

**WEEK OF PRAYER AND
OLA COX STATE MISSIONS OFFERING
SEPTEMBER 7 – 14, 2008**

MISSION FRIENDS

Theme: Making a World of Difference

Content Areas: Community and Bible

Choose the area or areas you think most applicable to your church area.

- Church Planters in Mountain State – the Sligars in Allegheny
- Multi-family Housing (used in this lesson plan)
- Monongahela Association
- Missions Ministries – West Charleston (used in this plan)
- Missions Camp and Centrifuge

Suggested Scriptures:

Acts 1:8-9 -- Personalize to suit your group

Psalm 53:1

Matthew 5:16

Romans 15:13

Scriptures: Bible Thoughts for Preschool/Mission Friends:

Acts 1:8 – Go tell the people in WV (WV is our Jerusalem) about

God/Jesus or substitute Matthew 28:19 – tell people about Jesus everywhere or in WV.

Mark 12:30 – Love God

2 Corinthians 9:7 – God loves a cheerful giver

1 Peter 5:7 – God cares for you

Ecclesiastes 3:11 – Everything God made is beautiful

1 John 4:10 – God loves us and sent His son

James 5:16 – Pray for one another

1 John 5:14 – God hears us when we pray

Galatians 5:13 – Help one another

Ephesians 4:32 – Be kind to each other

Hebrews 13:16 – Do not forget to do good and to share with others

Psalm 122:1 – I like to go to church

1 Thessalonians 4:11 – Work with your hands

1 Corinthians 3:9 – We work together

Suggested Books:

I Can be More Like Jesus

I Can Do It

What Does It Mean to Be Poor?

I'm Part of God's Plan

I Can Give

I Can Pray

I Can Help Others

In My Community

I Can Talk to God (D. Glassgow)

I Can Pray to God (Sandra Brooks)

God's World and Me from A to Z

From Akebu to Zapoted (New)

CHOOSE ANY OF THE OTHER MISSION FRIENDS RECOMMENDED BOOKS THAT PARTICULARLY PERTAIN TO YOUR AREA.

Music: Suggested by leaders: *I Love to Tell the Story* and *The Light of the World is Jesus*

Suggested for Mission Friends/Preschoolers

Remember to use only **Words Appropriate** to Preschoolers: they are very **Literal Minded** – (to remind yourself of how literal minded, go to the library (if you don't own) and read "A Chocolate Moose for Dinner" by Fred Gwynne.

Missions Friends Song: Pg. 49 of your Preschool Guide

Songs on Missions Friends CD: "Sing it & say it" Familiar Tunes: "Mary had a Little Lamb"; "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "Old McDonald Had A Farm", etc. can be used with such words as:

We can give, give, give, Give together

We can give, give, give, Give together

*At our church ** leads to conversation about special offering and the co-operative program*

I love the mountains, I love the rolling hills

I love the flowers, I love the daffodils

I love Jesus, for He loves me, I'll tell others He loves them

PUT SONGS – BIBLE STORIES & GOD CARES HERE

1. Copy map on card stock. 2. Color or put marking to identify where you are located. 3. Laminate if you choose. 4. Use the suggested pieces on back and cut the map apart. 5. Attach a magnet piece to the back of each piece. 6. Work the puzzle on a cookie sheet. As children work with the puzzle, talk about Ola Cox Offering and how it will help missionaries to tell others about God's love.

CUT ON LINE

WV Map goes here

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Puzzle pieces

YOUNGER/MIDDLE SENSORY AREAS
(Babies, Ones & Twos)

Outcomes:	Younger (babies)	Younger Mission Friends will hear that God made them and Jesus loves them.
	Middle (ones & twos)	Middle Mission Friends will learn the Bible is a special book about God and Jesus. This group will learn that there are missionaries who live near them (if not in their neighborhood) but in their association.

- Books:** Before the session, place “I Can Give”, “I Can Pray” and the Bible (Read to Me Bible for Kids – Holman Christian Standard Bible) on a beach towel or other cloth. Picture read the books to babies and toddlers. Express the idea that * _____ (the missionary you’ve chosen) shares/gives/reads books with children and their parents. * _____ prays for the people he/she talks to and visits.
- Music:** “Sing it & Say it” CD (use these songs and substitute own appropriate words). Open your Bible and read Eph. 4:32 “be kind to each other” and sing, “I Have a Good Friend, his/her name is _____” (repeat with each child’s name) and end with “we have a good friend and His name is Jesus”. Twos like to shake bottles (filled with rice and sealed) or soft bracelets with ribbons to move and wave as they sing.
- Nature:** Gather pictures of missionaries or area you’ve chosen to study. Use conversation about how these people or activities help us and others to know about God’s love. Use flowers or plants they grow in that area. Be sure you have posted an allergy chart for parents to see and that they have checked the plant list.
- Puzzles:** Use sound puzzles (rain sticks or potato chip cans with bells inside) or puzzles (knob puzzles) of animals in your area. Use handmade puzzles of your church, pictures of the missionary you’ve chosen to study. Work a puzzle of carpentry tools, (plastic tool sets are available at most any store selling toys). Draw around the tools on a cardboard or poster board sheet and let the preschooler match the tools and outlines. Talk to them about how volunteers use tools in building churches. Bible thought: “work with your hands”. I Thessalonians 4:11.
- Blocks:** Large marshmallow, soft blocks, small size cardboard or grocery boxes (cereal, jello, milk cartons, etc. stuffed and covered with plastic) are preferred. Build a building where people can come and hear about God. Sing “I Like To Go To Church” and use the open Bible turned to Psalm 122:1.
- Toys:** Roll a beach ball, and as each child gets the ball, sing or say a Bible thought, sing a song, or tell part of the Bible/Missionary story.

OLDER INTEREST AREAS (threes & fours & kindergarten)

One hour = Interest Areas for 40 minutes & Group Time 20 minutes.

Outcomes: Older Mission Friends will learn about multi-housing mission projects where several families live in one building or area in West Virginia. They will learn about them and the missionaries can help these families know about God, His love for them and how Mission Friends love them too.

Concept: Bible and community.

Missionary Area: WV

Greeting: Welcome to our apartment building. Come see who we can meet and what we do here. Help the preschoolers choose an interest area in which to begin learning about this area of mission work. You may need to take some time to talk about “apartment building” “or multi-housing” – pictures will/may help.

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Home living: (1) Set up a kitchen/dining area so the older children can act out preparing dinner/breakfast, etc. for a number of people. As they work with bowls, plates, pots and pans, etc. talk about how this work can show others that God loves them and cares for them.

(2) Provide materials to prepare a pretend picnic (use what you know about your children to judge whether to use pretend food etc. or real cookies, juice, (no hot dogs) fruit etc.) If using real food items, remember to use the allergy chart.

“Help God’s people in need” Romans 12:13

“Show family love to one another” Romans 12:10

Nature: (Choose 1 of these activities)

(1) Post the allergy alert chart. Give each preschooler a lunch-size paper bag. Talk about going on a nature walk outside to find things that God made to put in their bags. When each preschooler has a least one item in their bag return to the activity area and examine the items with a magnifying glass.

REQUEST VOLUNTEERS TO HELP AS NEEDED.

Talk about how these items might not be found if you lived in an apartment house/ what might you find?

- (2) Post the allergy alert chart. Give each preschooler a lunch-size bag (paper). We are going to pick up trash/litter and dispose of it in the garbage can. Talk about how teaching people to keep God's world clean is a way of showing God's love to others.

BE SURE TO WASH HANDS AFTER THIS ACTIVITY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – 1 ADULT PER 3 CHILDREN
AND **NEVER** LESS THAN 2 ADULTS

Bible thoughts: "Teach people what God says" Exodus 18:20

"Everything God made is beautiful" Ecclesiastes 3:11

Missions Explorers: Read story about the food ministries of West Charleston Baptist Church and the Cannadas.

Ask preschoolers to think of ways to help people in their community or church. Today we will see how some in our church helps the community by having a food pantry.

Let the children decorate bags or boxes that will actually be used in the food pantry distribution. (Provide markers, crayons, stickers, magazine pictures, glue etc. as needed). They might even make a card inviting the person who gets the food to come to Sunday School and Church.

Music and Movement: Place chairs in a circle with the seats facing outwards. Ask the preschoolers to sit in a seat. Be sure to remove any extra chairs. Begin playing "God Loves People Everywhere", track 56 of your CD. Tell the preschoolers to stand up and begin walking around the chairs. Stop the music and encourage the children to sit in a seat near them. Continue playing musical chairs until the song is finished. Reviewing the words of the song, remind the children that when we give food to others or visit with them we show that God loves them.

Blocks: Place toy phones or old cordless or cell phones in the block area or on a table near the blocks. Encourage the preschoolers to role-play, talking on the phone to people who need help, to invite them to a picnic, or to remind them that the food pantry will be open on _____. Tell the children that our church prays for the people when they talk to them. Thank You, God, for hearing us when we pray. Turn to James 5:16 and read: Pray for one another.

Blocks for Kindergarten:

Place several boxes and blocks of different sizes in the block area. Rev.

Norm has a big room at the Co-Op Building where he keeps cans of food to share with people. Let's use the boxes to build shelves for him and his helpers.

Provide toy cars, trucks, buses, etc. for the area. Talk about the many different types of vehicles found in the city. The people who come to the Co-Op for food must provide their own transportation to and from the building. Rev. Norm and his helpers tell all of the people that Jesus loves them. Whom can you tell about Jesus? What will you tell them? Bible thoughts: Gal. 5:13 – "help one another" and 1 Cor. 3:9 – "we work together".

Books: Picture read books with an interested preschooler. Sing "Help One Another", track 67, encouraging the preschooler to sing with you. Bible thought: 1 John 4:7 – "Love one another". Choose books from those listed on page 1.

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Home Living (for Kindergarten): Gather empty food boxes (cereal, macaroni, rice, etc.) and other clean food containers, and paper grocery bags. Place them in the area. Help an older preschooler open one of the bags. Encourage the children to put groceries in the bag. The West Charleston Baptist Church has a food co-op (you may need to stop here and talk about what a Co-Op is) where people can get food. Rev. Norm and Mrs. Debbie, along with their helpers, tell the people who come for food about Jesus. Rev. Norm and Mrs. Debbie buy lots of food to use at the Co-Op (food bank). Money from the Ola Cox offering is sometimes used to help buy the food and people donate/give food so that those in need may have food to feed their families.

What kind of food do you think they need? How can you/we help?

Games & Manipulatives:

Punch holes around the edges of several thin paper plates. Cut 2 foot lengths of yarn and tie a large knot in one end. Wrap a piece of tape around the other end. Write WORK WITH YOUR HANDS – 1 Thess. 4:11 on the center of the plate. Show preschoolers how to sew by putting the yarn in and out of each hole around the plate. As they sew talk to them about the Bible Study class that Mr. Norm has for men and women

in the community room at the apartment building. As they listen, they sew quilts for friends.

Group Time:

Mr. Norm welcomed the people who came to game day in the community room at the "We Live" (change to fit your area) apartment building (show pictures of apartment buildings). He was glad to see them. He and his helpers gave them name tags and helped them choose a game to play (checkers, monopoly, bingo, etc.). Each game has a helper there who will encourage the people to talk about themselves, make friends with others in the group, and tell them about God and His Love for them (each used an open Bible).

Martha, a four year old, asked one of Mr. Norm's helpers if she could help with the bingo game. Mrs. Hopkins let Martha choose the number card she would call. Martha and Mrs. Hopkins became good friends and Mrs. Hopkins told Martha that God loves you and I do too. Martha told her mother and daddy that she liked to help Mrs. Hopkins and wanted to come back on the next game day and bring one of her friends.

As each family prepared to leave, they stopped to have a prayer circle. Anyone who chose could have a copy of the New Testament or Bible. (Testaments and Bibles were provided by the churches in the area).

Prayer Time: Thank God for missionaries. Pray that more people will come to learn about Jesus.

Copy, laminate, cut out and place a magnet on the back of each map to go home with the preschooler to remind them and their families of the State Missions Offering.