

2021 CHILDREN'S STUDY GUIDE



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TEXAS MISSIONS

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20 NIV

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Mary Hill Davis Offering (MHDO) supports **African American Go Now Missionaries** which is a part of Texas Baptists African American Ministries whose mission is to cooperate with other Baptist entities to minister to African Americans and others in fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. They achieve this by identifying and training leaders in the African American church.

Go Now Missions mobilizes university students in Texas to share the love of Christ across the world. Since their beginning in 1946, over 9,000 students have been sent around the world as student missionaries. Opportunities vary from digging a water well to starting a church in a coffee shop. *Go Now Missions* sends students across the state, the United States, and the world, serving from one week to 12 months. Opportunities for service are available during Christmas break, in the summer, or for a semester. To serve, a student must be enrolled in a university, have membership in a Baptist church or be involved in a local Baptist Campus Ministry. The goal of *Go Now Missions* is to grow up a generation of mission-minded adults, investing in God's work across our state, nation, and the world.

African American Go Now Missionaries will support 10 African American students from colleges/universities in Texas to have the opportunity to serve as Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) summer missionaries. The lifechanging experiences of these students are evident in the stories they share.

SESSION PREPARATION

- **Two sticky notes** - Write "Ronald" on one and "Skyler" on the other.
- **Provide a map of the United States** to show where the missionaries served.
- **Make two signs.** Write "The World" on one and "The Church" on the other. Provide any board game.
- **Write the verse Genesis 1:27a on a poster or white board.** Download the verse and cut each word apart. Place the words underneath each chair.
- Use a phone or other device to **play the song, "I Will Follow"** by Chris Tomlin.
- **Prepare a simple snack**, such as apples, fruit roll up, fruit snacks, goldfish. (Be aware of food allergies.)
- **Write the verse Philippians 4:13 on a poster or white board.**
- **Download the sign, "MISSION ART GALLERY"**. Acquire permission for a place to hang the children's drawings so they can be seen by church members.
- **Provide art paper or construction paper, one for each child.**
- **Acquire Mary Hill Davis Offering envelopes** for the children.

SESSION PLANS

Tell the students that they are going to learn about how the Mary Hill Davis Offering made it possible for four **African American Go Now Missionaries** to tell people about Jesus last summer. They will learn about two students who served as summer missionaries in the United States. The first one they will learn about ministered in Huntsville, Texas. Have a child go to the United States map and find Huntsville and place the sticky note with the name "Ronald" on it.



Tell the story using the graphics provided to help illustrate as you go. Place the graphics on a board or wall in order, as you tell the story.

Begin by displaying the "Ronald" graphic provided. Tell the students they are going to meet Ronald and get to know him by hearing his story.

When Ronald was a teenager, he went to a church camp where he believed God was asking Him to be a missionary (🙏). At the time, Ronald did not really understand what that meant.

When Ronald was a few years older, he went on his first mission trip to another country (🌍). He learned a little bit about what it was like to trust God in another country. He learned that when Jesus said to "Go and make disciples" (📖), He meant for us to tell people about Jesus all the time, not just on mission trips.

When Ronald went to college, he heard about Go Now Missions, (👁️). He believed God wanted him to consider becoming a GO NOW missionary.

Ronald wanted to go to Central Asia (🌏). But because of the pandemic, Ronald was not able to go to Asia. However, he was excited to stay in Huntsville, Texas, because he knew God still had a plan to share the gospel.

He became a part of a program called ELI (💎) where international students learn to speak English. He made friends with some of the Central Asian students. God was showing Ronald that Central Asian people were the ones God wanted him to share with about Jesus. Ronald now understood WHO he was to share about Jesus with (👤). Ronald was just wondering HOW (🛠️) he could share Jesus with the Central Asian people he knew in Huntsville. Ronald did not know much about the culture, and a lot of people were isolated because of lockdowns. How could Ronald minister with all these roadblocks (🚧)?

Ronald began to read his Bible where he found

promises to help him when things were difficult. One of the verses that helped him was 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (📖). This verse reminded Ronald that God's power is made "perfect in weakness" and that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (💪 🙏)." So Ronald began to pray for God to show him how to minister and to bring him some friends who could help.

And sure enough, God began putting things in place in a way Ronald never expected. God brought three friends to join Ronald in the work (👥). God began to soften the hearts of the Central Asian students to come and join them (❤️). They would do things together like play soccer (⚽), go to the beach (🏖️) or even have dinner together (🍽️). Ronald was able to tell his Central Asian friends about Jesus many times during the summer!

ACTIVITY

Soccer Ball Tell It

Let the children sit on the floor in a large circle. Use a soccer ball or beach ball for the activity. Roll the ball to one of the children and ask a question about the story. When they answer, have them roll the ball back to you. Roll the ball to another child and ask another question about the story. Repeat until all children have had a turn.

The second **African American Go Now Missionary**, Skyler James, served in Houston, Texas, at Mission Centers of Houston. Have a child go to the United States map and find Houston, Texas and place the sticky note with the name "Skyler" on it. Tell them that Mission Centers of Houston provides for the physical and spiritual needs of people living in Houston's inner city. The center passes out hot meals and toiletries to the homeless. Skyler taught kids' club and youth club every weekday afternoon. They taught the children Bible stories, played games, and gave them snacks.

Tell the children they are going to experience how Skyler led a kids' club at the center. Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Tell them this story of the Good Samaritan.

Written by
Shirley McDonald
Stephenville, TX

Skyler

The Jews did not like the Samaritans because the Samaritans were not like the Jews, and would not go anywhere near the Samaritans. One day a man asked, "What do I need to do to go to Heaven?" Jesus asked the man what the Bible said to do. The man said, "You should love God and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus told him he was right. Then the man asked, "But who is my neighbor?" To answer that question, Jesus told this story.

There was a man walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers attacked the man and beat him up and stole everything he had. They left him nearly dead. A priest walking along the road saw the hurt man and walked around to the other side of the road to avoid him. Then a Levite, a holy man who helped in the Temple, saw the hurt man in the road and passed by on the other side. Next a Samaritan man walked by. When he saw the hurt Jewish man, he felt sorry for him and ran to him and bandaged his wounds and treated him with care. He picked up the man and put him on his donkey and took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he gave the innkeeper money and said, "Look after him, and when I return, I will repay you for whatever you spend to care for him."

When Jesus finished the story, he asked the man, "Which of these three; the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan, do you think was a neighbor to the man who was robbed." The man answered, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said, "You should go and do the same."

Say: "Jesus told this story to show that the people of all nations are our neighbors. That is why we give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering. When we give and pray, we are helping people of all races come to know about Jesus. We are helping African American students like Skyler and Ronald go to Huntsville and Houston to minister to people in the name of Jesus."

Remind the students that after Skyler would tell a Bible story, she would play a game with the children.

Ask the children to stand together on one side of the room. Tell them that you are going to play a song by Chris Tomlin, called "I Will Follow". They must listen carefully to the words because every time they hear the word, "follow", they will all go sideways to the other side of the room.

When the song is over, read these words from the song:

***"Who you love, I'll love.
How you serve, I'll serve."***

Ask: "Who does Jesus love?" Remind them that Jesus served like the Good Samaritan. He helped all people, not just the people who looked like him. These verses in the song are saying that we will love everyone like Jesus and be ready to serve and help everyone like Jesus did. God wants us to love and serve all people.

Say: Does anyone remember what else Skyler would do for

the kids at the center? Yes, she would give out snacks! (Hand out snacks. While the children are eating their snacks, tell the following story.)

Skyler also helped pass out hot meals and toiletries, like toothpaste and socks, to people who lived on the street because they did not have a house to live in. One morning while they were ministering, a homeless man started to talk about how he had accepted Christ as his Savior and how God had helped him stop taking drugs and had saved his life. He was so thankful for how the center helped him and others. Skyler said his joy was exploding out of him despite his situation and that really amazed her. She could see the contentment in Christ being lived out in this man. She said it made her think of the Bible verse, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Point to the verse.



Hand out the art or construction paper. Tell the children that they are going to make a *Mission Art Gallery* with their drawings. Let them know they will creatively write and decorate one or both Bible verses posted around the room on their art paper. They will also draw a picture of a way that Skyler ministered to people in Houston. Tell them where their *Mission Art Gallery* will be displayed in the church.

CONCLUSION

Without the Mary Hill Davis Offering, these African American college students would not have been able to go on summer mission trips. Hand out the Mary Hill Davis Offering envelopes. Tell the children that they can put money in the envelopes and bring to the church. Ask if they can think of some ideas how they could help their family raise money for the offering. (Examples: They could tape their envelope on a jar at their house for collecting money. They could make a large poster with several different numbers on it, with the title, "Pick a Number". Members of the family will choose a number. Whatever number they choose is the amount they will give to the offering for Texas missions.)

PRAY

1. That African American students will trust God and apply for summer missions.
2. That the Lord will bless many to come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ because of these students serving as summer missionaries.
3. That the students will have what they need to continue their education following their summer mission trip.

Options

- Use only one story if time is limited.
- Divide this resource and use it for several weeks.



The
MISSION ART
GALLERY

I am
TEXAS
Missions
WMU of Texas

Ronald

Skyler

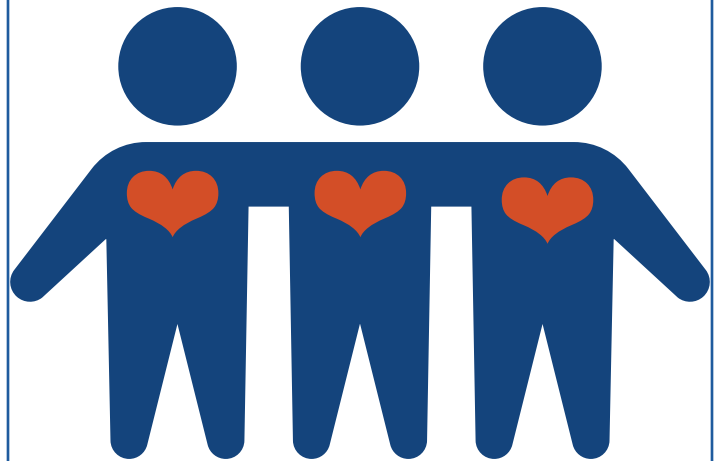
PASSPORT



*United States
of America*



go
now
missions



**So God created mankind
in His own image,
in the image of God
He created them.**

GENESIS 1:27A



***“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to Me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples
of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”***

MATTHEW 28:18-19 (NIV)

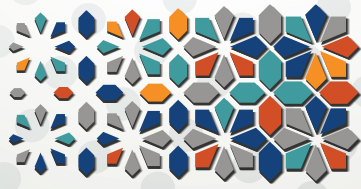


***But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses,
so that Christ’s power may rest on me.
That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses,
in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.
For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10 (NIV)



WHO?



HOW?

