

# Children's Study Guide

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## Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® 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 *Project: Start*.

## Bible Verses

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

## Background Information

*Project: Start* is a ministry supported by the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions. This ministry provides support for refugees who are forced from their home countries due to civil and political unrest, religious persecution, or other dangerous situations. The United Nations (UN) helps refugees arrive in a new, safe location and provides support for 90 days. After 90 days, the refugees are on their own to find the resources and materials they need to live in the United States (US). This is where *Project: Start* steps in. Often, refugees still need help with language learning and cultural understanding. They need help finding jobs and housing, as well as medical care, financial guidance, and school enrollment.

*Project: Start* helps when the UN needs to take care of families who are still arriving in the US. The ultimate goal of *Project: Start* is to share the gospel. They begin by ministering to the physical needs of the people. They help refugees connect with churches in their home

language and native culture. They connect people with ministries that teach English classes or offer after school tutoring. They offer transportation and help find furniture for new arrivals.

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# Preparation

## What You Will Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ One 10-inch piece of jute per child
- ☐ One set of beads per child – black, red, white, blue, green, yellow
- ☐ One small key ring per child
- ☐ A VBS type snack or a snack specific to your area

## Schedule Options

This mission study has been written as a whole group lesson. If stations or rotations fit best with your time or space, begin the whole group with the mission study and end the whole group with prayer. The other activities can be done as stations within one room or as a rotation in multiple rooms.

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# Mission Study

## Large Group Overview

### Say:

*Have you ever moved to a new place or visited a city where the people speak a different language? Thousands of people move to the United States each year as refugees. A refugee is a person who has left his own country because of civil or political unrest, religious persecution, or other dangerous situations. These people must flee to a place where they can be safe. The United Nations (UN) helps people travel to the United States and other countries and helps establish them in their new city. The UN has so many people they are helping, they can only provide support to each family for 90 days. Ninety days is not enough time to learn the culture and language of a new place well enough to be able to live well. Project: Start is a ministry that helps refugees in the Dallas area when the 90 days of support from the UN comes to an end.*

*Project: Start helps people learn American culture. They help refugees fill out forms for school, jobs, medical needs, and housing. They help find furniture for apartments and transportation to appointments. Project: Start helps to connect refugees with churches who provide English classes and classes for homework help. Project: Start even helps refugees go through their mail sometimes to decide what is important to keep, like bills and forms, and what*

*is junk mail. Imagine not knowing which mail is important to keep and what can be thrown away because you don't speak or read the language.*

*Project: Start shares Jesus with everyone they help. They start by meeting their physical needs. Then they share the Good News of Jesus and help the refugees connect to a church that speaks their language and is similar to their culture.*

Show the video about Project: Start found at [texasbaptists.org/ministries/intercultural-ministries/project-start](https://texasbaptists.org/ministries/intercultural-ministries/project-start).

### Say:

*Project: Start works with families who are new to the United States. Most of the help they provide is for adults. This study is going to help us discover ways to support and encourage children who are new to our country. One of the ways that we can help refugee children is by being a friend and treating them as we want to be treated.*

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## Be a Friend Game

This game can be played by a whole group where one child or adult does an action to be copied by the whole group, or with a partner for each child.

**Say:**

*In this activity, you are going to take turns mimicking, or copying, what your partner does. The trick is that you cannot talk while you play the game. You can only move your body to communicate.*

Have children find a partner. Have the first partner do an action such as touch their toes, march in place, do jumping jacks, etc. Have the second partner mimic/copy what the first partner has done. Let the first partner lead the actions to be copied for a minute or two, then say "Switch."

Have the second partner lead the actions to be copied. Have the first partner copy what the leader is doing for a minute or two.

After both partners have been the leader, call the pairs back together to discuss the game.

**Ask:**

*What made this game hard? What made it easy? Would it have been easier if you could talk during the activity? Why or why not?*

**Say:**

*When children arrive in the United States and start attending school, they often do not speak English. They cannot understand directions and might be confused or discouraged. One of the best ways you can help refugee children is by being a friend. Using motions and actions to show a new friend what to do is one way you can help refugees learn our culture and even our language.*

## Bible Study

Read Matthew 5:13-16 aloud.

**Say:**

*In the first part of this passage, Jesus tells the people listening that they are the salt of the earth. What do you know about salt?*

*Salt has many purposes, but what happens if the salt is no longer salty? Scripture tells us that if salt loses its flavor, it is no longer useful and should be thrown out.*

*In the next part of the passage, Jesus tells the people that they are the light of the world. Think about the last time the electricity went off at your house. What did you do?*

*When you got that light, did you put it under a bowl or a blanket? Did you put it in a different room and close the door? Why not? That would defeat the purpose of turning on the light, wouldn't it? The purpose of the light is to shine and allow things to be seen. If the light is hidden, it is not doing its job.*

*Jesus told the people that they were both salt and light. He told them they should live their lives in such a way that those around them could see their good deeds to glorify God.*

*Scripture still applies to us today. We are to be salt and light to everyone around us. We are to add seasoning to people's lives by encouraging others and telling them about Jesus. We should also shine the light of Jesus to those around us. The way we live our lives should cause*

*others to worship God as well.*

*When we have new people move into our area, we should be salt and light to them. We can help them by being friends, encouraging them, and helping them learn about our culture. What are some ways that you can shine your light for Jesus when you meet new people in your school, church, or neighborhood?*

## Mission Project/Craft

### Witnessing Tool Key Chain

Each student will need one set of the following:

- One 10-inch strip of jute
- One small key ring
- One set of beads (black, red, white, blue, green, yellow)
- One Witnessing Tool Card

### Instructions:

1. Fold the jute in half. Lay the key ring on top of the looped end. Tie the jute around the key ring by slipping the loose ends through the loop. Tighten the knot on the key ring.
2. Holding both ends of the jute together, tie a knot just below the key chain.

**Read:** Revelation 4:11

**Say:**

*God is a good and loving God who created the world. He created each*

*of us and placed us in the world.*

3. Slide the black bead onto BOTH pieces of jute.

**Read:** Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23

**Say:**

*Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. Scripture tells us that we have all sinned and are separated from God.*

4. Next, slide on the red bead.

**Read:** Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18

**Say:**

*Jesus' death on the cross was a sacrifice for the sins that we have committed.*

5. Slide the white bead onto the cord next.

**Read:** 1 John 1:7-9

**Say:**

*If we confess our sins and accept the gift of salvation that Jesus offers, our sins are washed away. Jesus' blood purifies us from our sin.*

6. Slide the blue bead on next.

**Read:** Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:3-4

**Say:**

*After we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, we should be baptized to show others the decision we have made. Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ that represents us dying to our sin and being raised to new life in Christ.*

7. Next, slide on the green bead.

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 2 Peter 3:18

**Say:**

*As followers of Jesus, we grow in our faith as we read the Bible, pray, attend church regularly, and worship God.*

8. Finally, slide on the yellow bead.

**Read:** 1 John 5:13

**Say:**

*As Christians, we have eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven.*

9. Tie both strings together into one final knot.

**Read:** Hebrews 9:27

**Say:**

*The Bible tells us that everyone will die and face judgement before God. Those who are followers of Christ will spend eternity with God. Those who are not will be eternally separated from God.*

10. Give each student a Witnessing Tool Card so they can share the key chain with others.

## Snack

*Project: Start* helps families learn how and where to shop for and buy groceries in the United States. Although *Project: Start* might not feed snacks to the children they work with, they still have a goal of helping children assimilate into our society and sharing Jesus

with them. Snacks are a perfect way to draw people in and share Jesus.

Think about snacks that might be served at VBS or a block party, such as: popcorn and lemonade, snow cones, cookies and juice, popsicles, or goldfish and water. You might also consider a food or snack that is specific to your area.

Pick a snack that your children will enjoy. As they are eating, remind students that as they sit next to a new person during lunch, or as they share a snack with a refugee, they can share Jesus with them. Discuss possible questions to ask a new friend. You might consider letting them explain their gospel keychain to a friend as they eat.

## Prayer

End your time together with prayer for *Project: Start* and the refugees impacted by the ministry. Below are some specific prayer requests from *Project: Start*.

- Refugees want to be in their home country, but it is not safe there.
  - » **Pray** that the refugees will find joy and peace as they make the United States, and specifically Dallas, their home.
- Refugee children have unique challenges growing up in the United States, going to American schools, and learning American culture, while their parents are trying to maintain their native culture at home. It can be difficult and frustrating to feel stuck between

two cultures.

- » **Pray** that refugee children will respect their parents and their native culture.
- » **Pray** that they will learn to appreciate their native culture while accepting and adapting to the American culture.
- Many refugees may have had scary experiences with the military or police in their home country. This is part of what forced them to come to the United States.
  - » **Pray** that the refugees will not face fear and anxiety in the United States.
- Language, transportation, money, food, and much more are different in the United States than the home country of the refugees.
  - » **Pray** that refugees will adjust and adapt to the American way of life. Pray for wisdom and discernment to know what is right and what is best for their family.
- Above all, the goal for every person who receives help through *Project: Start* is to hear the gospel and accept Jesus as their Savior.
  - » **Pray** for each family ministered to through *Project: Start*.
  - » **Pray** specifically for the Muslim families that have already heard the gospel many times through *Project: Start*. Pray that these families will know and understand Jesus' love for them and accept His gift of salvation.

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#### WRITER

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*First Baptist Church, Lindale*

Missions is a part of her life as an IMB Journeyman and world mission trips. Rachel served as a GA Camp Director for 15 years. She and her husband stay busy with two daughters, a dog, and six chickens.

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# About Mary Hill Davis

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## Mary Hill Davis

*Mary Hill Davis, president of Texas WMU from 1906 to 1931, saw Texas as a rich harvest field with its mixture of Anglo, Black, European, and Mexican populations. In 1910 she led the Baptist women of Texas to set aside a week to pray for the needs in the state and to take up an offering as was done for foreign and home missions. Following her death in 1934, the Texas missions offering was named in her memory.*



# Witnessing Tool Card

<div></div> <div><p><b>WITNESSING TOOL CARD</b></p><p><b>KNOT:</b> God is a good and gracious God who created the world and placed us in it. <i>(Revelation 4:11)</i></p><p><b>BLACK:</b> Because of our sin, we are separated from God. <i>(Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)</i></p><p><b>RED:</b> Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins. <i>(Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18)</i></p><p><b>WHITE:</b> We are washed clean of our sins. <i>(1 John 1:7-9)</i></p><p><b>BLUE:</b> Baptism is a sign to others of the decision we have made to follow Christ. <i>(Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4)</i></p><p><b>GREEN:</b> We grow in our faith as we read the Bible, pray, attend church regularly, and worship God. <i>(2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Peter 3:18)</i></p><p><b>YELLOW:</b> We get to spend eternity in Heaven with God. <i>(1 John 5:13)</i></p><p><b>KNOT:</b> We will all stand before God in judgement when we die. <i>(Hebrews 9:27)</i></p></div>	<div></div> <div><p><b>WITNESSING TOOL CARD</b></p><p><b>KNOT:</b> God is a good and gracious God who created the world and placed us in it. <i>(Revelation 4:11)</i></p><p><b>BLACK:</b> Because of our sin, we are separated from God. <i>(Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)</i></p><p><b>RED:</b> Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins. <i>(Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18)</i></p><p><b>WHITE:</b> We are washed clean of our sins. <i>(1 John 1:7-9)</i></p><p><b>BLUE:</b> Baptism is a sign to others of the decision we have made to follow Christ. <i>(Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4)</i></p><p><b>GREEN:</b> We grow in our faith as we read the Bible, pray, attend church regularly, and worship God. <i>(2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Peter 3:18)</i></p><p><b>YELLOW:</b> We get to spend eternity in Heaven with God. <i>(1 John 5:13)</i></p><p><b>KNOT:</b> We will all stand before God in judgement when we die. <i>(Hebrews 9:27)</i></p></div>
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# Witnessing Tool Key Chain Steps

