

Teaching Guide for Children

Prepared by Stacy Nall Missions Consultant for Children Kentucky WMU

Leader Background Information

Kentucky Baptists observe the Season of Prayer for State Missions during September. This year's suggested date is September 11-18, 2016. The theme is "Be Ready-Live Ready." Children and their leaders will be challenged to learn how to share the love of Jesus and then do it! They will also learn the importance of giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions so that ministries and missionaries throughout Kentucky can make a difference. This study focuses on God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP). North American missionaries John and Shaughanessy Morris live ready to share the gospel by meeting spiritual and physical needs of the people in Appalachia. GAP is located in McDowell. Poverty and social issues are widespread.

For more information about this ministry, see the Master Article and video clip which are included with the other state missions materials.

Teaching Options

This study may be used with children including Children in Action, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors. This study could be used in place of a regular session of CA, GA or RA. You may choose to set aside a special time for this study during the Season of Prayer.

Session Outcomes

Through this study, children will:

- Learn about the needs of people in Appalachia.
- Discover how the Morris' are meeting physical and spiritual needs in Appalachia.
- Explore ways that they can help those in need in order to share the love of Christ

Teacher Preparation

- 1. Fill plastic Easter eggs with the following items: wrapped candy, stickers, small prizes, slips of paper with the words *live music, drama, carnival games, speakers, clowns, egg hunts*. Hide the eggs in your meeting area or outside if possible.
- 2. Display a map of Kentucky with McDowell highlighted.
- 3. Wrap a box in Christmas paper and ribbon.
- 4. Set up an area of the meeting space as a coffee house. Provide drinks and snacks, such as lemonade and popcorn.
- 5. Gather the following items: detergent, shampoo, diapers, baby wipes, girl's winter coat
- 6. Place a pair of children's shoes, socks and school supplies in a backpack.
- 7. Obtain plastic eggs, one for each child. Cut strips of paper.
- 8. Prepare to show an Eliza Broadus Offering envelope.

2016 State Missions Emphasis Highlights Suggested Date: September 11-18, 2016

Suggested Scripture: 1 Peter 3:15-17, with verse 15 as focal verse: "But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be read to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

Music Suggestions: Ready, Let Others See Jesus in You, I Love to Tell the Story, The King Is Coming, Open My Eyes.

Master Article (print from DVD) – information about eight ministries in Kentucky.

Videos:

- Introduction to 2016 Emphasis & Resources
- Refuge Louisville
- Impact Ministry & CWJC
- God's Appalachian Partnership
- BREAK Time Ministries
- Operation Inasmuch Kentucky

All 2016 state missions materials and videos are also available online: www.kywmu.org/ebo

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Leading the Session

- 1. Invite children to find the eggs that you have hidden. When all of the eggs have been found, ask: Why are we having an egg hunt in September? After several guesses, explain: God's Appalachian Partnership, or GAP, holds a Community Easter Egg Hunt the day before Palm Sunday each year. Missionaries John and Shaughanessy Morris and their children, Jacob and Jhaughanessy, share God's love at the Easter egg hunt. Hundreds of people come to this event every year. The Community Easter Egg Hunt features many other activities in addition to the egg hunt. Direct kids to share the content of their eggs.
- 2. Ask a volunteer to find McDowell, Kentucky on the map. Say: *GAP is located in an area known as "Appalachia."* Many people do not have enough money to purchase the things they need. *GAP provides food, household supplies, furniture, home repairs and classes like parenting, nutrition, money saving tips and Bible studies.*
- 3. Show the Christmas box you have prepared. Tell children that this is a clue to another ministry that GAP provides. Allow time for children to guess. Say: GAP also sponsors a Christmas Project. Parents who don't have enough money to buy toys for their children can come to the Christmas Project. As parents find toys for their children, John and Shaghanessy find opportunities to share with parents about God's love and care for them and their children.

Read this letter from a parent or ask a volunteer to read it.

Dear John.

I know you probably don't remember me but you helped me get toys for my kids this Christmas. I was the one that kept crying. I just wanted to say "thank you" for the help this Christmas. My kids would not have had Christmas (presents) without them. Every time I see my kids play with these toys, I cry because I just can't believe someone would do this for me and my family. I know you said not to thank you but to thank God, but I thank you both. Me and my husband and kids have started going back to church!

Thank you, Sarah

4. Move children to the "coffee house" you have created. Serve the drinks and snacks. Explain that as people come to the food distribution center, they can relax and talk over a cup of coffee. This ministry is called "BeansTalk." The staff at GAP can talk to people about their lives and get to know them better. Enlist a volunteer to share this monologue.

My husband and I moved back to Eastern Kentucky about 10 years ago. We had three little girls and a very limited budget. I can't recall how I heard about GAP. All I know is that I am very thankful that we found it. Many times the food we received helped us get from paycheck to paycheck without my family going hungry. The biggest blessing was in items that food stamps could not purchase, such as [Show the items as they are mentioned.] detergent, shampoo, diapers, and wipes. I remember praying one time before my appointment and telling God of all our needs. I walked back to the diaper section and they didn't have my girl's size. I asked the person working if there were any more in the back. She checked and there on the shelf was one bag of diapers the very size I needed! I was amazed how God used GAP to meet my need. God heard my prayers. He cares about my family and he supplied our needs. Another time I remembered praying and asking God to supply winter coats for the girls. One day there was a knock on the door and there was a GAP volunteer handing us bags of Christmas gifts for the girls. Guess what we found when we opened the gifts? Winter coats for each of them! [Show girl's winter coat.] Now my family and I serve as volunteers at GAP. I have a full-time job at my church!

5. Show the backpack. Ask kids to use this clue to guess another ministry of GAP. Say: GAP hosts a back to school festival called "KidStock." A backpack with school supplies is given to each child. The whole family can enjoy games food and an explanation of how Jesus came to save us.

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

- 6. Show the children an Eliza Broadus Offering envelope. Explain that your church receives an offering for Kentucky missions at this time of year called the Eliza Broadus Offering. This offering helps us have Kentucky missionaries like John and Shaughanessy Morris to tell people about Jesus. It also provides supplies for ministries all over our state. Ask the children to think of ways that they could give to the offering.
- 7. Give each child a strip of paper, a pencil and a plastic egg. Instruct them to write a prayer reminder for GAP on their slips of paper and place them in their eggs.

Suggested Prayer Requests from GAP:

- Pray that the families that come to GAP each month would know that God is providing for them.
- Pray that more people will come to know Christ.
- Pray for the funds to build a larger building so that more ministries can be offered.

Invite volunteers to read their slips of paper as a prayer.

OPTIONAL: Form groups of two or three children. Give each group paper and a pencil. Challenge groups to plan an outreach activity similar to those they have learned about at GAP, but with new ideas. Remind children to include a way to share about Jesus. After groups have planned, share ideas. Consider having an outreach event at your church.

Helping GAP

If you would like to donate items to GAP or volunteer, visit www.gapky.org or call 1-606-377-0332.

Missions Organizations for Children

As a leader of children in your church, you can teach them to "Live Ready" through Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action. These missions organizations:

- Help children apply the Bible to their lives
- Teach children what God desires of them and are encouraged to live out the Great Commission
- Teach children the importance of tithing and giving to support missions
- Teach children how God is at work in the world through missions stories
- Teach children how to pray and intercede for others

For help in starting missions education for children, contact:

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Kentucky WMU sponsors "Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids" each summer. In June 2017, children in the 4th -6th grades and their leaders are invited to experience a mini-mission trip in one of two locations: June 15-16 at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville and June 22-14 at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. Children will serve these communities by helping ministries serve and prepare food, visiting nursing homes, leading Bible clubs, and other ministry projects. For more information about Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, visit kywmu.org/missionadventure.

About the lesson writer: Stacy Nall serves as the Preschool and Children's Consultant for Kentucky WMU.







John Morris



FOOD - CARNIVAL GAMES - TEMPORARY TATTOOS





