

MISSION QUEST

A curriculum based on mission, for children.



Lesson plans for 1-5th grade age children

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INTRODUCTION

This curriculum is designed to provide children with a general understanding of mission and why it is important. Each daily lesson is grounded in the fact that we can provide mission in many ways and in many different areas of the world; whether it's in our own neighborhood, or in another country.

The lessons are meant for multi-age groupings of children who are 1st - 5th graders, but could very easily be adapted to various settings and age groups. Although these lessons are written in a specific manner, the different mission projects can change and adapt to each individual group using them.

NOTES FOR THE LEADERS:

Each lesson has an opening session and a closing session where the children gather together to discuss the intent of that day and what will be going on. Take this time to really set the tone for your mission project and allow the children to really process why they are there.

Please remember that you are encouraged to use your own creativity to make this curriculum work for your group. Crafts, snacks, and recreation games are things that can be changed as you see fit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Thanks to the Mission Committee and the Children's Ministries Committee at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denton, TX for believing in this project and helping to make it a reality.

Also, thank you to all the volunteers at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denton, TX for all your hard work and your commitment to quality programming for our children.

LESSON 1

WHY DO WE DO MISSION?



Genesis 1:1-2:4

“In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water...God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness...”

WELCOME:

As the children come into the room, direct them to a table that you have set up with small white 5X6 cards and crayons. Invite the children to draw a picture of something that they are thankful for. Once they are done with their picture they can then walk over to the wall where you will have a large sheet about 24X24 square inches that has written on it “Thank You God”. This is where the children can tape their pictures up to create a collage.

Gather the children in a circle and lead them in a song. Once the song is over ask the children to sit on the floor.

Say:

“I want you all to think about how we can say Thank You to God. One way is by helping others through mission. As you go around today and do different projects, remember that by helping someone else you are saying Thank You to God for all of the blessings we have been given.

MUSIC:

For music the children worked each week on a song called “We Bow Down”. The music leader used the CD *Here I am to Worship for Kids: Volume 2* and a poster board with the lyrics written on it. They would sing the song and learn movement to it.

STORY:

Today’s story is the story of creation. The story leader used the materials from the *Godly Play* program to tell the creation story. The children were then invited to each plant a small plant to take home with them.

Supplies:

Potting soil

Small plastic cups
Seeds
Printed labels for each cup
Spray bottle with water

The cups are filled 1/3 of the way full with soil before the children get to story time. Once the story is over, the children can find their cups and place the seeds in their soil, then with adult supervision the children can put another 1/3 of soil in the cup and they can spray their soil with water.

SNACK:

Individual Hand Sugar Cookies

1 C. SUGAR
1 C. SHORTENING
1 TSP. BAKING SODA
1 TSP. SALT
4 TSP. MILK
2 EGGS
2 TSP. VANILLA
3 C. FLOUR
MIX ALL INGREDIENTS
CHILL DOUGH FOR 30 MINUTES
ROLL OUT AND CUT SHAPES
PLACE ON GREASED PAN; BAKE 350 DEGREES FOR 10 MIN.

RECREATION:

Today recreation was free play. There were different toys like jump ropes, hula-hoops, balls, and tricycles to play with. The children were allowed to choose whatever they wanted to play with.

CRAFTS:

Shrinky Dink Globe Necklaces

Supplies:

Shrinky Dink plastic
Earth Pattern
Colored pencils
Scissors
Heat embossing gun
Hemp String
Pony Beads

The kid's colored world pattern and then once they were finished coloring; they took their world to be shrunk by the heat gun with the assistance of an adult. Once the world had been shrunk, the kids strung their necklaces and added colorful beads.

MISSION:

For the mission project today we decorated banners for the Kairo's House in Guatemala.

Set up: Have four large tables set up in the center of the room and a separate table in the corner of the room. On the corner table assemble paper plates with different color washable paints and sponge paintbrushes.

On the tables in the middle have the two banners each about 2 yards long with a bible verse written on one and another saying on the other written with marker.

When the children come into the room invite them take a seat. Explain to them that the Kairo's House is a place in Guatemala where kids and their families can live when the children are sick in the hospital. We want to give them something special to look at to cheer them up. Instruct the children to make a straight line at the paint and have volunteers help the children by painting each of their hands with the paintbrushes. The children then carefully walk over to the banners and place their handprints on them. Once the children have put their hand prints on the banners they should be lead to a sink to wash their hands clean.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Information from City of Denton Website

<http://www.cityofdenton.com/pages/utswrecycling.cfm>

Play – Reduce Reuse Recycle – from Curious George Soundtrack

Talk about the three R's

Ways to reduce

- Buy less
- Use both sides of the paper
- Use reusable containers

Ways to Reuse

- Donate toys
- Donate clothes
- Find another use

- Reuse something instead of buying something new

Things that can be recycled

- Aluminum and steel/tin cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Newspaper and magazines
- Junk mail and phone books
- Office and school paper
- Cardboard and boxboard

Things that can't be recycled

- Plastic Bags
- Food-Soiled paper products or pizza boxes
- Kitchen waste, yard waste or trash
- Batteries
- Hardback books
- Plastic takeout containers or utensils
- Styrofoam
- Scrap aluminum or foil

Church recycling bin

- Clean dry paper
- Newspapers, magazines
- Shopping catalogs
- Office and school paper
- Junk mail

CLOSING:

Ask:

What does mission mean? *Helping others, being nice to each other, and doing special projects for other people.*

How do we tell God Thank You? *By helping others, doing mission*

Go around the circle and everyone say something that they are thankful for.
We must remember that when we help others by doing mission, we are saying Thank You to God for all God's many blessings.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing us here today to learn about Mission. Let us help others this week so we can say thank you to you for all your blessings.

Amen.

LESSON 2

DO WE HAVE ENOUGH?



Exodus 16:11-26

"The Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them that at twilight they will have meat to eat, and in the morning they will have all the bread they want. Then they will know that I, the Lord, am their God..."

WELCOME:

As the children come in greet them and ask them to sit in a circle. Explain to the children that today we are going to be talking about how some people don't have enough food, while others have too much food. Helping a local homeless soup kitchen will be the focus of our day today.

MUSIC:

For music the children worked each week on a song called "We Bow Down". The music leader used the CD *Here I am to Worship for Kids: Volume 2* and a poster board with the lyrics written on it. They would sing the song and learn movement to it.

STORY:

Today's story is all about sharing food in a hungry world. The story leader began by retelling the Bible story. Then the story leader lead the children in a game that can be found in the curriculum *Is There Enough*.

Supplies:

- Current World Map
- Two 20-slice loaves of bread
- Small sign for each continent
- Same number of chairs as children

Divide the children into groups according to the chart and assign each group a leader. The leaders of the group get to hold the sign stating which continent their group is representing. The story leader will handout pieces of bread to each group leader according to the chart. The children will notice that some groups have more bread than others and it is easier to feed the entire group when there is more bread. Then ask the children a series of questions.

Who seems rich; who seems poor?
Did anyone feel greedy?
Did anyone give up some of his or her bread to share with another country?
Did anyone have to beg for bread?
Is ½ a slice of bread enough to feed someone?

Explain that the secret to having enough is sharing. If we share what God has given to the whole world, then no one will be hungry.

SNACK:

Biscuits with Jelly

Bake 12 cans of biscuits
Follow directions on can
Have jelly, butter, and honey to put on the biscuits

RECREATION:

Supplies:

Two different colored flags
Whistle

Today the kids played chase the flag. The group is divided into two teams. One person from each team is designated as the flag runner, and when the referee blows the whistle, each team must catch the other team's flag. If they can do it before the whistle, they get a point. The team with the most points in the end wins.

CRAFTS:

Picture Frames

Supplies:

Foam rectangles for background
Foam stickers/shapes
Glue

Kids decorate frames with foam stickers.

We will also take pictures of each child and have them printed so they can have a picture for their frame.

MISSION:

Today's mission is to help the homeless clients of Our Daily Bread, a soup kitchen at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church by decorating placemats that will be placed on the tables in the dining hall and by filling both healthy snack bags, and dental care bags for the clients.

The children were asked to come to Mission Quest with a donation of either some healthy snacks or dental care products.

Supplies:

- Printed placemats
- Crayons
- Paper bags
- God Bless You sticker for outside of the bags
- Individually wrapped cheese crackers, granola bars, raisins, fruit snacks
- Individually wrapped tooth crushes, toothpaste, mouthwash

Invite the children to begin by coloring their printed placemats. Once they have finished that they can take their brown paper bags and fill them with either dental care products or healthy snack products. Once their bag is full, they may put a "God Bless You" sticker on the outside of the bag.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Food Pyramid Lesson

Teach the kids about the importance of taking care of their bodies by eating food from all five-food groups.

Show the food pyramid from the Food Pyramid.gov website

<http://www.mypyramid.gov/kids/index.html>

Talk about what foods are in each food group, and some foods are better for us than others.

- Grains
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Milk

- Meat & Beans
- Oil – Not a food group, but some are needed each day

Go over the tips for families and talk about the importance of exercise.

Let kids color and fill in food pyramid handout with favorite foods from each group.

CLOSING:

Begin by asking the children to tell you about what they did today. Ask them if they can tell you who they helped and how they helped them. Make sure to emphasize the idea that some people have too much, while others do not have enough. Share the idea that a way we can help is by giving what we have too much of, like food, to those who do not have enough.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for our blessings and for giving us the opportunity to share what we have with those who are in need.

Amen.

LESSON 3

GIVING TO OTHERS



Matthew 14:13-21

“...”All we have here are five loaves and two fish”, they replied. “Then bring them here to me.” Jesus said. He ordered the people to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. Everyone ate and had enough. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left over. The number of men who ate was about five thousand, not counting the women and children.”

WELCOME:

Today’s welcome consisted of a guest speaker, Gail Jordan, from Presbyterian Children’s Home and Services, PCHS. Gail came to speak to the children about the facility that she works for and how our mission project for the day would help the children in need. Gail told a story about her personal journey living at the Presbyterian Children’s Home as a young girl, and how it saved her life.

This gave the children a chance to see a human face and to connect what they would be doing to help with a real person.

MUSIC:

For music the children worked each week on a song called “We Bow Down”. The music leader used the CD *Here I am to Worship for Kids: Volume 2* and a poster board with the lyrics written on it. They would sing the song and learn movement to it.

STORY:

Supplies:

- Raisins in a bag
- M&M candies in a bag
- Bite size pretzels in a bag
- Mini marshmallows in a bag
- A large mixing bowl
- A large mixing spoon
- Plastic sandwich bags for each child

The story for today is about how Jesus fed the five thousand. In order to visualize how Jesus made a small amount of food into a large amount of food, we will make a trail mix together as a group to ensure that everyone gets something to eat.

Ask the children how they think we could make sure that everyone gets some of everything? Encourage them to all dump their baggies of snacks into the large bowl and to mix it all together to make enough snacks for everyone. Once trail mix is made, serve individual servings to each child in their bags.

SNACK:

Individual People Sugar Cookies

- 1 C. SUGAR
- 1 C. SHORTENING
- 1 TSP. BAKING SODA
- 1 TSP. SALT
- 4 TSP. MILK
- 2 EGGS
- 2 TSP. VANILLA
- 3 C. FLOUR

MIX ALL INGREDIENTS

CHILL DOUGH FOR 30 MINUTES

ROLL OUT AND CUT INTO GINGERBREAD MAN SHAPE

PLACE ON GREASED PAN; BAKE 350 DEGREES FOR 10 MIN.

CHILDREN WILL DECORATE THEIR COOKIE WITH FROSTING AND CANDY.

RECREATION:

Kick Ball

Supplies:

- Large kick ball
- Four cones for base markers

Divide the group into two teams. Much like baseball you need a pitcher and three people standing on the bases. A person will come up to home base and will be pitched the ball, they will kick it they will run the bases while the other team tries to strike them out.

CRAFTS:

Mosaic Fish on fishing pole

Supplies:

- Clear Contact Paper
- Colored Tissue paper squares
- String
- Straw
- Beads

Kids take tissue squares and place on half of the sticky side of contact paper. Once squares are placed then students fold paper in half, sticky sides together. Then students or teachers cut out fish shape, and cut a hole to tie fish to string. The string is threaded through straw with a bead tied to the end to keep the string from coming out. The fish is tied to the other end of the string, and then can be pulled to look like you are catching a fish.

MISSION:

Today's mission project is to help the children of Presbyterian Children's Home and Services by filling backpacks with school supplies. During VBS the month before there was a collection of backpacks taken up for Mission Quest. The children were then asked to come to Mission Quest with either a backpack or some school supplies.

The room was arranged with all the supplies on a table in the middle of the room. Each child would one by one choose a backpack and go down the table filling the backpack with the arranged school supplies. When their backpack was filled, they were instructed to place their backpack in a box for transport.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Water Conservation

Use water activity "All the Water in the World" to show the amount of useable water on the Earth.

http://www.epa.gov/ne/students/pdfs/gndw_712.pdf Pages 4 & 5

Water Facts from "You can Save the Planet 50 Ways You Can Make a Difference" by Jacque Wines

- 70 % of the Earth's surface is covered with water.
- Only 2.5% is fresh water we can drink.

- Much of this water is frozen in glaciers, ice caps or buried under ground.
- It is important that we conserve our drinking water now!
- Up to 2 gallons of water can run out of a tap in one minute

Activity adapted from http://www.epa.gov/ne/students/pdfs/gndw_712.pdf Pages 4 & 5

1. Put 5 gallons of water in clear container. This represents all of the water in the world.
2. Talk about the different places water exists on the earth Ocean
 - Ground water
 - Rivers
 - Ice caps/glaciers
 - Freshwater lakes
 - Inland seas/salt lakes
 - Atmosphere
3. Remove 18 ounces of water from the container with a measuring cup. The water in the original container represents all of the water on the earth held in the oceans. The water in the measuring cup represents all the water in the world that is not ocean water
4. Remind them that ocean water is salty, and is not used for drinking water.
5. Pour 15 ounces of water from measuring cup into an ice cube tray. This water represents all the water held in glaciers and ice caps. This water is not readily available for our use. Place an ice pack in the “ocean water” container to represent the water held in glaciers and ice caps.
6. The remaining 3 ounces represent the world’s fresh water. Of this amount a fraction of an ounce is held in the world’s fresh water lakes and rivers. Place a dropper full of water into small plastic cup. Add blue food coloring to make it show up better.
7. The remaining water (approximately 2.5 ounces) is ground water. Pour the remaining water into a cup of sand. The water is underground in spaces in soil and fractures of bedrock.

How Much Water Do You Use?

http://www.epa.gov/ne/students/pdfs/gndw_712.pdf Page 11

Estimated amount of water used:

Toilet Flushing – 5 Gallons

Short Shower (5 – 10 minutes) – 25 Gallons

Long Shower (more than 10 minutes) – 35 Gallons

Bath- 35 Gallons

Teeth Brushing – 2 Gallons

Washing Dishes with Running Water – 30 Gallons
Washing dishes fill a basin – 10 Gallons
Using Dishwasher – 20 Gallons
Washing Clothes – 40 Gallons

CLOSING:

Ask the children to explain to you what the mission project was for the day. What is something that they learned or particularly enjoyed? Talk about how we learned that sometimes we could give things that we have a lot of like school supplies to those who do not have any. Also ask the children to think about what it would be like to not have a home or a family to take care of them. Think about all those children at PCHS who will now have a great start to their school year because of what we gave them.

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the opportunity to help kids like us who need what we need. Help those children to know your love through our gifts and to know that we care and love them.

Amen.

LESSON 4



GOD'S LOVE CROSSES OCEANS!

Acts 2:44-47a

"All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God, and enjoying the good will of all people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved."

WELCOME:

As the children come in, have them sit in a circle and explain to them that today we are going to be helping people far away from us. We will be helping those in Africa who are really sick.

The children then watched a promotional video included with the caregiver kit manual. The video explains what the caregiver kits are and why we are making them. After the video it is explained to the children that they will be helping someone in Africa by giving them the tools that they need to help someone who is sick. The things that are in the kits are things that we here in America can get easily, but in Africa the supplies are much harder to obtain because they are hard to find and they are much more expensive.

MUSIC:

For music the children worked each week on a song called "We Bow Down". The music leader used the CD *Here I am to Worship for Kids: Volume 2* and a poster board with the lyrics written on it. They would sing the song and learn movement to it.

STORY:

Supplies:

30-dollar bills
Offering basket

Because the story is about sharing what you have with others, the story leader will do an activity with money. Begin by giving each child some money. Some children will get one dollar, others will get three dollars, and others will get five dollars. Ask the children to count how much money they each have. Tell them that some of you have more money than others, is that fair? Back in Bible times, the people have a different way of handling the money they made. Now collect all the money from the children and redistribute it by giving each child three dollars while leaving three dollars in the basket. Explain that now everyone has enough money for all his or her needs and the money left over is saved for someone else who has a need.

This is the right way to handle money because it allows for everyone to have enough for what they need while also giving to those who have a special need.

SNACK:

Trail Mix

WHEAT CHEX
CHEERIOS
CHOC. CHIP COOKIE CEREAL
SMALL PRETZELS
M & M'S
MARSHMALLOWS
ALSO SERVE BANANAS AND GRAPES ALONG WITH THE TRAIL MIX.

RECREATION:

Dodge Ball

Supplies:

Three small balls

Ask the children to line up on one wall. When the person who is it is ready, the referee will blow the whistle and the children will try to run to the other side of the room without getting hit by the ball. The person who is it will try to get everyone out.

Make sure to regulate that the children are playing a friendly game by making them roll the ball on the ground instead of aiming for the body.

CRAFTS:

Ashanti Kente Cloth-African cloth that originated in Ghana

Supplies –

Construction Paper

Scissors

Tape

Fold one piece of construction paper in half for the background. Cut slits across almost to the edge, but leaving about 1 inch border. Take assorted strips of paper to weave in and out of slits, over under. Alternate each strip until background paper is completely woven.

Craft from ***Around the World Art Activities*** p77-78

MISSION:

Supplies:

Contact *World Vision* to get supplies ordered and shipped.

Have 4 large tables

Crayons

Today's mission project is to pack the caregiver kits that will be shipped to Africa. The purpose of the caregiver kit is to send supplies to a caregiver in Africa who is helping take care of someone who is suffering from AIDS. The kits include basic medical tools such as latex gloves, cotton balls, aspirin, Vaseline, and washcloths. These things help the patient with AIDS live a bit more comfortably and reduce the risk of infections.

Have the kit supplies lined up on the table in an organized fashion. Follow the instructions in the event manual to make sure the children are aware of how many of each item is included in each kit.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Africa

Videos downloaded from United Streaming

9. 2 MB Africa

6.91 MB Games in Ghana

8.2 MB Schools in Ghana

7 MB Kente Cloth for crafts

Kids will learn about life in Africa and Ghana. Videos will show how life is the same and how it is different.

Power Point – Africa

Discussion Questions:

What were some things that you saw in the videos that were like the United States?

What were some of the things that were different?

What are some of the ways that kids and people in Africa work together?

Read books from the library if there is time.

“Galimoto” by Karen Lynn Williams

“A is for Africa” by Ifeoma Onyefulu

“Look what Came From Africa” by Miles Harvey

Other Sources

Around the World Art Activities p77-78

Traditional Crafts from Africa by Florence Temko

CLOSING:

Because this is the last session, you want to take some time to recap all four Mission Quest sessions. Ask the children what they can remember from each day. What was the project? Who did they help? Ask them why we do mission and how are some ways we can say thank you to God.

Ask the music leader to lead the children in the song that they have been learning. This is a good time to have the parents come in and watch so that they can get a feel for what their children have been doing at Mission Quest.

Closing prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for all of the mission opportunities we had this month. Thank you for giving us a way to help others and to show your love through our actions.

Amen.



RESOURCES

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CareKits@worldvision.org

Resources:

Presbyterian Hunger Program, *Hunger Kit: Is There Enough?*

Berryman, J.W. (2002). *The complete guide to godly play: volume 2*. Denver, CO: Living the Good News.

“...And He took the
children in His
arms, put His hands
on them and
blessed them.”

Mark 10:16



