

Preschool Study Guide

Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® (MHDO) for Texas Missions provides funding for over 80 ministries across Texas. When you give, you are helping people across the state share the love of Jesus with those who need to know Him as Savior. This lesson will focus on Community Care.

Bible Verses

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

Background Information

The Christian Life Commission and WMU of Texas through the Mary Hill Davis Offering have had a long history of partnership for Community Care. A broad spectrum of community missions and ministries are funded across Texas Baptists churches and communities with engagement opportunities in every major city in Texas. These funds support efforts such as community development, health care, and serving vulnerable/marginalized groups such as homeless, poor, refugees, and children.

Irene Gallegos, Director of Hunger and Care Ministries of the Christian Life Commission, states, *“The needs of holistic community transformation are extensive as over 27,000 individuals in Texas experience homelessness on any given day, over 11,000 refugees were admitted in the U.S. in 2021 and many resettled in Texas, and a reported 14.2% live in poverty.”* Grants are

available to allow more churches and ministries to receive resources to serve their community better. As ministry partners serve holistically, they show the hope of Christ to their own local community.

Community Care Ministries transform communities by providing comprehensive services in the areas of psychosocial, spiritual, and physical needs of people in the name of Jesus Christ. The psychosocial needs are provided for when the counselors and volunteers offer help, kindness, love, and develop relationships. Spiritual help comes through the sharing of the gospel, praying with those in need, and providing Bibles and Bible study groups. Physical needs are met through free health, dental, and vision clinics. Food distributions, food pantries, meals, clothes closets, and hygiene closets also provide for physical needs. Transformation occurs in the lives of the individuals who receive help and in the ministry employees and volunteers as they serve.

Preparation

Learning Objective

To provide preschoolers an opportunity to learn how Community Care Ministries help people in need.

Schedule

- 10 minutes—whole-group learning
- 30 minutes—small-group learning (2 rotations, 15 minutes each)
- 10 minutes—whole-group application
- 5 minutes—lesson conclusion

Whole-Group Learning

Mission Study

Before the Session

- Provide outline map of Texas with Lubbock marked (*Resources*)
- Print photos of Lubbock Impact, cut apart, mount on cardstock (*Resources*)
- Prepare strips of paper with one Bible thought on each strip and place them in a Bible
 - Help one another (see Gal.5:13).
 - Be kind to each other (see Eph. 4:32).
 - Do good and share with others (see Heb. 13:6).
 - Work with your hands (see 1 Thess. 3:11).
 - Love one another (see 1 John 4:7).

During the Session

Welcome preschoolers to the meeting area. Share that today we are talking about how to help people in the places we live. Groups of people living in one place are called communities. Ask children the name of their community. Ask children where they go in their community to buy food, to buy clothes and shoes, to buy shampoo and toothbrushes/toothpaste. Ask where they

go if they have a toothache, if they have trouble seeing, or if they are sick.

Point out that what is needed where they live in their community is also needed in every community. We can help people in communities in Texas when we give money to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. Sometimes people in a community do not have enough money to buy things they need. They need help to get food and clothes. One place they can go to for help is a Community Care Center.

Lubbock Impact is a Care Center in Lubbock, Texas, where people in need in that community can get help. (*Show Lubbock, Texas map and photos of Lubbock Impact.*) There are volunteers who cook and serve food every Wednesday to those who are hungry in their community. They call it the Community Meal. The volunteers make it special by using tablecloths and placing an attractive centerpiece in the middle of each table. It is like celebrating a holiday or birthday. It helps those who come to eat know that this is a special meal for them. While they are enjoying their meal, they can make friends with all the people at their table. And they make friends with the people who serve them the food. Having friends makes people happy. It is lonely to be without friends.

After the meal, those who need to see a doctor can go to the health clinic. A doctor will know how to help them feel better.

Those who need clothes can shop in a special closet filled with clothes and shoes in all sizes. There is also a special pantry which is like a grocery store where people can choose the foods they want to take home. There are Bible studies for all ages so the people can learn about Jesus. Children have special activities to have fun, make crafts, and hear Bible stories.

One family that has been coming for the Community Meal for a few years decided that they wanted to volunteer to help others. Jessica and her two sons worked in the clothing closets one day a week to sort and hang the clothes. They wanted to show love and share with others. The boys enjoyed learning about Jesus, so they decided to come early on Wednesdays to help prepare for the evening ministry. They love being able to serve the meal to friends and neighbors.

The Bible tells us that Jesus wants us to help people around us. Allow children to select a Bible thought strip from the Bible. Read it aloud and have all the children repeat it together. Ask how Lubbock Impact is helping, being kind, sharing, working, and loving their community.

Small-Group Learning: Favorite Foods and Table Centerpiece

Divide preschoolers into two groups. One group will draw and color their favorite foods on a paper plate while the other group constructs a table centerpiece. Rotate the

groups so all children will have a plate and a centerpiece.

Collect the following items:

- Crayons
- Thin, white paper plates
- Clear plastic cups
- Craft sticks
- Glue sticks
- Crinkle filler or tissue paper
- Autumn leaf shapes (duplicate on fall-colored paper and cut out) (*Resources*)

Favorite Foods

The people who come to the Community Meal at Lubbock Impact enjoy the good food. Ask preschoolers to name some of their favorite foods. Distribute crayons and paper plates and instruct them to draw and color some of the foods they named that they like. Collect the plates.

Table Centerpiece

The volunteers who help at the Community Meal at Lubbock Impact like to make the tables look pretty so the people feel special. One way they do this is by placing a centerpiece in the middle of the table. You are going to make a centerpiece of autumn leaves. Distribute the cut leaves, craft sticks, and glue sticks. Demonstrate how to glue the leaves to the sticks. Then give each one a plastic cup and place the sticks inside.

Last, place filler or tissue paper into cups to hold sticks. Collect each centerpiece.

Whole-Group Application

Provide a tablecloth (paper or plastic)

As preschoolers complete both activities, invite them to come to a table where all can be seated together. Ask them to work together to place the tablecloth on the table. Allow each child to place his centerpiece in the middle of the table. Explain that we will have a pretend Community Meal together. Say a prayer to thank God for being together and having good food to eat. Have the leaders “serve” each child’s paper plate meal. Encourage them to share with each other about the favorite foods they selected. Include comments about their centerpieces. Plates and centerpieces can be sent home.

Lesson Conclusion

Provide a backpack and money

Show the backpack. Share that some Community Care Centers put food in a backpack to send home with children who need food on the weekend. It costs \$20 to buy food for one backpack for one child. We can help buy food for backpacks when you give money to the MHDO. Place your money into the backpack and explain that you are giving this money as your offering. Share that when children bring their offering, they can put it in the backpack. We will see how many backpacks of food we can buy. Pray

for the people who come for help that they will learn about Jesus and decide to follow him. Pray for the volunteers who help people and tell them about Jesus.

VISIT IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG TO DOWNLOAD THE FOLLOWING:

- Prayer Guides
- Offering Envelopes
- Posters
- Videos

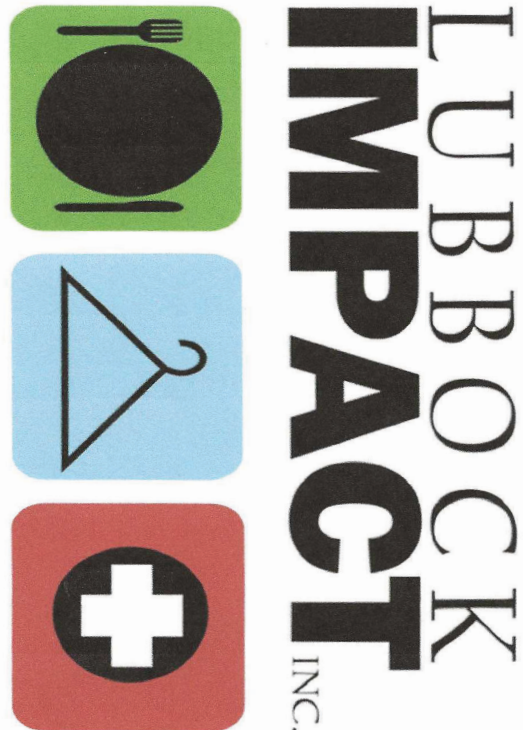
RESOURCES FOR THIS STUDY:

- Outline map of Texas
- Pictures of Lubbock Impact
- Leaf Patterns
- Picture of centerpiece

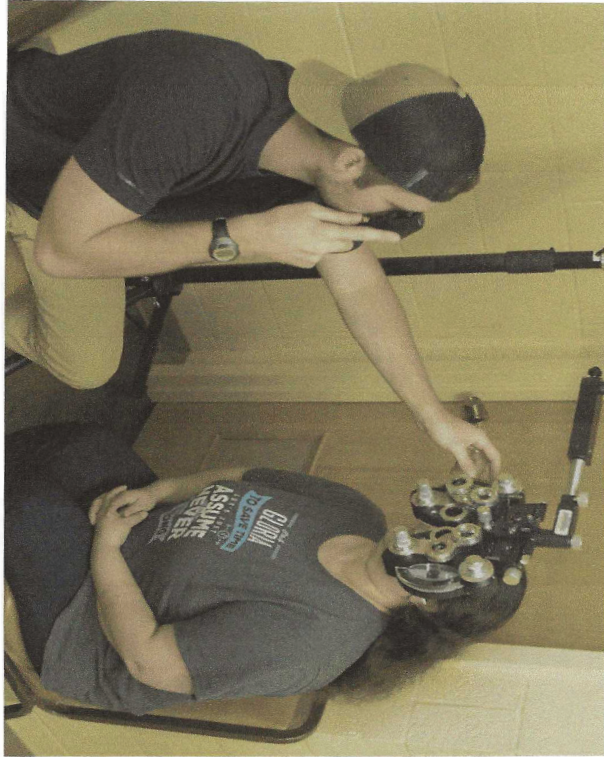
Map of Texas



Lubbock Impact Photos (1/3)



Lubbock Impact Photos (2/3)



Lubbock Impact Photos (3/3)



Leaf Patterns



Centerpiece Photos

