



Children's Sermon

Prepared by Tara Clark
Minister to Children & Youth
Clayville Baptist Church,
Shelbyville, KY

Scripture: "But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15 (HCSB)

Supplies: Backpack with basic school supplies (notebook, pencils, folders, etc.), and a second backpack with basic hiking supplies (compass, GPS app on phone, or a trail map; water bottle; knife; etc.). Have a Bible on hand, but hidden from view.

Gather children and ask: *Have you ever been hiking? Have you ever thought about what you might need to be ready to go on a hike with your family or friends?*

Show the backpack with the hiking supplies inside. Ask for ideas about what might be needed to help them be ready to hike. After a few suggestions from the children, show the items in the backpack and offer brief explanations about why each item would help the children be ready to hike.

Show the second backpack and ask: *Do you pack a backpack like this to be ready for each school day? What items would we put in a backpack to help us be ready for school.* After a few suggestions from the children, show the items in the backpack and offer brief explanations about why each item would help the children be ready for their school day.

Ask the children: *Have you ever thought about what would help us be ready to tell our friends about Jesus?*

Ask children for ideas about what they think would help them be ready to tell others about Jesus. Show the Bible. Say: *This Bible is not just a book. It is God's Word to us. God talks to us through his Bible. By reading our Bibles, we can know that God loves us. By reading our Bible, we can know how to obey God. By reading our Bible, we can know how to tell our friends about all of these things, too.*

In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter says, "Honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

This month we are focusing on telling others about Jesus in Kentucky. Our theme is "Be Ready - Live Ready." One way that we can be ready to tell others about Jesus is by reading our Bibles and using our Bibles to share the Good News with others. Another way is through missions.

This month we are receiving the Eliza Broadus Offering to help people in Kentucky learn about Jesus. Our offering is named for Eliza Broadus, a woman who lived her life ready to tell others

in our state about Jesus. Our offerings help provide people and resources to tell children, teenagers and adults around Kentucky about Jesus.

(Give each child an offering envelope.) Say: *When you put your missions offering in this envelop and bring it back to our church, you are helping our missionaries Be Ready and Live Ready to tell others in our state about Jesus!*

Close in prayer for Kentucky missionaries, the people they will reach, and for the offering.

*But honor the Messiah as
Lord in your hearts. Always be ready
to give a defense to anyone who asks you
for a reason for the hope that is in you.
- 1 Peter 3:15*

About the writer: Tara Clark serves at Clayvillage Baptist, where she focuses on families, students and children. She is also part of the spiritual life team at Cedar Lake, where she consults with churches wanting to develop or strengthen ministries with people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.