you are describing. When someone guesses correctly, ask all of the children to open their eyes and show them the object.

Now, tell the children that you will repeat this activity, but this time they can keep their eyes open. When someone guesses the correct object ask the child/children:

1. Was it easier to identify _____ when your eyes were open or closed?
2. Why do you think so?

Once again, you will repeat this activity. But set a very short time limit for the children to answer correctly, (ex: 15–20 seconds). They will likely not be able to do this.

1. Was it easier or harder to identify _____ when you were being timed?
2. Why?

Summary: Remind the children that there is a limit to the amount of time in every day; that night is coming.

PRAY (You may ask older children to volunteer to pray.)

- Pray that God will bless ministries right here in Arkansas through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.
- Pray that Jesus will help you tell others in your school and neighborhood about Jesus.
- Ask God for safety and wisdom for those on the Disaster Relief team. These volunteers leave their homes to help during tornadoes, floods, and catastrophes. Thank God for them.

Visit our website to download promotional resources + discover more about Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions:

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