



TEXAS MISSIONS

for kids

Lesson 3

DISASTER RELIEF

Blessings on each of you who teach children about the missions work of God in Texas through the ministry of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. We hope you will learn about our state missions efforts as you teach the children in your church and/or community.

START-UP PREP:

Please begin your preparation in prayer.

Pray for:

- Guidance from the Holy Spirit as you prepare to share about missions work in the state of Texas
- The children to have open ears to listen and develop a love for missions work in their home state
- The missionaries, their families and their mission work

As you prepare for the following lesson, please notice that you will want to print the available downloadable material. Also, you need to acquire a Texas road map. Adhesive putty, yarn or string and a DVD player are also needed.

An email is provided at the end of the lesson. This is an email to send parents to explain the day's lesson and gives parents missional ideas for their families.

Use the following lesson as needed in your ministry - as a complete lesson or to supplement another lesson

What's Included & Needed

INCLUDED:

- Intro activity
- Missions DVD (downloadable at sbtexas.com/missions4kids)
- Missions Story
- Missions Activity & Activity Pages
- Family Missions Challenge (optional). Print a copy to send home with each child

NEEDED:

- Texas state map
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty
- Yarn or string
- DVD player or device to play missions video
- Strips of paper (one for each child)
- Mop pail or cleaning bucket

Printed Signs

- Disaster Relief Logo - Print the the disaster relief logo and purpose statement
- Large poster with three pictures or three small size posters with disaster pictures on them... flood, fire, tornado (examples are at the end of this lesson, but please use whatever you might have that is not too scary for kids)
- Sign with the verse for the week, Matthew 28:19



Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

INTRO ACTIVITY:

(This activity should last between five to six minutes)

BEFORE CLASS—FIND OUT:

1. How many miles it is from your town to Austin
2. How much time it takes to travel to Austin
3. Locate the town on the map so you can assist the children in finding the towns

LOCATE TODAY'S TEXAS CITY

OBJECTIVE: Pinpoint your present city and the cities being discussed.

As children arrive at the Missions Track, ask them to sit in a circle. Ask teachers to be sure that each child can see the Texas map.

ASK THE CHILDREN:

1. Who can tell us what the capital of Texas is? (Austin) Austin is where our Governor lives and where our Texas Legislature meets to pass laws for our state.
2. Raise your hand if you can show us where Austin is on the map of Texas.
3. What about Cleburne? Does someone know where that is located?
4. Finally, who can show us where El Paso is located? Does anyone remember who our missionaries in the borderlands are who we talked about yesterday? They live in El Paso. (Chuy and Martha Avila)

Today we are going to learn about what these three cities have in common and why they needed a special kind of help from a team from Texas.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Texas state map (with Mexico)
- Push pins/tape/adhesive putty yarn or string
- Depending on the size of your group, this activity may be completed as a class activity or small group activity.
- Strips of paper (one for each child)
- Mop pail or cleaning bucket

If you choose to do the activity as a small group, please provide one set of supplies for each group.

5. Let's see how many miles it is from our town to Austin. How about from here to Cleburne? We already know how far it is to El Paso. Can anyone remember how far that is?

Be prepared with how far and how long it takes to drive to these different cities. Teachers, you can attach the yarn or string from your town to the different cities. For older children, allow a child to attach the yarn length to the map.

Tell the boys and girls that today's story is about a very special group of volunteers who put our verse for this week into action every time they go to work!



Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

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MISSIONS STORY

"This room looks like a Disaster!" Have you ever heard someone say that before? What do you think it means? A disaster is an event that happens suddenly and causes a lot of damage or even causes some people to get hurt. Can you name something that is considered to be disaster? Listen for answers like flooding, fires, tornadoes, etc.

(Play the DVD. The DVD introduces the Texas missions story for the day. It is not intended to tell the full story.)

Things like floods, tornadoes and large fires are considered disasters. In Texas, we have a special group of volunteers who work for the disaster relief ministry. (Show the poster of the disaster relief ministry logo and purpose.) Men and women from all over Texas receive training in how to respond to families and neighborhoods and cities after disasters such as floods and tornadoes.

Last October in Austin (point to the city on the map), they had so much rain that some creeks overflowed and the water rose so high it went into some of the houses. People's homes were flooded and they needed help! The water ruined their food and clothes and furniture and many people could not get into their homes because of all the water. That is when the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief Team jumped into action. They cooked food for almost 3,000 people who needed something to eat. Not only did they cook them food but they also told all the people that God loves them very much so they could have hope in the love of Jesus. The disaster relief volunteers also helped the people clean out all the mud and debris from their homes so they could move back in and have a dry place to stay again (show the picture of the flood scene).

Last summer in Cleburne (point to the city on the map), there was a big tornado that blew through town. After a tornado hits, sometimes there are trees that fall on the top of houses and fences. They are blown down. The disaster relief team was ready to work as soon as they were needed. They started up their chainsaws and

helped clear away trees from roofs and covered roofs with plastic to keep out rain. After a disaster, lots of people are sad and need to know someone cares about them. So in addition to helping with their homes that were hit by the tornado, the disaster relief team shared God's love with the people in Cleburne. (Show the picture of the tornado scene.)

Remember how we talked about the Avila family in El Paso? Last year they also had so much rain in one night that many people's houses flooded. Some people had sand and mud up to three feet deep in their houses (show how high that is). The volunteers from the Southern Baptists of Texas Disaster Relief team showed up with shovels to help get mud out of homes. The volunteers did not leave until people had clean homes to live in again.

In all three of these cities, the disaster relief volunteers had lots of chances to share the love of Jesus with people while they helped them rebuild their homes and cities. (Show the picture of the fire scene.) Say, "Sometimes in Texas, we also have wildfires that go into towns." The disaster relief volunteers help with all kinds of disasters and tell people everywhere they go about God's love. In addition to going to different disaster sites, the SBTC Disaster Relief team helps teach and equip churches and individuals to meet the immediate needs of people with their homes and lives. They also try to meet the spiritual needs of people by sharing God's love! (Show the logo and purpose statement for the disaster relief team once more).

At this point, it might be helpful to have someone in the room read Psalm 46:1. The Bible tells us that, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

NOTE: If you have a tablet in the room with internet access or if you can prepare a PowerPoint ahead of time, you can find pictures of disaster relief work at sbtexas.com/dr/ and click on the different monthly reports for photos from various parts of the state.



Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE:

1. To learn what is involved in disaster care
2. To pray for the disaster relief team
3. To review/learn the verse of the week, Matt. 28:19

All the men and women who work for the disaster relief team need our help. They need us to pray for them. They need us to pray they will have enough money to do the work they need to do and they need lots more volunteers (must be at least 18 years old to volunteer). Let's pray for them now!

ACTIVITY GET READY FOR A DISASTER

Place three disaster posters (fire, tornado, and flood) in three different parts of the room. Make sure an adult is available to supervise each group and help write the list for the younger group or help with ideas in the older group. Also, before you assign groups, allow one student in each group select a city on the map of Texas where your "pretend disaster" will be.

When you are ready with your city, explain that you are going to toss the paper balls in the bucket out to the group. Tell children that each of them will pick up a piece of paper and open it to see what his/her disaster is. If a child has "fire," he or she will move to the poster with the fire scene on it and meet the rest of his group. Do the same for the flood and tornado groups. If the room is very small or if the group is fairly boisterous, you can distribute the paper balls to the group in a less "disastrous" manner. Do whatever works best for your group of children.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- DVD Player and DVD or device to play downloaded video of disaster relief (sbtexas.com/missions4kids)

Printed Signs

1. Disaster Relief Logo - Print the Disaster Relief Logo and purpose statement
2. Pictures of a flood, fire and tornado (coloring activities provided for each)
3. Sign with the verse for the week; Matthew 28:19

Tell the children that when they get with their team, they will have three minutes to think of as many things as possible they will need to pack in a big truck to take to their disaster area. Tell them to plan for enough supplies for 500 people.

Make sure the children have something to write their lists. Then you can say, "On your mark, get set, disaster!" Give them three minutes to think of as many things as possible and call the groups back together to share their lists.

After they share their lists, let them discover what items were in common between the lists. Or if time does not allow for sharing, collect their lists and let them know what things were in common in their lists and maybe note the strangest item, etc.

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Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

MISSIONS ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY (CONTINUED)

Collect their lists and let the students throw their strips of paper back into the pail or bucket. Lead the children in reviewing the verse for the week. Thank them for their good work and ask if they will try to say a prayer for our disaster relief team every time they hear about a disaster or when they hear an ambulance or fire truck go by, or if they hear about something on the news, etc.

Here is a list of some basic supplies from the SBTC Disaster Relief website to help you out:

- Water
- Food (What kind? How much? Don't forget about babies and pets)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-Aid kit
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Moist towelettes and garbage bags
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash
- Emergency reference material such as a first-aid book or free information from the website. (See Publications)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Clothes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- What else can you think of?

A FAMILY CHALLENGE

The following page is an optional activity to engage families. The VBS director or children's minister can send this activity to families through email, Facebook, or the church's website.



Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

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TEXAS MISSIONS FAMILY CHALLENGE

Dear Parents,

Have you ever told your child that his or her room looked like a disaster area? Today we learned about some real disasters that have happened this past year in Texas and how a very special group of volunteers working with the Southern Baptists of Texas Disaster Relief team spring into action whenever there is a disaster in Texas. We talked about recent flooding in Austin and El Paso as well as the tornados that hit Cleburne last year. Maybe your family knows of someone who has been touched by this type of disaster.

The disaster relief teams deploy across the state to meet the immediate physical needs of people touched by disaster and they also go to offer the hope that is found in a relationship with Jesus. The Bible tells us that, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

Ask your child if he or she can remember what kinds of disasters were talked about during their mission stop today (fire, tornado, flood). Ask him or her to tell you what kind of things the disaster relief team does to help people who are in need. You can watch a short video of the disaster team at work by visiting sbtexas.com/missions4kids and click the lesson for day three.

If your family would like to contribute to disaster relief, you could share perishable food or other necessary supplies with your local Baptist associational office if they accept those items. You can also see the latest efforts of the disaster relief team and donate by visiting sbtexas.com/dr. Your child might also know of someone at his or her school or sporting organization who is in need. Think of ways you and your family could minister to those in need with tangible items as an expression of God's love and your prayers. Your child could even make a card to include with whatever you give to those in need. Psalm 46:1 and John 3:16 would be great verses to include on the card!

The next time you hear about a disaster in Texas, you can share whatever age-appropriate details you can with your child and pray together as a family for those people hit by the disaster and also pray for the members of the SBTC Disaster Relief team who will no doubt be on their way to share God's love and kindness to those in need.



Purpose

To prepare, equip, train, and mobilize churches and volunteers to fulfill the Great Commission by meeting real needs and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ with those whose lives have been or will be affected by disasters.

Focal Bible Verse for the Week:

**Go therefore and make disciples
of all the nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 28:19







