

Basic English Study Guide

Introduction

We need to speak Jesus. It's what Christians should do. God loves us very much. Jesus died for us. We can be saved. Other people need to be saved too. We want everyone to know God's love. How will they know if we don't tell them?

We can speak Jesus in different ways. By how we act. By being loving and caring to others. By meeting them where they are. When we say "*I am Texas Missions*" it means we speak Jesus. We show others God's love. We tell others about Jesus. We tell them God forgives.

We should all *speak Jesus*. God uses what we are good at and what we like to help us speak Jesus with the people around us! We all have special gifts and talents. How can you speak Jesus with the people around you?

This year we will learn about three groups who share about Jesus. One group makes friends with students from other countries. One group shares about Jesus on the soccer field. One group shares about Jesus by building houses. *All of them are Texas Missions.*

We are Texas Missions when we give money to the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. Our gifts join thousands of other gifts. Together we can do more to speak Jesus. Together we can tell everyone about God's love, Jesus' great sacrifice, and God's forgiveness. Together *We are Texas Missions*. Together we can all speak Jesus.

Session Goals

Learn how God is using the Mary Hill Davis Offering to make a difference. Understand that "I am Texas Missions" is more than a theme. It is a way of life. It means that we are speaking Jesus in many ways. Learn more about:

- La Mano de Dios
- Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) International Student Ministry
- Texas WMU Women's Build

Session Preparation

Help the people in your church feel good about telling others about Jesus! We loved the story of La Mano de Dios. They have a simple way to tell the good news to the kids and families at the soccer camp. Practice sharing the good news with each other.

Read the story of La Mano de Dios.

Look over the hand out “E-Ballsoccer” (tinyurl.com/4x3mnvbb).

- You may use all of the pages or only the page with the soccer ball.
- Page nine has the instructions for what the colors represent.

For children: print and cut apart the soccer ball handouts.

For youth: Watch the video (linked below) and print the instructions to make an easy origami ball to use to share their faith.

Video and step by step instructions: papernautic.com/origami-paper-balloon-video

Session Plans

On Sunday Morning - during Worship Service, before the sermon:

- Show the Mary Hill Davis Promotional video (iamtexasmissions.org/videos).
- Ask people to get into groups of 2 or 3 and pray for the Mary Hill Davis Missions and the offering to support them.
- Close with a time for prayer for the Mary Hill Davis Offering from the pulpit.

During the Children Sunday School times:

- Give each child a soccer ball cut out and crayons.
- Make sure you have enough of the

colors needed (yellow, black, red, white, green).

- Have the children label and color each section of the soccer ball.
- Share the meaning of the colors using the E-Ball soccer document.
- Have the children share their faith with each other using the E-Ball soccer method.
- Pray for any of the children who may have accepted Jesus during this time of sharing.
- Follow up with any children. Help them

to understand and grow in their faith.

During the Youth Sunday School times:

- Give each of the students a piece of paper.
- Have them fold it into a triangle and cut off the excess. This will make a square piece of paper.
- Have the students follow along with the video step-by-step instructions to make a paper blow up ball.
- Have the students color different sides of the paper (yellow, black, red, white, green).
- Share the meaning of each of the colors using the E-Ball soccer document.
- Have the students share their faith with each other using the E-Ball soccer method.
- Pray for any of the students who may have accepted Jesus during this time of sharing.
- Follow up with any students. Help them to understand and grow in their faith.

La Mano de Dios

Rolando Rodriguez loved to play soccer when he was a boy. Soccer changed his life. In a game, he met a missionary kid who told him about Jesus' love.

Later, Rodriguez became the pastor of a church called Cockrell Hill Baptist Church in Dallas. He made friends with the coach of the El Salvador national soccer team. Pastor

Rodriguez told the coach about the hope of Christ. This changed the coach's life.

The coach later asked Pastor Rodriguez if he could help at the church. All the coach knew was soccer. He said he would start a soccer school on the field outside the church. This was a way for the church to meet families in the neighborhood.

The soccer school grew fast. Soon, 100 children were involved. The school met several nights each week. The kids played soccer games on the field every Saturday. One year, the church chose to have a soccer tournament on a Sunday instead of a normal church service. More than 100 church members helped. Over 1,000 people from the community came to the tournament.

"Our normal Sunday morning things were moved to the soccer field. We did some big changes during that time," said Rodriguez. The tournament lasted from 8 in the morning until 8 at night. Rodriguez shared a message between each game. He told the people who came about the hope of Christ.

Rolando Rodriguez, who is now the Director of Texas Baptists in Español, said, "Any Sunday morning, if you go to a soccer field, it will be (full)."

"Instead of trying to get people (to stop playing soccer), I want to (bring) Jesus where people are," he said. "La Mano De Dios helps me take the Gospel where people are. In the Bible, Jesus said, 'Go and make disciples.' He said go where they are. That's what La Mano de Dios is about. It's about going to the people who (don't usually)

come to church.”

We thank God for La Mano de Dios. We thank God for the way it reaches those who are lost. Rolando Rodriguez speaks Jesus to kids who play soccer. La Mano de Dios speaks Jesus to kids and their families. Thank God for Mary Hill Davis Offering for supporting La Mano de Dios. Your gifts to Mary Hill Davis Offering speak Jesus. I love how Pastor Rolando uses soccer to speak Jesus.

BSM International Student Ministry

Many students from other countries come to Texas for college. In 2020, over 92,000 International students came to Texas Universities! They come from all over the world. They come from Korea, India, China, Africa, the Middle East, and countries in Latin America. They often have no friends and don't know much about American life. They come to study. They also want to learn about American life. They want to be able to work all over the world later on.

The Texas Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) help these students feel welcome.

The BSM and local church members are often the first people these students meet. They pick up the students from the airport. They become friends and help them. They help them get things for their apartment. They help them buy groceries. They help them in any way they can.

At the University of Texas in Dallas (UTD), the BSM and the International Christian Fellowship have a “Big Howdy” party. The party happens on Saturday before classes start. This party introduces students to Texas culture. They have local food like BBQ and tacos. Students can learn to lasso, which is how cowboys throw a rope. They also learn games like cornhole and ladder ball. They can sign up for Home Groups, English classes, and Conversation partners. They can meet other students and make new friends.

The BSM students speak Jesus to these students. They show them Jesus' love. They are Jesus' hands and feet. The BSM students share their lives with the students from other countries. The BSM students speak Jesus.

Thank God for the BSM Students. Thank God for the Mary Hill Davis Offering (MHDO). The MHDO helps the BSM's work with students from other countries. When you give to the MHDO, you speak Jesus. Thank you for giving to the MHDO.

WMU of Texas Women's Build

The Women's Build is a ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of Texas. It is a home building trip for women, working with Buckner International. It is sponsored by the Mary Hill Davis Offering (MHDO).

Every year, two teams of volunteers build a brand new house for a family. The families

are part of Buckner's Family Hope Center Program. They build one house in just two weeks! Each team works and ministers for one week. They wake up at 7:30 each morning. They eat breakfast and have a time of talking about the Bible. Then they work until 5:30 that night. The women need to be able to lift heavy things, use power tools, and climb tall ladders. The women builders work very hard to build a new family home.

One year, a woman named Latrice helped build a house. When she was a child, her home did not have indoor plumbing. In the winter, they heated water on the stove to take a bath. Latrice knew what it was like to need a good home. She wanted to use her gifts to speak Jesus to others. She wanted to give God glory with the things she was good at. She wanted to help other people. Latrice used her building skills to help build a house. She said that "only the Lord can make it a home for a family."

The Guzman family got a home from the Women's Build. Raul, Maria, and their son,

Raul Jr., were happily welcomed to their new home. The Guzman family was living in a small trailer. They often had to kill snakes, scorpions, and other animals. The pests came in through holes in the floor. Their bathroom had no windows or doors. The rain came into the house. The trailer was often wet. There was no safe place for Raul Jr. to play. It was not safe!

The Women's Build helped the Guzmans have a safe home to live in. A safe home helps a family feel better. Not just their bodies, but their minds and feelings, too.

The Women's Build team worked hard to help the Guzman family. They used their time, gifts, and hard work to tell others about Jesus. The women prayed for the Guzman family. They showed the Guzman's God's love. They used their hands to speak Jesus. They used their gifts to speak Jesus. They used their words to speak Jesus. Thank God for MHDO and the help they give to the Women's Build. Thank God for the Guzman family and their new home.*

**Watch Latrice Neal's Women's Build Story at [youtube.com/@wmuoftexas](https://www.youtube.com/@wmuoftexas).*

WRITER

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Through Texas Baptists, Linda works with Intercultural churches to fulfill their mission to reach their diaspora here in Texas for Jesus.

Who was Mary Hill Davis?



Mary Hill Davis was born in Greenville, Georgia, and came to Texas as a small child in 1870 when her family moved from Tennessee to Dallas. At age 20, she married F.S. Davis, a physician. They had one son, Raymond, also a physician and surgeon.

Mary was president of WMU from 1906 until 1931. Her heart for missions and people was evident in everything she did.

Not only did she stir women to give and pray for missions (giving to the cooperative program rose over 1000% during her tenure as president, but to take care for retired pastors (at that time, pastors did not have retirements savings, and many lived in poverty), taking care of orphans, and also giving money to schools all over Texas, as well as China.

She believed Texas was a vast mission field, and that immigrants needed to know Jesus just as much as citizens. Each year, she spurred women to service, giving and prayer, leading to the establishment of State Missions Week in September, 1910. Remembering her remarkable leadership, in 1935 the offering for state missions was named the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. Almost 100 years later, her example still inspires Texas Baptists to give, to pray, and to go.