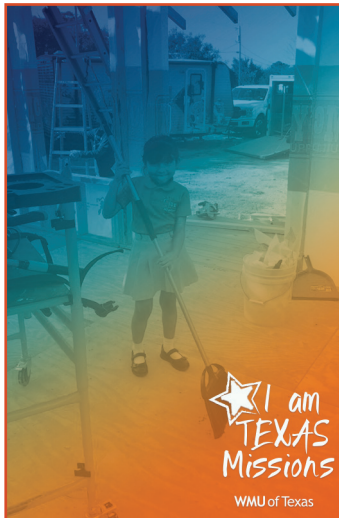


# BASIC ENGLISH STUDY GUIDE



SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2021 | STATE GOAL \$3,500,000

*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

Identity is important. Who we are in Christ is our most important identity. We are children of God. We are loved and forgiven. We are safe in our future. This knowledge gives us a way to understand ourselves and the world.

This is more important than any other ways we identify ourselves. More important than our language, our country, or even our family identity. In our Week of Prayer for Texas Missions, we are going to talk about another identity. I AM TEXAS MISSIONS.

This is the theme for the year. We will learn about how each of us are a part of Texas missions. God is using people all over the state to share His good news and the hope of Christ.

Everyone who gives to the Mary Hill Davis Offering® is **Texas missions**. Everyone who prays for these ministries is **Texas missions**. Everyone who is sharing Christ and making disciples is **Texas missions**. This study will give you new ministries to pray for. As you learn, you will see your identity – **I AM TEXAS MISSIONS**.

## SESSION GOAL

Participants will learn how God is using the Mary Hill Davis Offering and making a difference in people's lives.

Participants will understand that Texas missions is each of us. We

can be Texas missions by ourselves (as one person) and we are Texas missions as groups of believers. We will learn how God is using ordinary people to share God's hope.

Participants will learn new ways to be involved in Texas missions. Each of us can pray, give and do Texas missions. Participants will learn about ministries of Texas Baptists. Strategic Outreach, Go Now Missionaries, River Ministry Missionaries, and African American Go Now Missionaries are funded by allocations from the Mary Hill Davis Offering.

## SESSION PREPARATION AND IDEAS

*[The Promotion Ideas can also be used with the Basic English Summary materials]*

For the Week of Prayer focus, download more materials from [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).

The study material can be presented in the worship service, in smaller groups, or in both. Below are some ideas to prepare for presenting in a worship service.

1. Tell the church about Texas missions and the Mary Hill Davis Offering.
2. As a church, pray and ask God for a goal for your church to give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering.

3. Display the church poster. Write in the goal for your church on the poster.
4. Use the bulletin inserts for two Sundays - September 12 and September 19.
5. Present the information and videos in the worship service or ask a special speaker to come. You can request a speaker through WMU of Texas at 214-828-5150 or email [wmutx@texasbaptists.org](mailto:wmutx@texasbaptists.org).
6. Have a computer, video projector, and screen/monitor available to use for the video.
7. Have special prayer time in the service for specific Texas missions.
8. Report to the church the progress of the Mary Hill Davis Offering.

The worship time is a great way to let everyone in the church learn about Texas missions. It is important for each person to see his/her part in missions. The whole church can learn together.

1. Set aside 5-7 minutes in each of the four September Sunday services. (If that is not possible, use more time in fewer services.)
2. Present one ministry each Sunday.
3. Show the video that matches each story by downloading the video from the [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).
4. Ask a speaker to come who is involved in the specific ministry. The speaker can present for a few minutes or can give the Sunday message.
5. Ask a member of the church to share about the ministry. They can do this by studying the material and then presenting it. They can prepare a poster or a PowerPoint with information about the ministry. They can show the video, share, or ask questions to the group. Some questions could be about how this ministry can make a difference in the lives of people they know.
6. Children can be asked to make a presentation on the ministry by using poster boards with facts about the ministry. This presentation must be coordinated by an adult leader.
7. After the presentation, the missions offering can be taken. Also include a special time of prayer for that ministry.

Remember that part of the theme this year is "as you go make disciples". Challenge the church to think of ways they can make disciples as they go about their daily lives.

## SESSION PREPARATION AND PLAN

Below are suggestions for ways a small group can study the material. This can be a women's group, men's group, Bible Study group, home group, life group, or youth group. The more people you can involve the better. This can be a time to get to know each other and have fun while learning about Texas missions.

Have all four videos ready. Download the video and additional materials at [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).

Have a computer and screen. Before the class begins, test the computer to be sure it has sound and picture.

When participants come in, let them choose one of four areas of study. Be sure groups stay about the same size. Allow each group to view the video for that ministry. Share the written material with the group.

Have each group discuss with each other how they feel about the ministry. What did they learn? Ask if they personally know anyone who would benefit from this ministry. Ask what they can do to help this ministry. (Allow video and discussion to be about 20 minutes.) Ask each group to prepare how they want to present to the larger group. Each presentation should include:

1. Basic information about the ministry.
2. Prayer requests for the ministry.
3. Specific ways the church can volunteer with this ministry.
4. Plan specific ways to encourage church members to give to the offering or plan a fundraising event.
5. Encourage each participant to find ways to be Texas missions as they go about their daily lives.
6. Each group will present for 10 minutes and conclude their presentation in a prayer for the ministry.

***"I am Texas Missions - as you go make disciples"***

# MINISTRY FOCUS

## STRATEGIC OUTREACH

How do you begin to share the Good News of Jesus? What if the person has never heard of Jesus? What if they have never heard of a forgiving or loving God? This is the challenge of many Texas Baptist churches. The Office of Intercultural Ministries through the Mary Hill Davis Offering assists churches as they share the gospel with newcomers. Many of these newcomers have never heard the truth of Jesus.

Think of a new family who has just come to the United States. They come because in their country they would be killed. Maybe they are in danger because of their tribe or ethnicity. Maybe they had to leave because of their beliefs. There could be a war in the country and they are not safe. Whatever the cause, they have left everything they know. Now they are in a country where the food, language, and culture are very different. They need help and friends. It is a perfect time to share Jesus. But what is the best way to do this?

Churches help the newcomers in many ways.

First, they must help the newcomers feel safe and feel unconditional love. They must know the friendship offered is from a heart of love. They should never feel pressure to accept Jesus.

Second, they need to hear about Jesus in their own language. It should be shared in a way that is right for their culture. The message must be simple and offered in friendship.

Third, there needs to be follow-up that matches the culture. One-time sharing will not be enough.

In Texas, thousands of newcomers have heard the good news for the first time. The Mary Hill Davis Offering supports the Intercultural churches as they share the good news. A Christmas party can explain the real meaning of Christmas while including cultural songs and food. A party may be the only way a newcomer will hear of Jesus. It is a way to build friendships with those who speak their heart language and culture.

Other kinds of events are Bible distributions, music festivals, cooking classes, and parenting classes. These events reach non-believers and provide an opportunity to tell them about Jesus and begin friendships.

- Pray for these events and outreach activities to bring people to Christ.
- Pray for the leaders to seek God's leadership as they plan ways to share the gospel in effective ways.
- Pray for open hearts to hear and receive the good news of Jesus.

Find out more at [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).

## GO NOW MISSIONARIES

Did you know we have 400 Go Now missionaries serving around the world? Go Now missionaries are college students. They serve for a short time while still in college.

Each year students who are Go Now missionaries share their testimonies. They share where they served and what work they were doing. These can be anything from Kids Clubs to feeding the homeless. All of them share the good news of Jesus. Many of these missionaries pray with people to receive Christ and disciple them. Their ministries change lives.

These missionaries tell how God used their ministry to change others and themselves. They share how their own faith grew. They share how God spoke to them. They share about how they will never be the same. In helping others, God changed them. They shared their faith and God used that to grow their faith. This is true for all of us. When we share our faith, our faith grows.

- Your church can pray for these student missionaries and their ministries.
- You can adopt a missionary and support them with prayer, letters, emails and even a care package.
- You can invite a student missionary to speak at your church.
- You can donate supplies for children's ministry, medical supplies and other needed items.

Find out more at [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).

## RIVER MINISTRY MISSIONARIES

The area on both sides of the Rio Grande river is one of the poorest areas of the nation. It is also one of the areas with very few evangelical Christians. By working together with churches and associations, Texas Baptists are serving in this area. The goal is to see people's lives changed through Jesus Christ.

Much of this ministry is led by River Ministry missionaries. These are doctors, nurses, and dentists who serve with other volunteers. Together they meet physical and spiritual needs of each person they treat.

River Ministry missionaries also provide leadership development, social ministries, and church starting. They meet needs through community gardens, Vacation Bible Schools, evangelistic soccer balls, and care boxes for low income families and immigrants.

- Pray for the River Ministry missionaries to have boldness and strength. Pray for them to have new opportunities to share God's love.
- Pray for more volunteers and prayer partners.
- Pray for the missionaries to be strong in the Lord.
- Pray for physical health as they serve in these difficult days.

Find out more at [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GO NOW MISSIONARIES

This ministry provides 10 African American scholarships for Go Now missionaries. It is easy to understand how missionaries impact the people they serve. But the missionaries also are greatly impacted. Two of these missionaries shared their experiences.

Skyler, a student at Texas A&M Commerce, was a missionary in Houston. She worked with Kids Clubs and Youth Clubs at the Mission Centers of Houston. She shared the changes of many of those she served as they came to know Christ. She helped them feel safe even when they came from very difficult situations.

What made this possible was the scholarship she received so she could serve. Without the scholarship she may not have had this opportunity. She shared how her life was changed as she saw God working in the lives of suffering children. Because she

received the scholarship, she was able to return to school after her missionary service.

Grace had a very different assignment in Tacoma, Washington. Grace was able to work with others on racial reconciliation through her host church. She was changed by her experience. She would not have had this life-changing experience without the help of this program. None of those whose lives she touched would have been changed without her.

All of the students expressed gratitude for Mary Hill Davis Offering. The offering allowed them to grow in their faith and to serve God.

- Pray for God to call African American students to serve in Go Now missions.
- Pray that they will continue their college education after their missionary service.
- Pray that many will come to know Christ through their ministries and that God will use their service to grow them in their relationship to him.

Find out more at [iamtexasmissions.org](http://iamtexasmissions.org).

You are a part of all of these ministries. Your prayers and gifts through the Mary Hill Davis Offering support these ministries. Pray and ask God how you should be involved. How can you pray and give? How can you participate directly? How can you make disciples as you go?

Remember our theme ***"I am Texas Missions - as you go make disciples"***. Ask God what he would have you do.

Written by:  
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WMU of Texas

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