

BRIGHT HOPE for DARK DAYS

2008 California Mission Offering Preschool Learning Session

Bible Truth: God desires us to reach out and share Jesus with others

Scripture: I Peter 2:9

Bible Thoughts: Help one another (Gal. 5:13)
Tell people about Jesus (Matt. 28:19)
Be kind to one another (Eph. 4:52)
Love one another (I John 4:7)
We are helpers (II Cor. 1:24)

Story: I can tell others about Jesus

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Teacher Information: What an awesome opportunity to be able to share God's truth with preschoolers. We never know the difference God will make in their lives through our efforts. Preschoolers learn by doing. In this lesson, the children will learn God loves them, made them special, and each one of them can share Christ's love in many concrete ways.

Remember that adequate preparation is key to good and effective teaching. Having supplies ready and waiting for the children will make your life much easier. As you teach these little ones, don't forget the important work you are doing in shaping their minds as God desires. This will encourage you and emphasize the importance of your ministry.

Greet Parents and Children

Free play (20-30 min.)

Block activity: Build a church with blocks. Pretend to tell people about Jesus in the new "block" church.

Puzzle activity: Set out wooden puzzles for children to work with. This will help them develop logical thought and fine motor skills using fun activities.

Art activity: (Mission bank) Collect several butter tubs or small boxes all the same size. Decorate them with stickers and markers. Cut a slit in the lid large enough to put coins through. Encourage children to collect coins for the California Mission Offering.

Playdough activity: Children love playdough. They can build a church, make people, make a Bible or another church-related item. As they build and create with the playdough, talk with them about their friends, family and the importance of going to church and learning about Jesus.

Active outdoor play or game time: (10-15 min.) If you have a children's play yard that is wonderful. If not, children love playing circle games. (Examples might be: Duck, Duck, Goose or paper streamer movement to music.) Any fun game that gives the child an opportunity to move around and get the "wiggles" out will work. Again, you might talk about the fun you have at church. Begin planting the seed of inviting others to join you at church. This might be a seed that sprouts and develops a harvest.

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Group time: (10-15 min.)

- Open with prayer
- Sing song: Jesus Loves Me
- Tell the story: God has made each child very special. (Use your own children as examples.) Abby may have blue eyes and blonde hair and yet Amy's eyes are green and her hair is brown. You each have very special gifts also. Grace loves to sing and Cannon enjoys playing with playdough. God wants all of us to share Jesus with others. In the Bible there was a man named Paul who traveled around sharing Jesus with many people. Paul helped start many new churches.
- Can you think of ways we can share Jesus' love with others? Some examples: we can give money to help start new churches. We can collect cans of food to give to families in need. We can make encouragement cards for a senior citizen or those serving in the military who are stationed in other countries.
- Copy Bible thoughts on colored paper strips and place in your Bible. Allow each child to choose one of the verses and let him/her repeat a Bible thought after you whisper it in their ear. Explain the meaning of each Bible verse.
- Close in prayer.
- Children can participate in a quiet activity such as looking at books, playing with playdough or playing in the "home living center" till their parents pick them up.

June Jensen is Woman's Missionary Union/Women's Ministries preschool consultant for California Southern Baptist Convention. She has worked with preschoolers for 40 years and currently teaches preschoolers in her church, Shadowridge in Granite Bay. Her husband, Reg, is a retired high school teacher and they have three grown children and are excitedly expecting their first grandchild in the fall.



The California Mission Offering is inspired by S.G. Posey, a CSBC missionary pioneer.