DJ

DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING 2022

ADULT 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)

As we look around our world and state, we see countless hurting people who need the hope of Christ. It is still day, but darkness is coming soon.

Arkansas Baptists are linking arms to help ministries right here in our own state. How? Through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.

LEARN TOGETHER

Jesus said 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."

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.

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 gave the blind man sight.)
4. What did Jesus mean when He said in verse 5, "I am the light of the world"? (Jesus is spiritually the light of the world.)
5. Jesus told the disciples in verse 4 that "Night is coming when no one can work." The ministry opportunities we have today may not be there tomorrow. How should this affect our lives today?
6. Psalm 121:2 says, "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." How does God help others today through His church? (He does this through the people in His church. For example, Arkansas Baptist ministries share the love of Christ as they help others. They also tell others about the finished work of Jesus. Romans 6:23 tells us, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.")

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

This year, the focus of the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer is on six ministries. This lesson will highlight two of them: **Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief** and **Pregnancy Care Centers**.

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DISASTER RELIEF

GREG HUTCHINSON
Member of Wooster FBC

"I love being able to help folks through Disaster Relief....When you see that elderly lady's face, and the tears start to come down her face when you say, 'I'm here to help you.'...man, what a blessing!"

When disaster strikes, Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those whose lives have just been turned upside down. Devastated victims soon discover that the yellow shirts of Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief crews symbolize real help and genuine comfort.

But many Arkansas Baptists have no idea what it means to be a part of Disaster Relief (DR).

Greg Hutchison first learned about Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief during a Dixie Jackson presentation at his church. Greg had been in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, when the Federal Building bombing occurred, and he hungered for an opportunity to help minister in the middle of that tragedy. But he didn't have an avenue to do so at the time.

He quickly learned that Disaster Relief would provide that avenue for future disasters and crises, so he signed up for training and became certified. He never imagined that his first call would be to travel to New York City in September of 2001 after an even larger terrorist attack.

Since that time, he has served on numerous DR teams. Each one has reflected the love of Christ by preparing hot meals, removing damaging debris and trees, tarping roofs, providing emergency communication, cleaning up after floods, and more.

"The folks are very receptive to the Gospel," Greg said. "There's an eternal aspect that comes into their mind. 'I've lost my home, but these folks are telling me about something that's my eternal home.'"

DR teams are usually housed in a church, and the pastor is given information on needed follow-up.

"While it is still light"

"While it is still light," Hutchinson said, "we have to bring the help, hope and healing of Jesus Christ...Dixie Jackson funding helps us to be ready to go when the call comes in."

The needs are many, including:

- Diesel fuel to get the teams to devastated locations,
- Propane to run the cookers,
- Gasoline to run chainsaws and other equipment,
- Funds to maintain trucks and trailers, and more.

But most importantly, it takes prayer. That is the greatest need for any Christian ministry.

Pray that God would:

- Open the hearts of those hurting from disasters to the hope of Jesus Christ.
- Give wisdom to Disaster Relief chaplains as they minister to hurting people.
- Equip and prepare Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief Teams to do His work in crises.
- Help Disaster Relief leaders to accurately assess emergency situations.
- Provide needed funding to keep supplies stocked and tools and trailers in excellent condition.
- Encourage Arkansas Baptists to volunteer for Disaster Relief crews, so that teams can be fully manned. To learn more about Baptist Relief Teams, visit abscdisasterrelief.org

PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

ROBIN CALDWELL
Director, Hope Place Pregnancy Care Center

"We have divine appointments with these women and we have such a small window to meet their needs....Your giving will make an impact for generations to come."

Robin Caldwell grew up thinking that her life was a mistake. Her biological father had wanted to abort her, and he tried his best to sway her mom to do just that. "But praise the Lord, she did not make that decision," Robin said. "She made a choice to choose life."

Although grateful for her mom's decision, Robin still struggled with her seemingly accidental life. Why was she born? What was God's purpose for her life?

She discovered the answer when she was on a missions trip, standing on the porch of a crisis pregnancy center in Florida. "God showed me that I was not planned by my parents. He planned me."

And now, as the director of Hope Place in Newport, Robin is helping women just like her own mom—trapped in an unwanted pregnancy and dark time. Many tend to wallow in despair, Robin says, and they desperately need someone to encourage them and point them to the hope of Jesus Christ...over and over again.

And that is just what centers like Hope Place are doing. "We have such a small window to meet the need and reach them," Robin said.

One such woman stands out in her mind today. She was desperately searching for hope when she contacted Robin. She had been raped and her family wanted her to abort the baby.

Robin said, "I remember the moment she said to me, 'This is not my rapist's child and I'm choosing life.'"

The needs of Hope Place are many. Their free and confidential services include pregnancy tests, pregnancy counseling, educational classes, post-abortion support for women struggling with their decision, and much more. But all of this takes financial resources.

"Time is running out," Robins said, "and without the Dixie Jackson offering we can't do it. Things are getting tough...things are getting harder."

Pray that God would:

- Lead women struggling with an unplanned pregnancy to seek help from Hope Place Pregnancy Care Center and other pregnancy care centers.
- Open the eyes of Arkansas Baptists to not only see the desperation of women in crisis pregnancy situations, but also to realize how they can tangibly help.
- Open the eyes of desperate women to the truth and hope of the Gospel.
- Provide needed volunteers and funding for pregnancy centers throughout our state.
- Provide wise teachers for the various education classes at pregnancy care centers.
- Show you how you could help a local pregnancy center through volunteering, organizing a diaper drive, hosting a baby shower, etc.

We do not know what will happen tomorrow. *Night is coming.* That's why we must act today.

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

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