

Teaching Guide for Preschool

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Leader Information

Kentucky Baptists observe the Season of Prayer for State Missions during September.

Suggested date: September 9-16, 2018

Theme: "Testify!"

Scripture verse: Acts 20:24 ESV

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Missions Area: Adopting Schools: Opening Doors (full story attached from the Master Article)

Bible thoughts to use during the session:

1. God loves a cheerful giver (see 2 Corinthians 9:7)
2. Bring an offering (see 1 Chronicles 16:29)
3. Pray for each other (see James 5:16)

Supplies:

- Eliza Broadus offering envelope
- White copy paper
- Coins (quarters, dimes, nickels, pennies)
- Crayons
- Play food pizza
- Snack option: English muffins, pizza sauce, grated cheese, pepperoni
- Toaster Oven
- *I Can Give* (preschool book, order from wmustore.com)
- Basket with 7-10 small school supplies such as a pencil, glue stick, a crayon, and a pair of scissors.
- Map of your county or poster board with major roads of the community drawn
- School and church cut-outs
- School ministry pictures (included with this lesson plan)

Leading the Session

Preschoolers learn through interest areas. As children arrive, lead them to the interest centers you have prepared. You can allow preschoolers to choose an interest area or complete each interest area as a group. Remember that preschool children learn through play.

Interest Centers

• Art

Preparation: Supplies needed: white copy paper, different coins, tape, and crayons. Remove paper from the crayons being used. Tape coins all over a table. Have paper available.

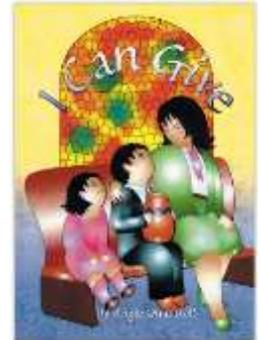
Guide preschoolers to place a sheet of paper over the coins and rub with the crayon. Talk about the difference of each coin; quarters, dimes, nickels, pennies. Say: *When we give our offerings at church, we help missionaries here in Kentucky.*

• Books and Puzzles:

Preparation: Place a Bible with ribbon marking verses and the book, *I Can Give* in a quiet area. Print the following Bible thoughts and place them in the Bible:

- God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Bring an offering (1 Chronicles 16:29)
- Pray for each other (see James 5:16)

Choose puzzles that relate to school: school bus, fruits and vegetables, and/or nature puzzles.



Read the book *I Can Give*. Challenge preschoolers to find Bible thoughts in the Bible. Read each Bible thought.

• Homeliving:

Preparation: Collect play food pizzas or items that would make a pizza.

Invite preschoolers to prepare pizza for school children. Share with preschoolers that Bethlehem Baptist Church provides pizza to children of Indian Trails Elementary School.

• Optional Homeliving Activity: Make individual Pizzas for snack time

Supplies needed: English Muffins (each child receives half), pizza sauce, grated cheese, mini pepperonis, any fresh ingredients such as mushrooms, and toaster oven. Note: most children prefer just cheese.

Allow each preschooler to make their own pizza using ½ of an English Muffin as the crust; each can spoon pizza sauce on muffin and sprinkle with cheese. Add any other ingredients desired. Help preschooler to place their pizza on the toaster oven tray. Then adult leaders are to place the tray in the toaster oven to toast. This is the perfect time to help preschoolers understand that ovens get hot.

Group Time

1. Bring to the group time; coins, an Eliza Broadus Offering envelope, a basket with small school supplies (about 7 to 10 items), teaching pictures of choice and Bible.
2. Share with the children that to begin group time we will be playing a game called, “What’s missing.” Place the school supplies one at a time in the middle of the children. Say: *“What all do we have? A pencil, a crayon, a pair of scissors, a glue stick, a paint brush . . . All of these items are used at school. Look at them very closely. Now, close your eyes and I am going to take one item away. When I say open your eyes, look and see what is missing. Raise your hand if you know what is missing.”* Take an item from the group and hide it behind your back. When the item is guessed, place it back in the middle and the child that guesses correctly, is now allowed to remove an item. Play until each child has a turn to remove an item. If guessing becomes easy; mix the items around.

3. Tell the following story and show pictures of school ministry.
 “Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville has adopted an elementary school from the community, called Indian Trail Elementary. How do you adopt a school? Adopting a school means caring for the school and those that go to the school, children and teachers. People from the church started by praying for the principal. The principal had a long list of things to pray for so the church began praying for the teachers, children and their parents. People from the church began leaving notes to tell the teachers the church cared for them and was praying for them. I think the school liked the church caring for them. Then the school started inviting church people to come to school and tell about parties and other things happening at the church. The school children learned that they could come to church.
 The church does many things to let the school know that Jesus loves them. The church collects school supplies for the school to give to children who are missing supplies. Men from the church worked on the school’s softball field so that the children could play on it. Mrs. Pat and Mr. Dudley go over to the school and listen to children read! I think people at Bethlehem Baptist Church love Jesus and love the children and teachers who go to Indian Trail Elementary.”
4. Ask: Do you think our church could adopt a school? What school could we adopt? What do you think we could do to show the school that Jesus loves them? I know one easy way we can help show Jesus’ love.
5. Show the Eliza Broadus State Missions offering envelope. Ask: *What goes in this envelope? We put money in it to give an offering for God’s work. When we give to missions, we can help people who are adopting schools.*
6. Add: *And we can pray for our church and our schools.* Lead the children to pray.

Mission Explorers: Map Reading

This activity is to introduce preschooler to map reading. Provide a map of your county/community or prepare a poster-board to represent the community with major roads drawn. Provide schoolhouse and church cut out shapes from construction paper and tape. Help preschoolers tape school and church shapes in approximate locations within the community.

Ask preschoolers how the church can help students in schools. Pray together for community schools; including teachers, administrators, bus drivers, students, and parents.

Optional: Provide healthy snacks such as grapes (cut in half), goldfish crackers, sesame crackers, and gluten free option: Veggie straws. **Allergy Alert: Check for any allergies before serving preschoolers.**

About the writer: Denise Gardner serves as Office Manager/Acteens Specialist for Kentucky WMU. She is also teaches Preschool Sunday School and Mission Friends at FBC Shelbyville.



Schools *Adopting Schools: Opening Doors*

God adopts people. Parents adopt children. Kentucky churches adopt local schools. How school adoption looks varies from church to church and year to year.

Todd Robertson, Director of Missions, Louisville Regional Baptist Association (LRBA), encourages school adoption by every LRBA church in order to open doors for the gospel. He asks churches to focus on four key areas: Prayer, Relationship, Intentionality, and Action. If churches don't know what to do, they can pray for school administration, faculty, staff, students, and families. He said prayer "should lead to opportunities to engage in relationships as long as [churches] are intentional about their pursuits to connect. Ultimately, we want churches to have clear action plans for serving the school and to show the love of Christ" to children and their families. Several LRBA churches connect through FCA and Youth for Christ."

One church that has led the way in LRBA is **Bethlehem Baptist Church**. About 15 years ago, a group of Bethlehem's women wanted to do something for Indian Trail Elementary, their neighborhood school. Pat Reaves, WMU Director and Mission Friends leader, said they began by prayer walking around the school. They sought prayer requests from the principal. His list filled an entire page. Many of those issues, such as single parent homes, physical needs, and learning disabilities, still exist. The women left notes of encouragement on doors for teachers.

As a result of these ministries, Bethlehem receives invitations to open houses and to pass out information about Wednesday night children's programs, basketball ministry, fall festivals, and Easter activities. They try to build family relationships through those contacts. Rather than scheduled prayer walks, the church now encourages individual and "drive-by" school prayers.

For years Bethlehem provided a meal and school supplies for several students. They now work through the Family Resource Coordinator, who distributes the supplies. Last year, men from Bethlehem worked on the school's softball field. Pat and her husband, Dudley, volunteer in a classroom each Friday. She said, "We know many of these kiddos need to have an adult friend or two. We try to be faithful to go each week so they, as well as the teachers, know they can depend on us."



Bethlehem now includes the school in their budget to help with school supplies and gifts for teachers. Their outreach also includes:

- First of the year bags of goodies, supplies, and notes of appreciation and assurance of prayer for teachers
- Gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week – usually gift cards with notes
- New pencils, pre-sharpened, for spring testing week
- Treats three or four times a year for children invited to the Accelerated Readers party (Sunday school classes sometimes help with this expense.)
- Special ministry efforts between the school's Family Resource Coordinator and the church's clothes closet and food distribution





To help with school ministries, Kentucky WMU has provided **Eliza Broadus Offering** grants to several churches and Kentucky Baptist Convention missionaries who minister to children including **Kentucky Sacks of Love in Benham**. Director Judy Caulder said she and her co-director husband, Frank, took part in a mission trip from South Carolina to Harlan County, Kentucky, in 2006. They learned many students did not have food for the weekend. Teachers told them the students could not stay awake in class due to hunger.



The Caulders now work through eight school Family Resource Youth Service Centers to provide weekend food, school supplies, hygiene items, shoes, clothing, and Christmas gifts. They also receive donations from individuals and churches. They have permission to include faith-based material such as tracts and Bibles in the food bags. In 2016, they used their EBO grant to give students Slip Disc Frisbees with the plan of salvation. They know of at least 33 salvations from that year's work.

As churches focus on ministry to schools, some prepare students to share their faith with friends and other students through witnessing training. Such training helps young people live out their beliefs through their conversations and behavior. Plus, students can share with students in ways adults cannot. "Evangelism training is a regular part of Kentucky WMU's Creative Ministries Festival and Kentucky Changers," says Joy Bolton, executive director. "We encourage churches to train students in how to share their faith. Our children and youth have access to schools in ways that we do not. Believing students can prayerwalk the halls, live out their faith in the classroom, and also share the gospel with others at school."

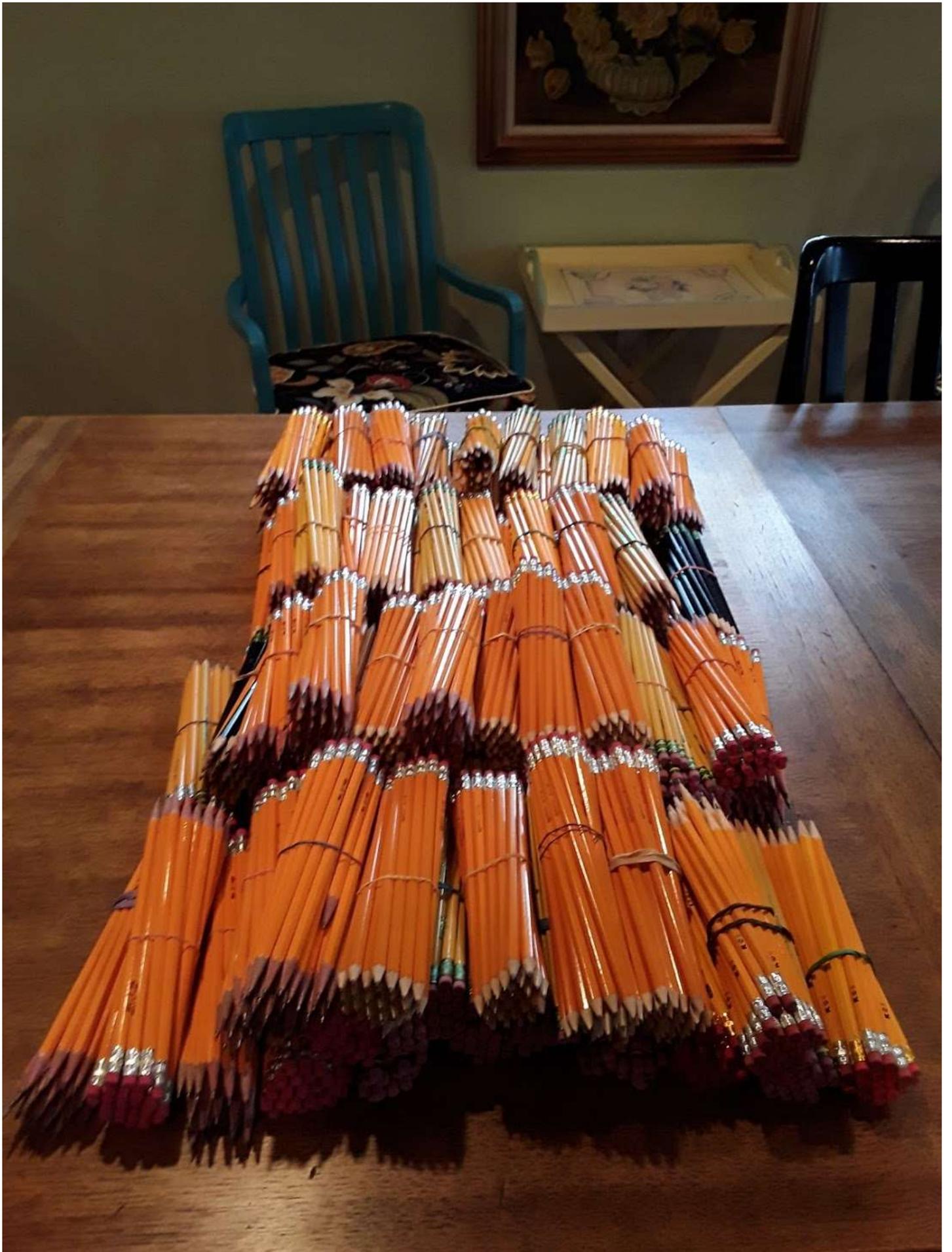
Kentucky WMU would be happy to work with your church to assist with evangelism training for children and students. Suggested tools for student evangelism include tracts, bracelets in colors representing parts of the gospel message, marked New Testaments, learning the Romans Road, and learning how to share a personal testimony.

Like Benham and Bethlehem, any church can offer local school ministry. Project possibilities include:

- Distribute paper hands with first names of students to encourage year-round praying.
- Distribute cards with school personnel names and positions for prayer.
- Prayerwalk around the school.
- Volunteer as tutors or in other needed positions.
- Help with school maintenance and enhancement.
- Send notes of encouragement to school personnel.
- Provide refreshments for school activities.
- Prepare backpacks with school and/or food supplies for children in need.
- Equip church students to be witnesses.
- Meet other personal or school needs as they arise.

Pray for:

- * Local students, families, teachers, and personnel
- * The drug epidemic and economic needs that impact students in every school
- * Your church's role in meeting school needs
- * Statewide school efforts





Prayers
+ Thanks!
BBC

SLIDER BAGS
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