

Illinois Missions Offering and Season of Prayer Preschool Study Session

Introduction

This one-hour study can be used in any setting where preschoolers are gathered. Preschoolers will gain awareness of the needs of those around them. They will experience fun activities that will lead them to discover how they can be helpers, show kindness and work together.

Pray for God's guidance as you prepare and teach. Read the entire study. Choose activities best suited for the children you teach. Gather materials for activities and group time. The following schedule is a suggestion of how to divide the time you will have.

- 45 minutes – Activity Time
- 5 minutes – Clean-up Time
- 10 minutes – Group Time

Homeliving

Activity: Doctor's Office

Materials Needed: Dolls, doll bed, pillows and sheets, empty and clean medicine bottles, child's doctor kit.

Encourage the preschoolers to set up an area that looks like a doctor's office. Tell the preschoolers about children who receive free medical services at a medical clinic at the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis. When we give to the Illinois Missions Offering, we are helping children see a doctor in East St. Louis.

Activity: Computer Lab

Materials Needed: Laptop computer or access to a computer.

Tell the children the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis has a computer lab. Children learn how to operate a computer. They can work on projects for school. Volunteers work with children to teach them about computers. When we give to the Illinois Missions Offering, we are helping children in East St. Louis.

Games and Manipulative

Activity: Bible Scavenger Hunt

Materials Needed: Bibles and Bible markers with Bible verses.

Let the preschoolers participate in a Bible scavenger hunt. Gather a variety of Bibles and put a Bible thought marker in each Bible.

Help one another (see Galatians 5:13).

Jesus went about doing good (see Acts 10:38).

We work together (see 1 Corinthians 3:9).

Jesus loves you (see John 15:12)

Prayer for one another (see James 5:16)

Be kind to each other (see Ephesians 4:32).

Before the session, hide the Bibles in various locations around the room. Lead preschoolers to find the hidden Bibles. When each Bible is found, turn to the Bible marker and read the Bible thought. Continue to hide the Bibles until all the children have had a turn finding one. Open the Bible and read, "All that the Bible says is from God" (see Timothy 3:16).

Music

Activity: Sing "Look in the Mirror."

Sing the following song to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot,"

*I look in the mirror
And who is that I see?
A very special person
Who looks a lot like me.
Eyes so bright and shiny
A smile that's pearly white.
It's great to be me,
What a lovely sight!*

Tell the children that even though they are small they can still do big things! When you give to the Illinois Missions Offering and pray for missions, you are helping in a big way.

Blocks

Activity: Build a Community

Materials Needed: Wooden blocks, cardboard boxes, show boxes, toy cars, small toy people.

Let the children use the blocks, cardboard boxes, and/or shoe boxes to make a “community.” They can build homes, schools, parks, hospitals, etc. Explain to the preschoolers that we all live in some type of community. Share with them that we want everyone to know about Jesus. For that to happen, we need a church in every community.

Activity: Sanding Wood

Materials Needed: Small pieces of scrap lumber and sandpaper.

Show the preschoolers how to use the sandpaper to smooth the pieces of wood.

Say: When we build new churches in Illinois, volunteers sometimes have to sand the wood.

Books

Activity: Read the Bible

Materials Needed: Read-to-Me Bible.

Look through the Bible with preschoolers and note the pictures of people helping others. Encourage the preschoolers to discuss ways to help others. **Ask:** Who has helped you today?

Activity: Read Missions Books

Materials Needed: Books entitled “I Can Give” and “I Can Pray” (available at www.wmustore.com or 1-800-968-7301). Sit with interested children and read books about praying and sharing their money, time, and energy.

Art

Activity: Helping Hungry People

Materials Needed: Large paper sacks, crayons.

Invite preschoolers to decorate bags that can be used in a local food pantry ministry. As they work, explain that at a food pantry, people know they can get help when they need it. **Ask:** How would you feel if you gave food to someone who was hungry? If you were hungry, would you want someone to give you a sack of food? **Say:** We don’t want people to go hungry. We want to help. **Ask** the preschoolers to bring canned food next week to put in the box for your church or a local food pantry.

Cleanup Time (5 minutes)

Preschoolers have difficulty ending an activity they enjoy. Give them five minutes warning before cleanup time so they can complete their activities without stopping abruptly.

Group Time (10 minutes)

Let the preschoolers make a circle by joining hands and start singing to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

*One little, two little, three little friends,
Four little, five little, six little friends,
Seven little, eight little, nine little friends,
I love Mission Friends!*

Tell the Story, "Campers on Mission"

If possible, set up a "camping" area with a tent and mock campfire.

Say: Mick and Jack are two preschoolers who wanted to go to church, but they did not have a church in their community. One day a group called "Campers on Mission" came to their town. They saw trucks with campers and motor homes pull onto an empty lot. They watched as people set up their campers and begin work on a new church.

Early the next morning, Mick and Jack heard the buzz, buzz of the saws, the bang, bang of the hammers, and the laughter of people at work. Everyone had a job. At break time, Mick and Jack ran over to give the Campers on Mission cookies their mother had made. They knew everyone had to be hungry. They had been working so hard. Mick and Jack felt special because they got to share their cookies with the Campers on Mission.

Mick and Jack watched the Campers on Mission work on their new church. They prayed for the Campers on Mission every night. At last, the church building was finished. Now more people will be able to come and hear about God.

Give an Offering

While the preschoolers are singing *I'm So Glad* (to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*), allow the children to come to the front and place their offering in a box or bowl. Or, you may plan for the preschoolers to give their offering at another time during the meeting. Help them know that when they give, they are helping people in Illinois learn about Jesus.

*I'm so glad that God loves me,
God love me, God loves me,
I'm so glad that God loves me,
Yes, He does!*

For variation, substitute the names of individual preschoolers or toss a ball to a child and then sing the verse using that child's name.

Closing

Say: We want to be kind to people in Illinois. Sometimes we give them food. Sometimes we help children with homework. We want everyone to have a church. Let's pray for volunteers like "Campers on Mission" who help build new churches in our state.