

## Children Changing the World for Christ Cooperative Program Lesson Series

### Leader Background Information

This series of lessons are designed to teach children about the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

### Session Outcomes

Through this study, children will:

- Learn the meaning of the word “Cooperate” and how Southern Baptists cooperate through the Cooperative Program.
- Learn how Cooperative Program dollars are distributed among Southern Baptist entities, including state, North American and international missions.
- Learn to cooperate through the use of games and other activities.
- Learn and memorize scripture related to cooperation and the Great Commission.
- Learn ways in which their offering is used at their church.
- Learn the meaning of tithing and how they can implement it.
- Learn about the work of state, North American, and international missionaries and how they use Cooperative Program dollars.

### Session 1: Introduction to the Cooperative Program

#### Teacher Preparation

1. Collect light-weight items, such as balloons, foam balls, cotton balls, etc.
2. Provide Bibles.
3. Print “Cooperative Program Poster” from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons)
4. Write the following phrases on separate index cards: *Our Church, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention, International Mission Board.*
5. Provide ten, one-dollar bills, ten dimes and ten pennies.
6. For each group of three children, provide: one pair of scissors, a roll of tape, a set of markers and three identical items (empty plastic tubs; cardboard food containers; gift boxes; other clean, reusable food containers)
7. Print “The Great Commission” poster from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons) and display in your classroom.

#### Lead the Session

1. **Play a Game:** Lead children to play this cooperative game: Assign each child a partner. Instruct children to line up along one side of the room. Give each pair an object (balloon, foam ball, cotton ball, etc.) Explain to pairs that when you call out a body part (elbow, knees, ears, foreheads, backs, shoulders), they must carry that object to the other end of the room and back, using only those body parts. Let pairs switch objects and play again if time allows.<sup>1</sup>

2. **Lead a Discussion:** Ask: *What did you learn about working together?* Write the word “Cooperation” on the board. Discuss the meaning of cooperation. Explain that Southern Baptists (our denomination) cooperate so that we can tell the world about Jesus. Help children locate Matthew 28:19-20 in their Bibles. Ask: *What does Jesus want us to do?* Discuss the term “Great Commission.” This is Jesus’ instruction to all of his followers.

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<sup>1</sup> Copley, L. (Ed.), *The Best of Children’s Ministry Magazine Games: 110 out-of-this-World Games Kids Love*, (Group Publishing, Inc.: Loveland, CO), 91.

3. **Where Does My Offering Go?** Use the “Cooperative Program Poster” as you lead this activity. Spread the cards you have prepared on the table. Give a volunteer ten, one-dollar bills to place on the “Our Church” card. Say: *When we give an offering to church, part of the offering goes to our state convention. The state convention plans ministries in our state.* Ask a volunteer to place one of the dollar bills on the “Kentucky Baptist Convention” card. Help the volunteer exchange the dollar for ten dimes. Say: *The Kentucky Baptist Convention gives money to the Southern Baptist Convention.* Have a volunteer pick up five dimes and place them on the “Southern Baptist Convention” card. Help the volunteer exchange one dime for ten pennies. Say: *About half of this money goes to support international missions.* Have a volunteer place two dimes and five pennies on the “International Mission Board” card. Ask for additional volunteers to re-create the demonstration themselves.<sup>2</sup>

4. **Make Cooperative Banks:** Form groups of three. For each group, give one child tape, one child scissors and the other child markers. Give members of each group the same materials, such as three cardboard food containers, three plastic tubs, three gift boxes, etc. Instruct groups to work together to create three identical offering banks. First, groups will discuss how they want to build their banks. As children create their banks, each child has a job to do. The child with the scissors does all the cutting necessary for each of the three banks. The child with the tape does all the “taping.” The child with the markers decorates each bank.<sup>3</sup>

5. **Offering and Scripture Memory Challenge and Prayer:** Read the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20) together. Challenge boys and girls to give an offering for the Cooperative Program. Close in prayer.

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<sup>2</sup> Nall, S. “Where Does My Offering Go?,” p. 34, Nov/Dec 2009, Woman’s Missionary Union: Birmingham.

<sup>3</sup> Nall, S. “Lottie Moon Cooperative Banks,” p. 35, Nov/Dec 2009, Woman’s Missionary Union: Birmingham.

## Children Changing the World for Christ Cooperative Program Lesson 2

### Session 2: How is Our Offering Used?

#### Teacher Preparation

1. Provide a balloon for each group of 5 children.
2. Display “The Great Commission” poster.
3. Provide Bibles.
4. Display “Cooperative Program Poster.”
5. For each set of three children, print “Cooperative Program Concentration Cards” from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons).
6. Provide a writing board or chart paper and a marker.
7. Before the session, ask your pastor or another minister at your church to talk to your children about the expenses of your church.

#### Lead the Session

1. **Play a Game:** Challenge kids to keep a balloon in the air as long as possible. Form groups of five children. Kids make a circle with an arm’s length between each person. They must always keep at least one foot planted in place . Throw a balloon in the middle of each circle of kids. Time each group to see how long they can keep their balloon in the air. Encourage kids to cooperate! <sup>4</sup>

2. **Discuss cooperation:** Ask: *What did your team learn about working together? What does it mean to cooperate? How do Southern Baptists cooperate? (the Cooperative Program) Why do they cooperate? (Jesus told us to spread the Good News.)* Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 28:19-20. Ask: *What is this verse called? (The Great Commission)* Help girls and boys locate 1 Corinthians 3:9 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read. Say: *God wants us to work together to share the Good News.*

3. **Play Cooperative Program Concentration:** Use the “Cooperative Program Poster” to review the Southern Baptist entities and their purposes. Give each group of three a set of “Cooperative Program Concentration Cards.” Instruct boys and girls to take turns matching the SBC entity with its purpose.

4. **Church Expenses Game:** After groups have finished playing concentration, gather your group around a writing board. Let children take turns drawing something (light bulb, Bible, van) that costs your church money while other boys and girls guess the object.

5. **Offering Interview:** Explain that your pastor (or other minister) will be visiting you today. Lead children to create questions for the pastor or minister about how the church’s offering is used. List their questions on a chart. Introduce the pastor or minister and allow children to ask questions. Pray for your church and thank God for all the people who give their offerings to support God’s work through the church.

## Children Changing the World for Christ Cooperative Program Lesson 3

### Session 3: Tithing

#### Teacher Preparation

1. Make 2 lines of masking tape 4 feet apart on the floor.
2. Provide an empty bucket and a bucket of pennies (include 20 pennies per child).
3. Provide a chart and marker.
4. Print each of the letters of “Cooperative Program” on separate cards. Prepare sets for each group of three children.
5. Display the “Cooperative Program Poster.”
6. Print each of the letters of the word “Tithing” on separate cards. Prepare sets for each group of three children.
7. Provide a dictionary and Bibles.
8. Print a copy of “My Allowance” from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons)
9. Make copies of “My Allowance Worksheet” for each child from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons). Provide pencils.
10. Gather special offering envelopes, such as Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions®, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.®
11. Display “The Great Commission” poster.
12. Provide two medium-sized balls. Print *Jesus loves you!* on two separate slips of paper. Tape a slip of paper to each ball.
13. Provide a globe.

#### Lead the Session

1. **Play a game:** Form pairs. For each pair, assign a “Thrower” and a “Catcher.” Each pair will have a turn to get as many pennies into a bucket in the time allowed. Instruct one pair to stand across from each other on the taped lines. The “Catcher” holds the empty bucket. The “Thrower” gets pennies from the penny bucket and throws as many pennies into the empty bucket as possible in 30 seconds. Encourage other pairs to cheer for the players. After 30 seconds, count the pennies the “Catcher” caught and record on a chart. Allow remaining pairs time to play. <sup>5</sup>

2. **Review the Cooperative Program:** Form groups of three. Give each group letter cards that spell “Cooperative Program.” Say: *These letters spell the words for a way that Southern Baptists share the Good News of Jesus. Work together to discover what the letters spell.* Allow groups to continue working until all groups have spelled “Cooperative Program.” Ask volunteers to tell what they remember about the Cooperative Program. Refer to the “Cooperative Program Poster.”

3. **Discuss the meaning of Tithing:** Give each team the letter cards that spell “Tithing.” Tell children that this word is God’s plan for our giving. Allow groups time to spell the word. Give hints as needed. After all groups have spelled “Tithing,” ask a volunteer to read the definition of the word “tithe” from the dictionary.

Help children locate Malachi 3:10 in their Bibles. Ask: *From this verse, what does God want us to do? What will He do for us?* Give each child 20 pennies. Help children calculate a tithe from 20 pennies. Challenge boys and girls to calculate a tithe of 100 pennies or \$1.

<sup>5</sup>Copley, L. (Ed.), *The Best of Children’s Ministry Magazine Games: 110 Out-of-this-World Games Kids Love*, (Group Publishing, Inc.: Loveland, CO), 92.

4. **Read “My Allowance”:** Read “My Allowance.” Help children complete the “My Allowance Worksheet.” If children do not receive an allowance, have them use \$10.00 to calculate their tithe.<sup>6</sup>
5. **Discuss your church’s CP giving:** Share the percentage your church gives to the Cooperative Program. Help children calculate the amount of their offering that would go to CP. For example: Kaitlyn receives \$5.00 per week. Her tithe is .50. Your church gives 10% of its general offerings to the Cooperative Program. Kaitlyn would be contributing .05 to the Cooperative Program through your church. Forty-five cents would be used for your church’s ministries and expenses.
6. **Offerings:** Share special offering envelopes, such as the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions®, The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®. Explain that we give these offerings in addition to our tithe. Cooperative Program money comes from our tithes.
7. **Review “The Great Commission”:** Invite children to recite from memory or read from “The Great Commission” poster. Form two relay teams. Give each team a ball you have prepared. Set up a globe at the other side of the room. Ask a volunteer to read the message on the ball. Tell children, their goal is to pass the message to their teammates until it reaches the globe. Have children in each team lie on the floor with their knees bent and one foot beside each side of the child’s head in front of them. When you give the signal, the first child in line places the ball between his feet and passes it overhead to the next child. That child takes the ball with his feet and passes it in the same manner. Continue playing until both teams have gotten the message to the globe.<sup>7</sup>
8. **Pray:** Lead children to stand around the globe. Pray that all people will hear the Good News of Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> Sapp, K. , *I Am a Part of Something Big: How Tithing and the Cooperative Program Work* (New Hope: Birmingham, 1989), 7.

<sup>7</sup> Copley, L. (Ed.), *The Best of Children’s Ministry Magazine Games: 110 Out-of-this-World Games Kids Love*, (Group Publishing, Inc.: Loveland, CO), 70.

## Children Changing the World for Christ Cooperative Program Lesson 4

### Session 4: Missions

(Use this session to give an overview of Southern Baptist missions.)

#### Teacher Preparation

1. Display “The Great Commission” poster.
2. Provide Bibles.
3. Provide a large world map and some pennies.
4. Before the session, select an international missions video from [imb.org](http://imb.org), a North American missions video from [anniearmstrong.com](http://anniearmstrong.com), and a state missions video from [kywmu.org](http://kywmu.org). Prepare to show the videos in this session.
5. Provide pencils and paper.
6. Print “Keep the Missionaries!” game from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons) for each group of 8-12 children.
7. Print 1 copy of “CP Money” from [kywmu.org/CPLessons](http://kywmu.org/CPLessons) for each team of 2-3 children. Cut the bills apart.
8. Provide game markers, such as different coins or pawns from a board game.

#### Lead the Session

1. **Review “The Great Commission”:** Ask volunteers to recite “The Great Commission” without looking at the words. Invite all children to locate Matthew 28:19-20 in their Bibles. Ask: *What do these verses tell us to do? What are some ways we can obey The Great Commission? (Possible answers: give to the Cooperative Program, tell others about Jesus)*

2. **Learn about Missions:** Lay a large world map on the floor. Invite children to stand around the map. Let children take turns tossing a penny onto the map. Name the countries where the penny lands. Hang the map on the wall. Say: *Missionaries go all over the world, telling others about Jesus.*

Ask a volunteer to locate Kentucky on the map. Show the state missions video. Invite children to share about other mission sites in Kentucky that they are familiar with.

Form pairs. Give each pair a pencil and a piece of paper. Challenge pairs to list as many states as possible in one minute without looking at the map. After time is called, allow pairs to share their lists. Show the North American missions video.

Ask children to find the country of the international missions video you plan to show. Show the video. Ask: *Why do the missionaries need money from the Cooperative Program?*

3. **Play a Game:** Explain to children that they will play a game to learn how international missionaries use our offering given through the Cooperative Program.<sup>8</sup> Form up to 4 teams of 2 or 3 players each.

Directions:

1. Give each team a set of “CP Money.” Each team puts its game marker on Start.
2. One team rolls the cube and moves the number of spaces it shows. When a team lands on a picture, they buy that object. A leader then gives them a picture of the object. If a team doesn’t have enough money to buy that object, the next team takes a turn.
3. Let teams take turns playing.

4. Keep playing until each team has everything its missionary needs (gas, rent, food, a Bible, and a JESUS film).

4. **Offering Challenge and Prayer:** Challenge kids to give a tithe or offering. Remind kids that some of their offering goes to the Cooperative Program. Place the world map on the floor. Invite children to touch the place where their coins landed. Say a prayer, asking God to send and keep missionaries in these places. Send the pennies home as a reminder to pray and give.

<sup>8</sup>Nall, S. "Keep the Missionaries! Game," p. 35, Nov/Dec 2009, Woman's Missionary Union: Birmingham.