

# CHILDREN (K5-GRADE 5) LESSON PLAN

DIXIE JACKSON  
**ARKANSAS  
MISSIONS**  
OFFERING

2024

*Please adapt the following lesson plan to your own teaching style. Use whatever fits your class. This lesson plan was written to be taught during the annual Dixie Jackson Arkansas Mission Offering and Week of Prayer which occurs each September. During this week, churches around the state share stories about Arkansas Baptist ministries, pray, and have an annual offering. This year's focus is on medical and dental clinics right here in our own state.*

## BIBLE FOCUS

Understand missions and how Arkansas Baptists are sharing the Gospel through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

### 1. INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

What is "missions"?

Imagine biting into the most delicious slice of pizza ever. The yummy tomato sauce, stretchy cheese, and crispy crust taste amazing and make you feel super happy. And guess what? The chef says you can have as much of this pizza as you want, and you don't have to pay anything.

That's kind of like what Jesus offers us. He gives us His love and helps us in amazing ways, just like that pizza. Jesus wants us to share this great news with everyone, just like you'd tell your friends about the awesome pizza. Our job is to spread the Good News about Jesus and share this special gift with others.

What does the Bible say about the importance of sharing Jesus with others? Let's explore God's Word and see what He says:

### 2. BIBLE VERSE AND STORY (10 MINUTES)

**Read Matthew 28:18-20:**

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In these verses, Jesus is telling us how important it is to tell everyone about Him. He wants us to go everywhere and share how they can become Christians too! Let's break down what these verses mean in our walk with Jesus and how we can live them out in sharing Jesus.

1. God is the Boss: God is in charge of everything! He tells us what to do because He loves us and knows what is best for us.
2. Tell everyone about Jesus: Jesus wants us to share His love with everyone. Just like you might share your favorite toys or stories with your friends, we should share Jesus' love too! (Leader—Make this personal, tell your testimony and how someone shared Jesus with you.)

3. Help others learn: Jesus wants us to help others understand how awesome He is and show them how to follow Him.
4. Jesus is always with us: Even when we feel shy or unsure about telling others about Him, Jesus promises He will always be with us.

## APPLICATION

1. Pray: Ask Jesus to help you be brave and to find good ways to share His love and Good News with others.
2. Go: As you're going through life, there will be people who don't know about Jesus. It could be the kid next to you in your class who has never heard about Jesus. It could be someone on your sports team who doesn't attend church who needs to be invited. You don't have to go far, but make sure as you're going through life you live by example so that others see Jesus in your life.
3. Give: In the coming weeks, our church is going to be giving to an offering called the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. An offering is like giving a gift to help out. When you go to church, people put some money in a special box or basket. This money helps the church do important things. The focus of the Dixie Jackson Offering is all about sharing Jesus with people in Arkansas. You can give to the Dixie Jackson offering and make an impact.

## WHO WAS DIXIE JACKSON AND WHY IS THERE AN OFFERING NAMED AFTER HER?

Dixie Jackson was a lady who lived in a town called Dardanelle in Arkansas. She really loved learning about the Bible, but there weren't many places where she could go to learn more about it. So, she decided to learn on her own at home.

She had a big family with eight children, and she and her husband, James, were very involved in their church. Even after her husband passed away,



**Mrs. Dixie Jackson**

Dixie kept on learning about the Bible and teaching others about it.

In 1914, she got a special job with a group called the Woman's Missionary Union in Arkansas. She loved this job because it let her travel around the state and teach other women about being missionaries and helping people. She was so passionate about her work that she even helped start something called the Week of Prayer. It was a special time for people to pray and collect money to help missions in Arkansas.

Mrs. Jackson worked really hard, and she was so happy to see that the Week of Prayer became a big success. People donated more than \$1,000 to help with missions projects all over the state. That is over \$30,000 in today's money! Sadly, she passed away in 1929, but before she did, she got to see how her hard work made a big difference in helping others.

## 3. DISCUSSION (5 MINUTES)

Questions to ask:

- Who can you tell about Jesus?
- What can you do to share the love of Jesus with those around you?
- How can you make a difference now like Dixie Jackson did to share Jesus with others?

## 4. ACTIVITY IDEAS

### Pizza Prayer Group Activity

- Materials: Large sheet of paper (cut in a triangle), construction paper cut into red circles, and tape. You can be creative and make this look as much like a pizza slice as you would like.
- Activity: Have learners write out the person that they would like to share Jesus with on a pepperoni and stick it to the pizza slice. Take time as a group to pray for the people mentioned on the pepperoni circles.

### Invitation Card

- Materials: Paper, crayons, stickers, and markers. Template provided on next page.
- Activity: Have kids make cards with the template provided to invite their friends to church.

### Missions Ideas for Kids Ministry—Dixie Jackson

- Dental bags for missions—Gather supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash, and any other dental supplies to provide for the Dental Missions Clinics in our state. You could do this as a drive for the whole church or your kids ministry and then have the children make the bags together. Take time and attach a note or card and pray over each bag after putting them together. You never know what God is going to do with this much-needed supply!
- Food distribution—Find out what supplies or help is needed in your local food pantry and see how your children's ministry can meet those needs. They could help with prepping bags, gathering supplies, or they could make cards or notes to the families that are being helped in the center. A coloring page can really make someone's day!
- Pregnancy Care Center—Often families use this resource to help them make hard decisions. One way your kids ministry can help is to do a diaper drive and provide wipes and supplies that babies need. They may

need to refresh their fall/winter clothing, and you could help that need with the families in your church. Check with your nearest center and see where they need help.

- Blessing Bags for those in need—Blessing Bags are special bags that help people who might not have enough food or things they need. You can keep these bags in your car and give them to someone who needs a little extra help.

### Offering Collection Ideas for Missions

- Give kids a fun goal! Motivation is key. Competitions amongst the group always helps with raising money for missions.
- Pizza ideas—(Sorry, this lesson has been pizza focused.)
  - Pizza Party if they meet their goal!
  - Pennies and Pizza is a wonderful idea. Fill a pizza box with pennies or other coins and bring it back to church. (Pizza box source: <https://amzn.to/3yzJX6l>)
  - Sell pizza by the slice to raise money for the Dixie Jackson Offering in your church.
  - Partner with a local pizza place to see if they will do a fundraiser for the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.

## 5. CLOSING (5 MINUTES)

It is so important for us to share the Good News of Jesus with others around us. We want to take some time and pray for boldness to share and ask God to prepare the hearts of our friends and family who need to hear about Jesus. Take some time to pray for those people. Guide your children through prayer and close your time.

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