

Love with Action

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Theme: Love With Action

Bible Truth: We can give money and help people who are in need

Bible Verse: "Dear children, let us not love in word or tongue, but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:18 NIV

Bible Phrase: "Show your love by what you do" 1 John 3:18 (paraphrase)

Story: We Can Help in Many Ways

Song:

We can help in many ways, many ways,
many ways

We can help in many ways, because we give to
missions.

(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Teacher Information:

Because small children often act like they are not paying attention, we sometimes don't realize how much they are learning. Children are always learning. Our responsibility is to be sure they are learning the right things. The objective in preschool teaching is learning foundational concepts. Activities are carefully chosen to teach children through play.

In this lesson, the children will be learning that God wants us to show our love by our actions. One way to show our love is to use the money He gives us to help others. In this story, the missionaries use many different ways to help others. The activities and group time focus on experiencing this concept.

The lesson is designed with flexibility. Depending on how much time you have you may want to add some free playtime. Most of the activities are self-contained, so if you need to leave one activity off or rearrange them, the lesson will still work. Remember that preparation is a key to good teaching. Having supplies ready and waiting will make everyone happier.

As you are teaching, don't forget how important the work you are doing is. How much better off would our world be if every preschooler learned as a young child that God wants us to show our love by our actions? Keep up the good work!

Learning Session Schedule

Greet parents and children (10-15 min.): Free play

Group Time (10-15 min.)

Preparation – Review scripture, story, song, and learn the Bible phrase. Print a copy of the Bible phrase for each child.

Supplies – play money and a basket.

* Act out ways we work together at church (teaching, greeting, singing, giving money), and let the children guess what you are doing.

* Tell the story: We Can Help in Many Ways

Do you ever wish you could do more than one thing at a time? Wouldn't it be fun to play with blocks and playdough at the same time? When we give to the California Mission Offering, we are doing several things at one time. The money we give goes to help many people. Missionary Debbie Wohler uses the money to help children who come to Lake Tahoe for vacation. She teaches them Bible stories and plays games with them. Missionary Monta Jo Erikson helps adults learn to read and write English. Missionary Ken Dean helps feed people who are hungry. Missionary Randy Bennett helps the people who work in the hot sun picking our fruits and vegetables. Missionary Don Hargis helps people who have lost their homes because of a flood or a fire. Other missionaries share the Good News of Jesus with people and help start new churches. We want everyone to have a church in their town where they can learn about Jesus in their own language. This is a big goal since there are many towns and different languages in California.

The Bible says we should not just love people with our words, but our actions should also show people we love them. If we tell our friends we love them, but then take their toys without asking, they don't think we love them. But when we do nice things for others, they know we really love them. When we give to the California Mission Offering we give money to many different missionaries who help in many different ways. It is just like being able to do many good things at one time. This way people in California will know that we really love them, because our actions show them. They will also know that God loves them, because we can tell them about God's love while we are helping them.

* Pretend to take a missions offering with play money and a basket.

* Sing *We Can Give at Church*

We can help in many ways, many ways, many ways

We can help in many ways, because we give to missions
(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

***Learn the Bible Phrase** – “Show your love by what you do”

I John 3:13 (paraphrase)

Have each child choose a friend and say the Bible verse with each other. Then say the Bible verse together as a group.

*Pray for the missionaries who are helping people in many ways.

Blocks Activity (5-10 min.): *(Supplies – blocks, baby wipes)*

Clean the blocks and use them to build houses. Talk about how missionary Don Hargis helps people clean and rebuild their homes that have been damaged by water or fire.

Puzzles Activity (5-10 min.): *(Supplies – Several sets of alphabet letters – can be magnetic, fun foam or paper cutout; write out word cards with words like Jesus, God, Bible, Pray, Give, Help)* Play with alphabet letters and create words by putting the matching letters on the letters on the word cards. Talk about how missionary Monta Jo Erikson helps people learn how to read and speak English.

Nature Activity (5-10 min.): *(Supplies – various fruit and a basket – one for every four children, church brochures)*

Make fruit baskets to give to neighbors near the church. Talk about how missionary Ken Dean gives food to people who are hungry and tells them about Jesus. (Ask the parents to go with you and the children after class to distribute the fruit baskets. Tell the neighbors that the children at church are learning about giving and the class made fruit baskets to give away. Include a brochure about the church and invite the neighbors to attend.)

Home Living (Dramatic Play) Activity (5-10 min.):

(Supplies – toy fruit and vegetables, baskets)

Place the toy fruit on the floor and guide the students to pick up the fruit and put it in the baskets. Talk about how missionary Randy Bennett tells the people who pick our fruits and vegetables about Jesus.

Dismiss Children to Parents (10-15 min.): Free play

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